

WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Minutes – Board of Directors
Tuesday, August 26, 2025

800 Kern Street
Taft, California

Directors Present: *Scott Niblett*
 Bo Bravo
 David A. Wells
 Barry M. Jameson
 Gary Morris

Ex-Officio Officer: *Greg A. Hammett, General Manager/Secretary*

District Counsel: *Alex Dominguez*

Recording Secretary: *Deann Crabtree*

Staff in Attendance: *Tami Sivils, Adeana McDaniel-Furman, Taylor Miller*
 Wendy Adams-Rosenberger, Troy Turley, John Stuntebeck,
 Zak Crabb and Mike Law

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

President Scott Niblett called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Administrative Assistant, Deann Crabtree called roll and noted President Scott Niblett, Vice President Bo Bravo, Director Barry M. Jameson, Director Gary J. Morris as present and Director David A. Wells as absent.

IV. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS

No conflicts to report.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments to report.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Jameson and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve the August 26, 2025
Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

**VII. DISCUSSION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING:
APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. July 22, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To approve the Minutes of the
July 22, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.*

VIII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

IX. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- i. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Training Report

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

- ii. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Operations Department Review

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

- iii. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Cash Flow for July 2025

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

- iv. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Capital Improvement Budget Comparison and Equipment Procurement

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only.

- v. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Safety Meeting & Project Report

- vi. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Position Vacancies

X. DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

*Upon Motion by Director Bravo, Seconded
By Director Jameson and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Consent Items i-vi of the
August 26, 2025 Regular Board Agenda.*

XI. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Public Hearing to consider adoption of the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability plan (GSP) for Kern County Subbasin

President Scott Niblett opened the Public Hearing to Adopt the GSP Groundwater Sustainability Plan at 5:06 p.m.

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett introduced Micah Eggleton of Woodward & Curran who gave a presentation on the Final Draft Kern Sub-basin Ground Water Sustainability Plan.

Micah Eggleton reported in March 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) issues a determination that the Groundwater Sustainability Plans, submitted by the Kern Subbasin in July 2022 (2022 GSPs), were inadequate. As a result, primary jurisdiction over the Kern Subbasin shifted to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). Based on feedback and a preliminary review of the 2022 GSP by State Board Staff, the Kern Subbasin submitted revised draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans in May 2024 (2024 draft GSPs) to the State Water Resources Control Board. On July 25, 2024, the State Board released a draft Staff Report that focused on State Board Staff's review of 2022 GSPs. The Staff Report provided only a brief discussion related to its review of the 2024 draft GSP. Based on their review of both the 2022 and 2024 draft GSPs, State Board Staff recommended that the Kern Subbasin be placed on probation. Since July 2024, local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Kern Subbasin have been working to address comments in the Staff Report by, among other things, drafting a comprehensive comment letter, hosting subbasin tours for all five State Board members, meeting with State Board staff on a regular basis to discuss technical issues, finalizing the 2025 GSP. The final Draft 2025 GSP will be submitted to the State Board on September 12, 2025.

President Scott Niblett closed the Public Hearing to Adopt the 2025 GSP Groundwater Sustainability Plan at 5:16 p.m.

i. Adoption of 2025 GSP for Kern County Subbasin

***Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 4 Ayes, 0 Noes
By a Roll Call Vote
To Adopt the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
and Supporting Appendix of Projects and Management
Actions for the Kern County Subbasin of the Tulare
Lake Groundwater Basin.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE (Wells, Bravo)

1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding: Water Supply Report

Regulatory Administrator, Wendy Adams-Rosenberger, reviewed the current Water Supply Report with Directors and staff.

Director Wells arrived at 5:20p.m.

**2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
General Manager Water Report**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reviewed the Northern Sierra Precipitation report, state reservoir conditions and various hydrology reports with the board, the General Manager also reported on the Delta Conveyance Project.

**B. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
(Jameson, Bravo)**

**1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Third Amended Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement
Among Subbasin Sustainability Agencies**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported revisions to the Kern Subbasin GSP (2025 GSP) require that the Subbasin Coordination Agreement be amended to align with policies and methodologies described in the revised 2025 GSP, specifically as it relates to the following:

- GSP Data and Methodologies
- Coordinated Monitoring Networks
- Coordinated Water Budgets
- Well Mitigation Program

*Upon Motion by Director Morris, Seconded
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
By a Roll Call Vote
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Authorize the General Manager to execute the
Third Amended Kern County Subbasin Coordination
Agreement among Subbasin Sustainability Agencies.*

**2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Fourth Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers
Agreement – Kern Non-Districted Lands Authority**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported that one concern raised by State Board staff while discussing the draft 2025 GSP for the Kern subbasin focused on the term of the current Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the Kern Non-Districted Lands Authority and member GSAs. State Board Staff is concerned that the current two-year term does not reflect a long-term commitment by the Kern Subbasin to cover non-districted lands. After discussion, the Kern subbasin GSAs agreed to revise the JPA and eliminate the two-year termination provision so that the JPA will remain in effect indefinitely and provide for a member GSA to withdraw from the JPA by providing 180 days' notice.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Authorize the General Manager to execute the
Fourth Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement –
Kern Non-Districted Lands Authority.*

3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Resolution No. 25-05 of the Board of Directors of the
West Kern Water District Appointing an Auditor
Rescinding Resolution 06-01**

General Manager, Greg A. Hammett reported Resolution No. 06-01 appointed Sanjay (Sunny) Kapoor as Auditor for the District. Following Sunny's retirement, it is appropriate to rescind Resolution No. 06-01 and consequently, the appointment of Sanjay Kapoor as Auditor for the District. In accordance with Water Code, section 30544, the District may elect to retain an outside accountancy firm to conduct an annual audit of the District's financials (e.g., books, records, and other financial affairs), thereby eliminating the need for an internal auditor.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
By Roll Call Vote
To Adopt Resolution No 25-05 of the Board of
Directors of the West Kern Water District
Appointing an Auditor.*

C. **FACILITIES COMMITTEE
(Jameson, Niblett)**

1. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Berry Petroleum Company, LLC
District Agreement No. 7 & 9**

Operations Coordinator, Taylor Miller reported Berry Petroleum's Restated District Agreements No. 7 & No. 9 (Hovey Hills area) are set to expire in December 2025. Prior to the expiration, Berry requested:

- DA7 - Reduce current entitlement of 3,500 barrels per day (bpd) to 2,000 bpd, with a 3-year extension.
- DA9 - Retain current entitlement of 1,500 bpd, with a 3-year extension.

The 1,500 bpd reduction in DA7 will revert to the District for reallocation. Berry's DA7 is "Take-or-Pay" agreement, the entitlement reduction equals approximately 71-acre feet annually.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To A. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Restated District
Agreement No. 7, terminating in part, 1,500 bpd and
extending the agreement for three (3) years,
effective upon Board approval.
B. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Restated District
Agreement No. 9, extending the agreement for
three (3) years, effective upon Board approval.*

2. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
District Public Access Improvements for Parking and Path of Travel,
Job #25-9000 - Contract with Inland Architects**

Operations/Engineering Administrator, Troy Turley reported Inland Architect's prepared three preliminary options for public access improvements, the option selected includes, among other things, improvements to the parking lot west of the office and sidewalks from the parking lot to the front office entrance. Staff has reviewed Inland Architect's proposal for final design, stamped and signed plans and specifications for public parking and path of travel improvements for not-to-exceed price of \$15,000. Staff recommends the Board approve a Contract for Services and authorization to issue a Notice to Proceed to Inland Architects.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve a Contract for Services with Inland
Architects for final design, stamped and signed plans
and specifications for public parking and path of
travel improvements.*

3. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Electric Vehicle Charging Station Improvements,
Job #25-5000 – Contract with Electrical Power Systems Inc.**

Operations Coordinator, Taylor Miller reported Electrical Power Systems Inc. (EPS) provided an estimate for preparation of construction drawings and specifications for development of a new electric vehicle (EV) charging bay to be located in Station C yard at the northwest corner of the property. Once the plans and specifications are completed, the District will evaluate whether to proceed with in-house Staff for construction or retain a contractor through the bidding process.

*Upon Motion by Director Bravo, Seconded
By Director Wells and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve a Contract for Services with Electrical
Power Systems Inc. to prepare construction plans
and specifications for a 15-bay Level 2 charging station.*

4. **Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
25 Hill Tank No. 2 Rehabilitation,
Job #26-3200, Request to Seek Bids**

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck reported over the past year, 25 Hill Tank No. 2 has experienced multiple issues requiring attention. The roof sustained damaged during a windstorm and an annual dive inspection recommended further evaluation of the tank floor. Staff drained the tank to facilitate inspection of the interior and floor. Staff prepared two request for proposals for the next phase of work:

- Scope A – Coating Removal and Ultrasonic Thickness Testing (UTT) Preparation Includes industrial coating removal, abrasive blasting, surface preparation, and related cleanup and disposal.
- Scope B – Concrete Slurry and Steel Floor Installation Includes substrate preparation, slurry placement, steel floor installation, and weld work.

The Contractors may submit bids for one or both scopes, with the understanding that the District may award only one scope.

*Upon Motion by Director Jameson, Seconded
By Director Bravo and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Authorize Staff to seek bids for rehabilitation of
25 Hill Tank No. 2, including: Scope A – Coating
Removal and Ultrasonic Thickness Testing (UTT)
Preparation Scope B – Concrete Slurry and Steel Floor
Installation.*

**D. FINANCE COMMITTEE
(Morris, Niblett)**

**1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Accounts Payable for August 2025**

Controller/Finance Administrator, Adeana McDaniel-Furman presented the accounts payable report for August 2025.

*Upon Motion by Director Wells, Seconded.
By Director Morris and Carried Unanimously
With 5 Ayes, 0 Noes
To Approve Expenditure for August 2025
Bills When Funds are Available.*

**E. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
(Wells, Morris)**

No items to discuss.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

No items to discuss.

XIII. ISSUES OF CONCERN

A. September 2025 Meeting Calendar

Directors approved the September Calendar.

B. Potential Issues to be Addressed at Next Board Meeting

No items to report.

C. Board of Director Announcements or Reports

No items to report.

D. General Manager's Report

Greg Hammett noted the Taft Oildorado Civic Luncheon will be October 10, 2025 and asked the Board if there would be any interest in purchasing a table with 12 seats for \$2500.00. The Board directed staff to purchase a 12 seat table.

E. Management Staff Report

Production Administrator, John Stuntebeck gave a brief update on NW2.

F. Kern Non-Districted Land Authority Issues

The General Manger provided a brief report on KNDLA issues.

G. Attorney Report

No items to report.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION

1. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54956.9(d)(1)
Conference with Legal Counsel
Existing Litigation: 3 Cases
 - A. Rosedale-Rio Bravo WSD et al. v. KCWA et. al.;
Kern county Superior Court Case No. BCV-21-10418
 - B. California Department of Water Resources v. All Persons Interested
in The Matter of Authorization of Delta Conveyance Program
Revenue Bonds;
Sacramento County Superior Court Case No. 25CV000704
 - C. Amaya v. City of Taft, et al.;
Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-24-103650
2. Discussion and Appropriate Action Regarding:
Government Code, § 54956.9(d)(4)
Conference with Legal Counsel
Potential Litigation: 2 Cases

Directors moved into Closed Session at 5:55 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 6:15 p.m.

President Niblett reported no reportable action was taken in Closed Session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

September 23, 2025

Date Approved



**Greg A. Hammett,
Secretary of the Board of Directors of
WEST KERN WATER DISTRICT**

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