

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
North Kern Water Storage District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 19, 2025

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District was in person - commencing at 7:00 a.m., on August 19, 2025.

President Andrew declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. The following Directors were present: Kevin Andrew, Joel Ackerknecht, Robert Holtermann, Monte Mitchell and Winn Glende. 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, Brett Stroud and Mark Bateman (District Counsel - Young Wooldridge), Guests present: Stephanie Hearn, Art Chianello, Geoff King, John Gaugel and Sonia Lemus.

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 –

- (25-70) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from July 15, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)

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 Issuance of Standard Form License Agreement, Wonderful Nut Orchards
- F. Approve 9-26 Pipeline Easement Exchange, Wonderful Nut Orchards

- (25-71) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Calendar.

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

General Informational Items –

Watermaster Chianello reported that the inflow at Isabella Lake was about 406 CFS and the outflow was 1,036 CFS. Mr. Chianello indicated that DWR was providing the same funding level in 2026 as was provided in 2025 for the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program covering forecasting, repairs and flight activities. He also provided an update on the missing person reported in the River near the Black Gulch Campground on July 12, 2025.

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority/Kern Water Collaborative Update – No update.

2024 Audited Financial Statements-

President Andrew stated that Geoff King from Barbich, Hooper, King, Dill, Hoffman (BHK) will be presenting the District's audited financial statements. Mr. King provided an overview of the Independent Auditor's report as of December 31, 2024, and the combined audited financial statements of North Kern Water Storage District, Rosedale Ranch Improvement District and the

required A-133 audit for the Federal grant's compliance testing. He stated that a detailed review of the report was discussed with the Budget and Personnel Committee the previous week and reported on their risk assessments and internal control review. He also highlighted matters noted in the Governance Letter. He reported that the District has a strong Balance Sheet and Net Position. For the year 2024, BHK auditors have issued an "unqualified" clean opinion on the District's 2024 financial statements.

- (25-72) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to accept the December 31, 2024, combined audited financial statements of North Kern Water Storage District and Rosedale Ranch Improvement District and Independent Auditor's Report including Report on Federal Programs as presented.

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

Financial Matters –

- (25-73) 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 July as presented.

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

- (RR25-74) 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 July as presented.

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

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

- (25-75) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of July as presented.

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

- (25-76) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the IRWMP Accounts Payable balance for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of July as presented.

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

- (RR25-77) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to approve payment of the Accounts Payable balance for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of July as noted.

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

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

Project Summary – No significant construction update.

Status of Grants –

Mrs. Hearn shared that the Kern County Office of Emergency Services will be offering new grant opportunities in the future. She noted that GEI will be part of the team preparing the Updated Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan, and since the District has enrolled as a participant, projects included in this plan will create significant opportunities for Federal funding moving forward.

ILRP/CV Salts – No significant construction update.

Budget & Personnel Committee –

Controller Duarosan stated the District recently moved its Property and Liability insurance policies to ACWA JPIA. As part of this transition, ACWA JPIA is requiring its members who have coverage under the Liability Program to adopt and have on file a Volunteer Personnel Resolution. The Resolution would acknowledge volunteers working for the District, if any, to be employees for purposes of coverage under the Worker's Compensation insurance policy. However, the District, historically, has not utilized volunteer workers. This resolution relates only to worker's compensation insurance coverage and does not commit the District to provide other benefits to volunteer workers, such as health insurance and other employee-related benefits.

- (25-78) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution for Volunteer Personnel for Worker's Compensation coverage.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)

Engineering Committee –

- (25-79) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried to Authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to Task Order 24-04 with GEI Consultants for Construction Management support services for the 2018 and 2020 Drought Resiliency Grant for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$65,000.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)
- (25-80) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried to Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Zeiders Consulting to provide design and bid phase support services for concrete lining the Calloway Canal from 7th Standard Road to the 8-1 back-up weir for a budget amount not to exceed \$164,400.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)
- (25-81) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried to Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract, with RHS Consulting, Ltd. for the management and implementation of the Weather Resources Management Program over the next three water years for an estimated total amount of \$1,491,232.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)
- (25-82) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried to Authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order 25-06 with GEI Consultants to update the District's Agricultural Water Management Plan for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$45,000.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)

Groundwater Committee –

At 7:53 am, President Andrew began the Hearing for the approval and adoption of the amended Kern Subbasin GSP and associated Appendices. He stated that the board had previously approved the final draft of the GSP and supporting appendices, including authorization of the submittal of the final draft to the State Water Resources Control Board and release for public review and comment. That comment period has now closed and adoption of the Final GSP should be considered. General Manager Hampton summarized key updates and revisions to the GSP and discussed the process and preparation

for the State Board hearing on September 17, 2025 . At 7:54 am, Mr. Andrew addressed the District's Board for any questions or comments. At this time there were none. At 7:55 am, Mr. Andrew addressed the Public for the opportunity to present questions or comments to the Board or Staff regarding the final GSP. At this time there were none. At 7:55 am, President Andrew proceeded to close the Hearing.

- (25-83) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to adopt Amended June 2025 Kern County Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (2025 GSP) and Associated Appendices.

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

- (25-84) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to Approve the Third Amended Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement as substantially presented.

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

- (25-85) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to Approve the Fourth Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Authority (JPA) for the Kern Non-Districted Land Authority (KNDLA) as substantially presented.

(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Holtermann & Glende: 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 –

General Manager Hampton discussed the land purchase of the Affentranger property, including pricing and potential funding mechanisms. The purchase is anticipated to close by early September.

- (25-86) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to Approve the acquisition of the Affentranger Brothers property, APN 463-020-05-00, approximately 162.62 acres, and authorize the General Manager to take necessary action to close the real property acquisition.

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

General Manager's Report –

General Manager Hampton informed the Board that there were vacancies on the subcommittees due to former Director Camarena's resignation. The Board appointed Director Mitchell to all open vacancies that were vacated by Director Camarena.

Agenda item 15 – Discussion and possible action regarding District Employees Compensation was mislabeled as Item 15 and was taken up as Agenda item 16 as originally intended.

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) North Kern Water Storage District v. Rosedale Estates
(BCV-24-101361)
 - (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)

- 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 8:35 a.m.

The Board reconvened back into the open session at 10:37 a.m. The Board undertook consideration of Item 16 concerning compensation for the position of Controller/Admin Manager.

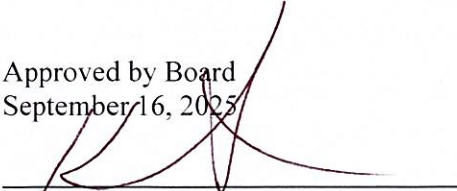
- (25-87) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to Approve providing the Controller/Admin Manager a one-time additional 80 hours of additional vacation paid time off or an additional \$8,000 compensation for the exceptional work performance during the 2024 financial audit and new accounting software transition.
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Holtermann & Glende: Noes: None, Absent: None: Abstain: None)

Respectfully Submitted,



David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board
September 16, 2025



Kevin Andrew, President