

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
North Kern Water Storage District
Minutes of the Meeting of December 17, 2024

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District was in person - commencing at 7:05 a.m., on December 17, 2024.

President Andrew declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. The following Directors were present: Kevin Andrew, Winn Glende, Kristen Camarena, Robert Holtermann and Joel Ackerknecht. Others present: David Hampton (General Manager), Ram Venkatesan (Deputy General Manager) Marinelle Duarosan (Controller), Heather Williams (Operations Superintendent), Angel Ventura (Staff Engineer) of North Kern Water Storage District, Alan Doud, Scott Kuney, Brett Stroud and Mark Bateman (District Counsel - Young Wooldridge), Guests present: John Gaugel, Stephanie Hearn, Carlos Rascon, and Sonia Lemus.

President Andrew called the meeting to order at 7:05 am and opened the floor for Public Comments. At this time, Mr. Carlos Rascon presented his case on behalf of The Roman Catholic Bishop of Fresno regarding the 2024 RRID Base Service Charge invoice. Mr. Rascon provided a letter to the Board explaining the Church's request to reclassify the 48.89 acres from developed to undeveloped land. He described and presented drawings of the Church's development plans consisting of 12 acres in Phase 1 which includes burial sections with landscaping, while the remaining acreage is currently undeveloped vacant land. The Board informed Mr. Rascon that the Church's request will be discussed and deliberated during Closed Session and a final decision will be communicated to them.

Board of Directors –

(24-119) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Camarena and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2024, Regular Board Meeting.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

Consent Calendar –

Consent Calendar included the following:

- A. District Groundwater Levels
- B. District Exchange Balances
- C. Operations Report
- D. Approve 2024 District Membership and Support
- E. Adopt WEEG Grant Application Resolution for Calloway Canal Lining
- F. Adopt WaterSMART DRP Grant Application Resolution for Replacement Well and Facilities
- G. Approve License Agreements for Solar Cleaning Installations, EFR Solar LLC

General Manager Hampton stated that due to the nature of Items E and F of the above, these items will require to be removed from the Consent Calendar.

(24-120) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to remove Items E and F from the Consent Calendar and approve all remaining items on the Consent Calendar.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

Deputy General Manager Ram Venkatesan discussed the \$4.8 million grant awarded to the District from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for the Calloway Canal Lining from Fruitvale Avenue to Case Street. As part of the award process, BOR requires adoption of a resolution:

(24-121) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, adopt Resolution 24-121 to authorize the General Manager to submit a grant

application and enter into agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for grant funding under the *Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2024* to concrete line the Calloway Canal from Fruitvale Avenue to Case Street. The Resolution was passed and approved by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Directors Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Camarena, and Holtermann
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Deputy General Manager Ram Venkatesan discussed the \$4.0 million grant awarded to the District from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for the construction of new and replacement wells and associated facilities. As part of the award process, BOR requires adoption of a resolution:

(24-122) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht and seconded by Director Holtermann, unanimously carried, adopt Resolution 24-122 to authorize the General Manager to submit a grant application and enter into agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for grant funding under the *WaterSMART Drought Response Program* to construct new/ replacement wells and associated facilities. The Resolution was passed and approved by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Directors Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Camarena, and Holtermann
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

General Informational Items –

Watermaster Arthur Chianello's written report was provided as part of the Board meeting packet.

Financial Matters –

(24-123) Upon motion of Director Camarena, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of November as presented.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

(RR24-124) Upon motion of Director Camarena, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of November as presented.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

The Financial Statements, Summary of Water Sales and the Accounts Receivable reports for the month of November were reviewed and accepted as presented.

(24-125) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of November as presented.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

(RR24-126) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of November as presented.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

Consulting District Engineer – Ms. Hearn provided an update on the following:
Project Summary – No significant activity to report at this time.

Status of Grants – Ms. Hearn stated that GEI’s grant team have been busy working on reporting and grant submittals. She summarized the status of construction projects and its related grant activities noting that there are two pending grants with DWR and BOR totaling \$14.9 million and eight active grants totaling \$11.3 million. Ms. Hearn indicated that the success rate on grant awards has improved due to better communication of the District’s operations by providing better explanations and presentation of key operational goals.

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program/CV Salts – No significant activity to report at this time.

Budget & Personnel Committee –

General Manager Hampton reported that Staff met with the Budget and Personnel Committee on December 6th to discuss the 2025 COLA Salary Adjustments in detail as a follow-up from discussions held at the November regular meeting. It was reported that the Committee concurred with Staff’s recommendation.

(24-127) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Camarena and unanimously carried, to approve setting the District’s merit and cost of living adjustment (COLA) at 3.0% and to adjust the District’s Salary Schedules accordingly effective December 30, 2024 (the first day of the 2025 pay-period).

(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Holtermann, Glende & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

General Manager Hampton presented the final 2025 Budget based on discussions with the Budget and Personnel Committee on December 6th noting that an adjustment was made to the original Budget related to the duplication of solar costs. He stated that the Budget was based on a 40% A-J hydrology but will be reviewed in early 2025 to adjust this projection depending on hydrologic conditions at that time. The final Budget sets the water toll rates at \$250/AF with the Board’s discretion to offset the rate using some portion of the Rate Stabilization Reserve funds as deemed necessary. In the meantime, the Board directed Staff to maintain the current water toll rate of \$200/AF.

(24-128) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve the revised 2025 North Kern Water Storage District and Rosedale Ranch Improvement District Budgets and direct Staff to closely track the Kern River Watershed precipitation through the winter/spring and make recommendations to the Board to adjust water tolls as necessary to match the District’s costs and revenues with anticipated Kern River supplies.

(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

(24-129) Upon motion of Director Camarena, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to adopt the Publicly Available Pay Schedule as presented, effective for year 2025.

(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Holtermann & Camarena: Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

Engineering Committee – No report at this time.

Groundwater Committee –

General Manager Hampton reported that the final Kern Subbasin GSP was submitted to the State Board on December 16th as planned. The GSP and related documents have been made available through the District’s website.

Produced Water Ad Hoc Committee – No report at this time.

Negotiating Committee – No report at this time.

Counsel of District – No report at this time.

Rosedale Ranch – No report at this time.

General Manager's Report – General Manager Hampton reminded the Board of the Director Elections deadline for submitting nomination signatures.

The President publicly stated that the legal authorities for holding Closed Session at today's Board Meeting are the following sections of the California Government Code:

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL EXISTING LITIGATION
(Govt. Code Section 54956.9(a) and (d)(1))
 - (i) North Kern Water Storage District v. City of Bakersfield
(VCSC #56-2011-00408712-CU-CO-VTA)
 - (ii) Appeal of Regional Board General Order (R5-2013-0120) for Tulare Lake Basin
to State Water Resources Control Board (re. Irrigated Lands Regulatory
Program)
 - (iii) State Water Resources Control Board, Administrative Hearing Office
Adjudicative Hearing on Pending Applications 31673, 31674, 31675, 31676,
31677, and 31819
 - (iv) North Kern Water Storage District v. Rosedale Estates
(BCV-24-101361)
 - (v) North Kern Water Storage District v. Crimson Resource Management
(BCV-23-101912)
 - (vi) Bring Back the Kern et al. v. City of Bakersfield (Defendant/Respondent) and
Buena Vista Water Storage District et al. (Real Parties in Interest)
(BCV-22-1030220)

- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section
54956.9: one case


- C. PERSONNEL MATTERS
(Govt. Code Section 54957)

- D. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
(Govt. Code Section 54956.8) – use of District and landowner facilities for
various potential water management programs; negotiator, David Hampton

The above legal grounds were determined to exist based on advice of counsel, and discussion of such matters in an Open Session would cause prejudice to the District. The Board went into Closed Session at 8:21 a.m.

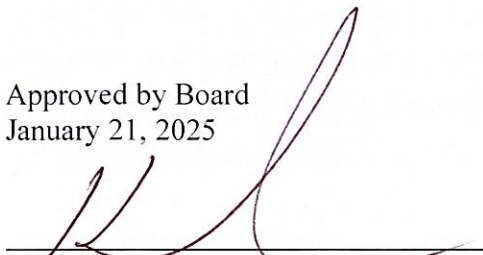
The Board reconvened back into open session at 9:45 a.m. There were no reportable actions.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board
January 21, 2025



Kevin Andrew, President