

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
North Kern Water Storage District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 21, 2026

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District was in person, commencing at 7:00 a.m., on April 21, 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), Marinelle Duarosan (Controller), and Christy Castaneda (Administrative Assistant) of North Kern Water Storage District, Scott Kuney, Alan Doud, Mark Bateman and Brett Stroud of Young Wooldridge, Guests present: Grace Martin, Art Chianello, Sonia Lemus, Joel Kimmelshue 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 –

(26-33) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from March 17, 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

(26-34) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Mitchell 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 reported on the Kern River Watershed runoff forecasts and stated that the start of the season inflows have been above the historic average, however, the April-July forecast is anticipated to be below average. DWR's B-120 April water supply forecast is 61% of average. He also reported that a seeding flight was completed on March 31st with good results. Isabella storage is at 362,446 AF.

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority/Kern Water Collaborative Update – No Report at this time.

At this time, Joel Kimmelshue from Land IQ addressed the board and gave a presentation on the Land IQ ET irrigation management software and how Growers would use the daily data for improved operations through its focus on consumption of water. The software would be made available directly to the GSAs or Districts and they would offer the Land IQ service to their Growers. The Directors directed staff to obtain a draft proposal from Land IQ.

Financial Matters –

(26-35) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer’s Report for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of March as presented.

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

(RR26-36) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer’s Report for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of March 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 March were reviewed and accepted as presented.

(26-37) 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 March as presented.

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

(RR26-38) 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 March as noted.

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

Consulting District Engineer – Mrs. Martin updated the Board on the following:

Mrs. Martin reported that the Ag Water Management Plan was successfully submitted to DWR. She provided an update on the return capacity 2018/2020 grant noting that it is now complete and can be closed out pending notice of completion. Snow to 7th Standard Calloway Canal Lining grant project is also being closed out. On other grant matters, Mrs. Martin indicated that there are various activities occurring at the State and Federal levels that would provide more grant opportunities.

Budget & Personnel Committee –

Staff noted that the water toll rate was reduced to \$130/AF last month based on a projected A-J runoff of 75%. However, the CNFRC forecast subsequently was reduced to 54%. Staff updated the 2026 Budget to reflect the 54% projection maintaining the water toll at \$130/AF, which results in a projected \$2.9 million additional reserve in the Rate Stabilization Reserve balance. Staff proposed to amend and update the 2026 Budget as proposed and to review and/or adjust the water toll rate later in the year as necessary.

(26-39) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, authorizing staff to amend the 2026 Budget as presented and to maintain the water toll rate at \$130.00/AF.

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

(26-40) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to Adopt Resolution 26-40 to declare vehicles as presented as Surplus Property and authorize General Manager to sell such inventory at public sale.

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

Engineering Committee –

- (26-41) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to Authorize the President of the Board to execute the 'Transfer of Water Service Class Agreement with Bidart Bros. for the proposed exchange of land between Class 1 and Class 2 status.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

At this time, Staff reported to the Board that well drilling bids will need to be rebidded for three wells instead of two. Staff will present the bid results to the Board once completed.

- (26-42) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to Authorize the General Manager to execute the Master Services Agreement with Ardurra to provide professional services to the District.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

Groundwater Committee –

General Manager Hampton reported that the Annual Report was timely submitted to DWR on April 1st and there was a new DWR requirement to upload PMA information into the SGMA portal which was completed. He also stated that the Subsidence Committee continues to meet quarterly with CASP to discuss the subsidence impacts on the Aqueduct and our GSP implementation. Additionally, it was noted there were comment letters submitted to DWR regarding the GSP and work continues on the update of the Well Mitigation Plan and the exceedance investigation templates.

- (26-32) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to Approve each of the proposed scopes of work from Todd Groundwater for \$52,400, Aquilogic for \$79,000, and Intera for \$92,518, totaling \$223,918, for implementing the Kern Subbasin GSP subsidence program, and authorizing North Kern's cost share of up to \$13,500.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

Produced Water Ad Hoc Committee – General Manager Hampton stated the District had an inspection on two discharge sites by the Regional Board. No issues were reported.

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 informed the Board that he requested a proposal from Intera for a feasibility study regarding a potential groundwater injection program and is currently awaiting a response.

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 cases

C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION (Govt. Code Section
54957)

Title : General Manager

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 8:43 a.m. General Manager David Hampton left the room for discussion of item C.

The Board reconvened back into the open session at 9:26 a.m. with the following reportable action:

The Budget and Personnel Committee discussed the General Manager's annual performance and recommended a salary increase.

(26-33) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to accept General Manager's performance evaluation and approve the recommended salary increase, effective at the start of the first following pay period.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board
May 21, 2026

Kevin Andrew, President