

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
North Kern Water Storage District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 16, 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 June 16, 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) and Christy Castaneda (Administrative Assistant) of North Kern Water Storage District, Scott Kuney, Alan Doud and Brett Stroud of Young Wooldridge, guests present: Grace Martin, Art Chianello, Sonia Lemus 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 –

- (26-52) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from May 19, 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, Level 3
- E. Approve District License Agreement, City of Bakersfield and BN Bakersfield, LP

- (26-53) 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 stated that the April–July runoff forecast, based on the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Bulletin 120 Water Supply Forecast dated May 26, decreased to 54% of average. He further reported that the California-Nevada River Forecast Center's April–July forecast is 52% of average. Reservoir storage as of midnight on June 9 was 353,743 acre-feet (ac-ft), compared to the average storage for that date of 277,417 acre-feet.

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

Financial Matters –

- (26-54) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, 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 May as presented.

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

- (RR26-55) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, 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 May 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 May were reviewed and accepted as presented.

- (26-56) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, 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 May as presented.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

- (RR26-57) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, 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 May as noted.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

At this time, Controller Duarosan addressed the Board and requested direction regarding the transfer of \$2.0 million to cover unplanned and unbudgeted costs relating to the golden mussels mitigation. Following discussion of the appropriate reserve account to withdraw funds, the Board advised that the Rate Stabilization Reserve account would be most applicable due to the nature of the costs. The Board authorized Staff to transfer funds of \$2.0 million from the County reserve account.

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

She reported that GEI is finalizing the design for the conveyance component of the 2022 Return Capacity Improvements Project, which is expected to be ready for the bidding process soon. She also stated that GEI will prepare grant applications for the NKWSD Return Capacity Improvements Project and the RRID Recharge Project under Reclamation's Drought Response Program. The applications are due in July.

Additionally, GEI will continue to monitor the Invasive Species Grant Program, with the proposal period anticipated to begin in July for potential coverage of the golden mussels mitigation costs. Once the program guidelines are released, GEI will review with District Staff and discuss potential grant opportunities.

Budget & Personnel Committee – No report at this time

Engineering Committee –

- (26-58) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to Authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order 26-01 and 26-02 with Ardurra for providing technical support to the District's General Engineering Tasks and SGMA implementation support for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$15,000 and \$13,500, respectively.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

- (26-59) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to Authorize the General Manager to award a contract to S.A.

Camp Pump Company to drill three replacement irrigation wells.

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

Deputy General Manager Venkatesan addressed the Board and reported that the District was 21 days into the Golden Mussels treatment program, which has had a positive impact and appears to be successful. The treatment approach is dynamic with constant monitoring to adjust the treatment dosage at approximately .3 PPM copper concentration. The District will re-evaluate the effectiveness after 30 days of treatment. By the end of the month, all treatment sections within the District would have been treated for a total of 21 days. He stated that the District will continue routine maintenance every three to four months, including inspecting and cleaning the screens. He presented and discussed potential treatment scenarios going forward. Following a brief discussion of the options available, Deputy General Manager Venkatesan recommended that the District extend the contract with Blue Tech through October to ensure continued access to the company's equipment. Upon expiration of the contract, ownership of all equipment will be transferred to the District at no additional cost. The Board concurred with the recommendation.

Groundwater Committee –

(26-60) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to Adopt the Exceedance Policy and Associated Action Plan for Land Subsidence, Version 2.0 (June 2026).

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

(26-61) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to Approve the Kern Subbasin GSP Cost Sharing Agreement 26-03 for a total of \$85,480 and authorizing North Kern's cost share of up to \$5,150.

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

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 –

(26-62) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to Authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order 26-07 with GEI Consultants to prepare a grant application with the Bureau of Reclamation to construct recharge ponds for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for an amount not-to-exceed \$20,000.

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

General Manager's Report –

General Manager Hampton provided the Board with a brief update on the June 4 Landowner Meeting. He also discussed the Land IQ Irrigation Management Tool, and the Board requested that Joel Kimelshue provide a presentation to District Landowners on the benefits and functionality of the tool.

Deputy General Manager Venkatesan also presented information regarding the COP-R-LOCK security system for the District's wells, as requested by the Board at the previous meeting. He explained that the system includes an alarm and flashing lights to deter and draw attention to acts of

vandalism. The proposed contract term is one year. Following discussion, the Board concurred with the recommendation to proceed with the installation of the COP-R-LOCK security system on a couple of well sites.

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) 5th District Court of Appeal (F087487); CA Supreme
Court (S290840)
- 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 8:40 a.m. The Board reconvened back into the open session at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board
July 21, 2026

Kevin Andrew, President