

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
North Kern Water Storage District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 19, 2026

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District was held in person, commencing at 7:00 a.m., on May 19, 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), Marinelle Duarosan (Controller), Heather Williams (Operations Superintendent) 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, Jay Payne and John Gaugel.

President Andrew called the meeting to order at 7:01 am and opened the floor for public comments. At this time, there were none.

Board of Directors –

(26-45) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from April 21, 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 Contract for Security Fencing at District Wells, Amarok

(26-46) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, 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 reported that the last two cloud seeding flights were conducted on April 21st. The April-July latest forecast based on DWR's B-120 is 66% of average. Isabella storage is at 370,416 AF, which is above average to date. Mr. Chianello also discussed the carryover storage benefits from Buena Vista Water Storage District's request in 2025 for additional storage at Isabella Dam over the winter and discussed the potential for considering a similar request for the upcoming winter. The Watermaster will consider this potential request and coordinate with other Districts as necessary.

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority/Kern Water Collaborative Update – The Coalition had a meeting on May 7th and General Manager Hampton reported that the required surface water quality monitoring on the Kern River at the mouth of the Canyon resulted in two exceedances within a three-year period for Ceriodaphnia dubia toxicity. This triggers a requirement for a surface quality

monitoring plan which includes an investigation as to the cause of the exceedance and outreach for those that could have potentially contributed to the exceedance.

Financial Matters –

(26-47) 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 April as presented.

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

(RR26-48) 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 April 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 April were reviewed and accepted as presented.

(26-49) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, 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 April as presented.

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

(RR26-50) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, 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 April as noted.

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

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

Ms. Martin reported that a \$2.4 million concept proposal has been submitted to the California Department of Food and Agriculture for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). SWEEP is a block grant program where North Kern Water Storage District (NKWSD) could be awarded a sum of money to distribute to landowners for on-farm water efficiency improvements. The application process has two phases: an initial concept proposal, submitted in May, and a full application if NKWSD is selected to advance. If NKWSD is not selected for funding, landowners may still have the opportunity to seek funding through other block grant recipients.

Additionally, Ms. Martin stated that GEI will support NKWSD and RRID in preparing applications for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Drought Response Program. Applications for this program are due in July.

Budget & Personnel Committee – No Report at this time

Engineering Committee –

During last month’s meeting, Joel Kimmelshue with Land IQ presented and demonstrated their Grower and Manager Irrigation Management Tool. The Board briefly discussed the proposed Scope of Work for the Grower and Manager Irrigation Management Tool, which can provide growers and the District with field-by-field daily evapotranspiration and precipitation data. The District would manage the Tool and landowners would sign up for their specific parcels. After consideration, the

Board agreed to defer the approval of the Scope of Work until after the upcoming Landowner meeting to be conducted later this month. This will allow time for additional input and feedback from the Landowners before finalizing the Scope of Work.

General Manager Hampton provided an update to the Board on discovering the golden mussels in the District system. District proactively monitored upstream facilities for the presence of the golden mussels after December 2025 reported golden mussel issues concerning Arvin-Edison and Wheeler Ridge. The District brought water through the CVC Intertie into the Calloway Canal in October of 2025 prior to the December report. On May 5, 2026, Staff discovered golden mussels on a trash screen at one of the District's turnout. Upon further investigation, it is now considered to be a district-wide infestation. Staff immediately contacted several chemical distributors and applicators to consider a treatment plan. Staff presented to the Board the various estimates obtained and discussed costs, treatment approach and timing considerations.

- (26-51) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Blue Tech for the treatment of Golden Mussels in the District facilities.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

General Manager Hampton also reported that a contract has been finalized with Fiona Hutton and Associates to lead a golden mussel awareness and outreach campaign. The kickoff meeting took place on May 8th, with attendance from Kern Delta, City of Bakersfield, Cal Water, and ID4. Efforts are underway to expand participation.

The estimated cost for the campaign is \$38,200, covering activities through August. The campaign will focus primarily on developing educational materials to raise awareness and promote protective actions.

Groundwater Committee –

General Manager Hampton reported that the Subbasin held a community pop-up event on Earth Day, April 18th, at Beach Park. The event provided information about the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) groundwater management and offered attendees an opportunity to ask questions. He also announced the Annual Report Workshop scheduled for June 30th at 9 a.m. will be at the Kern Ag Pavilion. This workshop will be held in partnership with WAKC to provide updates on the resources submitted in the annual report to the Department of Water Resources.

Groundwater level measurements are required twice yearly, in spring and fall, with spring data due in July. North Kern has completed its spring measurements.

Additionally, the Subsidence Committee continues to meet quarterly with the California Aqueduct Subsidence Project (CASP) to discuss subsidence impacts on the Aqueduct and the implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

General Manager Hampton also reported that he requested Intera to provide a proposal to conduct a feasibility study on groundwater injection wells as a potential mitigation measure for subsidence along the Friant Kern Canal area. The proposal has been provided for the Board's review and Mr. Hampton noted he is reaching out to other GSAs for their potential participation.

Produced Water Ad Hoc Committee –

General Manager Hampton stated the District had an inspection of the two oilfield produced water discharge points by the Regional Board. The District has received the report and there were no violations reported. However, they did provide some recommendations that the District has since implemented.

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 discussed the schedule for the next Landowner Meeting, which was scheduled for June 4th at 2 pm. In addition, he discussed a pilot program for CV Salts to study salt build up within the District. The Board directed staff to support the pilot program.

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. 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 9:00 a.m. The Board reconvened back into the open session at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board
June 16, 2026

Kevin Andrew, President