

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
North Kern Water Storage District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 17, 2026

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District was in person - commencing at 7:00 a.m., on February 17, 2026.

President Andrew declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. The following Directors were present: Kevin Andrew, Joel Ackerknecht, Robert Holtermann, Winn Glende and Monte Mitchell Others present: David Hampton (General Manager), Ram Venkatesan (Deputy General Manager), Heather Williams (Operations Superintendent) and Christy Castaneda (Administrative Assistant) of North Kern Water Storage District, Scott Kuney, Alan Doud and Brett Stroud of Young Wooldridge, Guests present: Stephanie Hearn, Art Chianello, Jay Payne, Sonia Lemus and John Gaugel.

President Andrew called the meeting to order at 7:00 am and opened the floor for Public Comments. At this time, there were none.

Board of Directors –

(26-12) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from January 20, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.

(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, 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 Renewal of Standard Form License Agreement, Cogent Fiber LLC
- E. Approve Issuance of Standard Form License Agreement, Lenar Homes LLC
- F. Approve Well Property Exchange for Well 88-29-39, Demeter Agricultural Properties II LLC

(26-13) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Calendar.

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

General Informational Items –

Watermaster Chianello stated the forecast for April – July is averaging 70%. He stated the February 1st snow course survey was completed and the average was 72%. He also mentioned that Isabella Storage was at 48,300-acre ft above average as of February 15th.

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority/Kern Water Collaborative Update – General Manager Hampton stated that if landowners missed the 2026 ILRP Outreach meeting the recorded Webinar is available on the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority webpage. He also noted that the Farm Evaluations and Management Practice Implementation Forms are due March 1, 2026.

Financial Matters –

(26-14) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of January as presented.

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

(RR26-15) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of January as presented.

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

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

(26-16) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of January as presented.

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

(RR26-17) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of January as noted.

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

Consulting District Engineer – Mrs. Hearn provided an update on the following:

Grant projects closing are the 2018 and 2020 Return Capacity Project construction, CM and Well improvements for long-term TCP and Reclamation Grant applications for fiscal year 2025.

The CV SALTS salt control program archetype report was just published. She indicated that they used the Delta Mendota subbasin to look for areas of salt sinks and the archetype report is working on setting criteria for their search.

Budget & Personnel Committee – No Report at this time

Engineering Committee –

(26-18) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to authorize the General Manager to execute Amendment No.1 to the Grant of Pipeline Easement for the 9-22-126 pipeline.

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

Groundwater Committee –

General Manager Hampton reported that the subbasin representatives met on February 3rd with DWR to discuss the transition and updates to the plan. DWR noted they appreciated all the hard work that was put into updating the plan. They are focused more on projects and management actions and demand reduction. The plans were posted February 4th on the SGMA Portal and that opened the 75-day window for the review period.

Subbasin GSAs continue to provide their respective annual data and information for the required Annual Report that is due April 1, 2026. Todd GW has

historically provided that annual report service and is again leading that effort this year.

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

Negotiating Committee – No report at this time.

Counsel of District – District Council Doud stated there were updates on the Brown Act for teleconferencing. Mr. Doud also indicated that another update is a new bill that requires directors to take Fiscal and Financial Training by January 2028.

Rosedale Ranch – No report at this time.

General Manager's Report – General Manager Hampton informed the Board that another District well was vandalized. He requested approval to move forward with installing chain-link fence on three more wells along HWY 46 and have Amarok provide quotes for installing an electric fence on the inside. The Board gave the ok to move forward.

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) State Water Resources Control Board, Administrative Hearing Office
Adjudicative Hearing on Pending Applications 31673, 31674, 31675,
31676, 31677, and 31819
 - (iii) California High-Speed Rail Authority v. North Kern Water Storage District
(BCV-25-102876)
 - (iv) North Kern Water Storage District v. Rosedale Estates
(BCV-24-101361)
 - (v) 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)

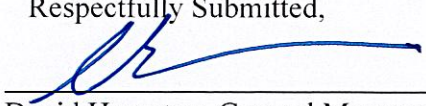
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of
Section 54956.9: two case

- 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 7:52 a.m. The Board reconvened back into the open session at 9:31 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board
March 17, 2026



Kevin Andrew, President