BOARD OF DIRECTORS
North Kern Water Storage District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 20, 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 October 20, 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) and Christy Castaneda (Administrative Assistant) of North Kern Water Storage District, Scott Kuney, Alan Doud and Brett Stroud of Young Wooldridge, guests present: Art Chianello, Sonia Lemus and John Gaugel.

President Andrew called the meeting to order at 7:07 am and opened the floor for public comments. At this time, there were none.

Board of Directors –

(26-98) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

At this time the General Manager addressed the Board and requested to add item 7C to the Agenda. Director Glende abstained from the following motion due to conflict of interest.

(26-99) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve adding Agenda Item 7C Well Property Exchange Agreement, Pipeline Easement Agreement and Quitclaim Deed with Farmland Reserve Inc.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: Glende)

Consent Calendar –

Consent Calendar included the following:

A. District Groundwater Levels
B. PG&E Monthly Analysis
C. District Exchange Balances
D. Operations Report
E. Approve Resolution to Declare Natural Gas Engines as Surplus Property
F. Approve Agreement for Subsidence Monitoring, Provost and Pritchard

(26-100) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, and seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution 26-100 to declare items listed as Surplus Property and authorize the General Manager to sell such inventory at public sale.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

(26-101) 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 that Isabella storage was at 140,000 ac-ft. He also noted that there continues to be a strong El Niño developing during Fall/Winter timeframe with a 97% chance it will persist through early spring 2027.

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

Financial Matters –

(26-102) Upon motion of Director Glende, 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 September as presented.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

(RR26-103) Upon motion of Director Glende, 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 September 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 September were reviewed and accepted as presented.

(26-104) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of September as presented.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

(RR26-105) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of September as noted.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

The Board authorized Staff to transfer funds in the amount of $1.4 million from the County General Reserve Legal Fund to cover short-term cash flow shortfall on Accounts Payable invoices.

(26-106) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to approve Staff to transfer funds of $1.4 million from the County General Reserve Legal Fund to cover current payables.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

Consulting District Engineer – Deputy General Manager Venkatesan updated the Board on the following:

GEI provided assistance to the District on two projects. Specialty Construction, the contractor for the DRP 2022 Return Capacity Improvements Project has mobilized, and they are currently potholing existing facilities. The project remains on schedule to be completed by the end of the year.

Regarding the Calloway Canal Lining Project, the biologist completed a pre-construction biological survey. The contractor is awaiting the designated timing period before mobilization, which is anticipated to begin next week.

The Bureau of Reclamation announced a proposed grant funding opportunity for an Invasive Species Management Plan, with total funding ranging from $2 million to $4 million for the entire Western United States. The District worked with GEI to prepare a $1 million grant application for Preliminary Maintenance Treatment. The application is scheduled for submission on October 21, 2026, with approval notifications anticipated in early 2027.

Budget & Personnel Committee –
Item 6A was not ready in time for discussion and will be moved to next month's agenda for approval.

General Manager Hampton stated the Rate Stabilization Reserve balances were attached for review.

(26-107) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve Resolution #26-107 Fixing Base Service Charges to be collected for the services rendered by the District, ordering adoption of a preliminary roll and rates.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

(26-108) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve the Engineers Report – Year 2026 Base Service Charges for NKWSD and to approve and setting of noticed hearing, and the mailing of letter to landowners with respect to the 2026 Base Service Charges.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

(RR26-109) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve Resolution #RR26-109 Fixing Base Service Charges to be collected for the services rendered by the District, ordering adoption of a preliminary roll and rates.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

(RR26-110) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve the Engineers Report – Year 2026 Base Service Charges for RRID and to approve setting of noticed hearing, and the mailing of letter to landowners with respect to the 2026 Base Service Charges.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Glende, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

Engineering Committee –
(26-111) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried to Approve additional $12,500 in membership contribution to the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association (AECA), for a total annual membership fee of $25,000.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

(26-112) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried to Authorize staff to submit an application to the ACWA JPIA Risk Control Grant Program requesting $10,000 toward implementation of the COP-R-LOCK theft and vandalism security system at five District well sites; and approve and authorize execution of the ACWA JPIA Commitment to Excellence Certificate, a grant required document.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

Due to conflict-of-interest Director Glende stepped out of the room for the following vote;

(26-113) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and

unanimously carried to Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Farmland Reserve – Quitclaim Deed for Well 99-26-10 (OLD), Pipeline Easement, Exchange Agreement and Bill of Sale with subject to legal review.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: Glende)

Groundwater Committee –

(26-114) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried to Approve the updated Exceedance Policy and Action Plan Version 3.0 and Degraded Water Quality Implementation Provision Version 2.0.
(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 –

(26-115) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried to approve Contract with Reed Consultants for 2027 Water Storage District Legislation.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

(26-116) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve Resolution # 26-116 Directing Publication of Notice of Election of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)

Rosedale Ranch – No report at this time.

General Manager's Report –

General Manager Hampton stated that staff need to review and update the Employee Manual, including the District's rules and regulations. Staff will confer with legal counsel and begin that process for revisions.

Mr. Hampton also provided an update on the small group of Water Districts, led by Kern-Tulare, that have been working with the County on the potential implementation of a process that would include GSA review and approval of groundwater well permits. He noted that the County is potentially updating the existing ordinance to address SGMA related proposed changes.

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) 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 8:41 a.m. The Board reconvened back into the open session at 9:32 a.m. There were no reportable actions.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____
David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board
November 17, 2026

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Kevin Andrew, President