

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Board of Directors of the
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District and
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Convened at 8:00 A.M., August 13, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District and Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Groundwater Sustainability Agency was held at the District's office, with optional public participation made available through teleconference via GoToMeeting on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at the hour of 8:00 A.M. President Atkinson declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

Directors Present in Person. Atkinson, Blaine, Fry, Marin, Martin, Reiter, Richardson, Valpredo.

Directors Absent. Mettler.

Others Present at 8:00 A.M. Engineer-Manager Sheridan Nicholas, Director of Water Resources Eric McDaris, Executive Assistant Danyel Ruth, and Attorney for the District Steve Torigiani.

Others Present at 10:04 A.M. Engineer-Manager Sheridan Nicholas, Attorney for the District Steve Torigiani, Director of Water Resources Eric McDaris, Staff Engineer Tom Suggs, O&M Superintendent Greg Loveless, Contract Administrator Flower Duenas, Assistant Controller Jennifer Whitby, Executive Assistant Danyel Ruth, Trey Irwin with Tejon Ranch, Kelly Mielke, and Steve Jackson with Next Gen Water.

8:00 A.M. Closed Session. The Board convened in Closed Session to consider the following matters:

Conference with Legal Counsel Re: Existing Litigation (Govt. Code § 54956.9(a)):

1. *Sierra Club v. DWR v. All Persons Interested, etc., consolidated CEQA Case and "Complaint for Validation" Re: Delta Program Revenue Bonds, Sacramento County Sup. Ct., Case No. 34-2020-80003517, 3rd Appellate Dist., Case No. C100552*
2. *CDWR Environmental Impact [WaterFix] Cases, Sacramento County Sup. Ct., Case No. JCCP No. 4942, 3rd Appellate Dist., Case No. C100302*
3. *Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District v. Kern County Water Agency, et al., Kern County Superior Court, Case No. BCV-21-100418*
4. *Sierra Club, et al., v. DWR, Sacramento County Sup. Ct., Case No. 24WM000008, and related cases, challenging DCP EIR*
5. *State Water Resources Control Bd. Administrative Hearing Office (AHO) Proceeding Re Sites Project Authority Water Rights Applications*
6. *DWR v. All Persons Interested in the Matter of the Authorization of Delta Conveyance Program Bonds, etc., Sacramento County Sup. Ct., Case No. 25CV00704*

Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation: Initiation of Litigation (Govt. Code § 54956.9(d)(4)):

7. *Two Matters*

Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation: Significant Exposure to Litigation (Govt. Code § 54956.9(d)(2)):

8. *Two Matters*

Conference with Real Property Negotiator: (Gov. Code, § 54956.8):

9. *District's Designated Representative: Director of Water Resources
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payments
Property: Acquisition of Water Supplies
Negotiation with: Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency*

Conference with Real Property Negotiator (Gov. Code, § 54956.8):

10. *District's Designated Representative: Engineer-Manager
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payments
Property: District's Participation in Sites Reservoir Project
Negotiation with: Santa Clara Valley Water District*

10:04 A.M. Open Session. Mr. Torigiani reported there was no reportable action taken in Closed Session.

Legislative, Executive, Regulatory and Legal Matters. Mr. Torigiani noted that the California Legislature is currently out of session, and will be returning soon. He further reported the Legislature will be focused on possible redistricting, and the proposed trailer bill proposed by Governor Newsom regarding expedited regulatory approvals for the Delta Conveyance Project. He also reported legislation of interest and reviewed some of the latest regulatory issues that may be of interest to the District and its Water Users, and noted both the August 2025 ACWA Regulatory Roundup and the July 17, 2025 Valley Ag Water Coalition bill report were included in the Board packet.

Minutes. Upon motion from Director Fry, seconded by Director Richardson and unanimously carried with no abstentions, *The Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Directors ... Convened June 11, 2025*, were approved and filed.

Filing of the Treasurer's Report. Assistant Treasurer Fry presented and reviewed the *Treasurer's Report for the Month of June 2025*. Upon motion from Director Marin, seconded by Director Reiter and unanimously carried with no abstentions, the *Treasurer's Report for the Month of June 2025* was approved and filed.

Assistant Treasurer Fry presented and reviewed the *Treasurer's Report for the Month of July 2025*. Upon motion from Director Fry, seconded by Director Blaine and unanimously carried with no abstentions, the *Treasurer's Report for the month of July 2025* was approved and filed.

Approve Payment of Accounts Payable. Assistant Treasurer Fry presented and reviewed the *Accounts Payable for the month of June 2025*, and the *Reimbursements and Transfers for the month of June 2025*. Upon motion from Director Fry, seconded by Director Marin and unanimously carried with no abstentions the *Accounts Payable for the Month of June 2025*, and the *Reimbursements and Transfers for the Month of June 2025* were approved and filed.

Assistant Treasurer Fry presented and reviewed the *Accounts Payable for the month of July 2025*, and the *Reimbursements and Transfers for the month of July 2025*. Upon motion from Director Fry, seconded by Director Reiter and unanimously carried with no abstentions the *Accounts Payable for the Month of July 2025*, and the *Reimbursements and Transfers for the Month of July 2025* were approved and filed.

Controller's Report. Mr. Smith reported that due to concerns with the County Treasurer the District is considering possible changes to its accounting procedures, and is working with the District auditor on this issue.

Delinquent Accounts Report. Mr. Smith reviewed the varying Contract/Non-Contract and GWSC delinquencies with the Board, noting the portion of the E-M Report detailing this information.

Budget Expenditures Report for July 2025. Ms. Whitby reviewed the Budget Expenditure Report for July 2024.

2024 Final Accounting adjustment Report. Mr. Smith reviewed his August 13, 2025 memorandum to the Board entitled *FAA 2024 - Final Accounting Annual Adjustment for Water Charges* and the attached Final Accounting Packet with the Board.

President's Report. Nothing to report.

Engineer-Manager's Report. Mr. Nicholas reported that on August 7th the District had an incident at the WRM-8 pumping plant due to a breaker catching on fire. Mr. Nicholas commended District staff on replacing the breaker and having WRM-8 back up and running with 25 hours. Mr. Nicholas also mentioned that due to several issues, White Pine Renewables has revised its power storage proposal with the District to install only three batteries rather than six as was originally proposed.

2025 Water/Supply Demand Estimate. Mr. McDaris reviewed the 2025 Water/Supply Demand Estimate.

Director Marin left the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Director Marin returned to the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Consider Ratification of 2025 WRMWSD/AEWSD Exchange Program. Mr. McDaris reviewed his August 7, 2025 memorandum to the Board entitled *Consider Ratification of 2025 WRMWSD-AEWSD Exchange Program*. Upon motion from Director Martin, seconded by Director Richardson and unanimously carried with no abstentions the Board ratified the Engineer-Manager's execution of the term sheet for the 1:1 exchange of up to 20,000 acre-feet of Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District surface supplies for delivery to Arvin-Edison Water Storage District, subject to review by counsel as to form, and final approval of the Engineer-Manager.

Other Purchases and Exchanges. Mr. McDaris reviewed his August 6, 2025 memorandum to the Board entitled *Other Purchases and Exchanges*.

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa GSA Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for Kern Subbasin.

President Atkinson opened the hearing. Christina Lucero presented and reviewed the modifications to the draft 2025 GSP approved in June. President Atkinson then asked for public comments regarding the GSP. There were no public comments and President Atkinson closed, the hearing.

Consider Approval of Adoption of 2025 GSP for Kern County Subbasin. Mr. Nicholas reviewed his August 11, 2025 memorandum to the Board entitled *a. Consider Adoption of 2025 Kern County Subbasin GSP [and] b. Consider Approving of the Third Amended Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement Among Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies* with the Board. Upon motion from Director Reiter, seconded by Director Marin and unanimously carried with no abstentions the Board approved and adopted the final 2025 Kern Subbasin GSP.

Consider Approving the Third Amended Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement Among Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies. Mr. Nicholas reviewed his August 11, 2025 memorandum to the Board entitled *a. Consider Adoption of 2025 Kern County Subbasin GSP [and] b. Consider Approving of the Third Amended Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement Among Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies* with the Board. Upon motion from Director Reiter, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried with no abstentions the Board authorized execution of the Third Amended Kern County Subbasin Coordination Agreement among the Subbasin GSAs.

Consider Approval Grant Easement in Favor of Arvin-Edison WSD. Mr. Suggs reviewed his August 8, 2025 memorandum to the Board entitled *Grant of Permanent Easement in Favor of AEWSD for 850 Canal Intertie*. Upon motion from Director Marin, seconded by Director Fry and unanimously carried with no abstentions the Board authorized District Officers to execute a Grant of Permanent Easement in favor of AEWSD for ingress, egress, and pipeline maintenance purposes as further detailed in the attached Grant Permanent Easement documents and exhibits and subject to approval of counsel as to form.

Consider Bids for PVC Pipe for B5X. Mr. Suggs reviewed his August 7, 2025 memorandum to the Board entitled *Consider Bids for PVC Pipe Intended for the B5-X Pipeline Extension*. Upon motion from Director Fry, seconded by Director Marin and unanimously carried with no abstentions the Board authorized the Board President and Secretary to execute a contract on behalf of the District with Rain for Rent in the amount of \$68,553 for furnishing 2700 feet of 12-inch diameter PVC pipe as detailed in Rain for Rent's proposal dated August 5, 2025, and subject to approval of counsel as to form.

Consider Approval of California Farm Water Coalition Proposed Dues Increase. Mr. Nicholas reviewed his August 11, 2025 memorandum to the Board entitled *Consider Approval of California Farm Water Coalition Dues Increase*. Upon motion by Director Fry, seconded by Director Blaine and unanimously carried with no abstentions the Board authorized the Engineer-Manager submit a ballot approving the proposed fee increase for California Farm Water Coalition Regular District members to \$0.20 per irrigable acre.

Consider Nomination of Sheridan Nicholas to ACWA Region 7 Board. Mr. Nicholas reviewed his August 11, 2025 memorandum to the Board entitled *Consider Nomination of Sheridan Nicholas to ACWA Region 7 Board*. Upon motion from Director Blaine, seconded by Director Richardson and unanimously carried with no abstentions the Board adopted Resolution No. 2025-12 in the matter of:

**PLACING IN NOMINATION SHERIDAN NICHOLAS AS A MEMBER OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES REGION 7 BOARD**

State Water Project / Delta Conveyance Project. Mr. Nicholas noted the following: the Newsom Administration has launched a DCP accountability plan, that includes \$200 million in funding and support for Delta communities; on July 24 the State Water Resources Control Board released a draft update to its Bay-Delta Water Quality Plan which includes the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program and comments are due September 10; and an application has been submitted to amend the Incidental Take Permit to off-ramp the Fall X2 requirement. Mr. Kunde reviewed the included handout entitled *Securing Statewide Water Supplies Part 2: Serious Problems Require Serious Solutions* with the Board.

Sites Reservoir. Mr. Kunde gave a verbal update on the Sites Project and reviewed portions of the EM Report.

Consider Approval of Fourth Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for Kern Non-Districted Land Authority (KNDLA). Mr. Nicholas reviewed his August 11, 2025 memorandum to the Board entitled *Consider Approval of Fourth Amended and Restated Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for Kern Non-Districted Lands Authority (KNDLA)*. Upon motion from Director Blaine, seconded by Director Martin and unanimously carried with no abstentions the Board authorized execution of the Fourth Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement for Kern Non-Districted Land Authority.

Directors Meeting Attended. Nothing to report.

Kern County Water Agency. Mr. McDaris reported that there was an update on Golden Mussel intrusion on the California Aqueduct.

Kern Water Bank Authority/KWBGSA. Mr. Nicholas reported that the KWBGSA approved the 2025 Kern Subbasin GSP and the amended Kern Subbasin Coordination Agreement. He also noted the KWBA approved an agreement with Thinkwire for solar power consulting services.

South of Kern River GSP. Mr. Nicholas reported there was no meeting held in July, the next meeting was scheduled for tomorrow.

Kern Non-District Lands Authority. Nothing to report.

Kern Coordination Committee. Nothing to report.

White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Mr. Nicholas stated that the regular WWGSA meeting was held August 5th. He reported that the Board reviewed the monthly technical report, the proposed 2025-26 budget, and the update on the GSP five-year periodic update. He also noted EKI gave a presentation on the subsidence, specifically the recently released precise survey data and DWR draft Best

Management Practices.

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority. Mr. Torigiani reported the KRWCA authorized extension of the Administrative Services Agreement with the Kern Water Collaborative through December 31, 2026.

Committee for Delta Reliability. Mr. Nicholas reported that there was a meeting in July and reviewed some of the discussions regarding Delta regulatory matters. He also mentioned there was a blog post in the packet for self review.

South Valley Water Resource Authority. Mr. Nicholas stated that there was an update on the Fish Friendly Diversions demonstration project including cost increases.

Unfinished and New Business. Executive Assistant Danyel Ruth announced that the District would be holding its Biennial Employee Recognition Dinner on October 10, 2025.

Public Comments. None.

Adjournment. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
[Seal]

Secretary of the Board

List of Abbreviations:

ACWA	Association of California Water Agencies
ADM SSC	Administrative Service Charge, for basic administrative costs, non-project in nature, benefitting both SWSA and groundwater service area
AECA	Agricultural Energy Consumers Association
Agency	Kern County Water Agency
AWMP	Agricultural Water Management Plan
BDCP	Bay Delta Conservation Plan
BDS	Bond Debt Service
CAW	Contract Amount of Water totaling 200,818 acre-feet between the District & Water Users
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFWC	California Farm Water Coalition
COBRA	Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act
CVC	Cross Valley Canal
CVP	Central Valley Project (operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)
CWF	California WaterFix delta conveyance program (previously DHCCP)
DCA	Delta Conveyance Authority
DCF	Delta Conveyance Facility
DCP	Delta Conveyance Project
DFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
DHCCP	Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program - the conveyance element of the BDCP - renamed the California
District	Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
DOG	California Division of Oil & Gas
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
DYTP	Dry Year Transfer Program
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FAA	Final Accounting Adjustment
FO	Fixed Obligation water rate
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GEN	GSC General Service charge, for recovery of Bond Debt for general purposes in the District
GL	General Ledger
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
GWSC	Groundwater Service Charge
ILRP	Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
ITRC	Irrigation Training and Research Center
JPIA	Joint Powers Insurance Authority
KCWA	Kern County Water Agency or Agency
KFMC	Kern Fan Monitoring Committee
KGA	Kern Groundwater Authority
KNDLA	Kern Non-Districted Lands Authority
KRGSA	Kern River Groundwater Sustainability Agency
KRWCA	Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority
KWB	Kern Water Bank
KWBA	Kern Water Bank Authority
KWBGSA	Kern Water Bank Groundwater Sustainability Agency
ITP	Incidental Take Permit
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWD	Metropolitan Water District
NoD	North of the Delta
NonC	Non-Contract Charges
OMR	Operations, Maintenance and Repair, not to be confused with OMR of Old Middle Rivers
OMR	Old and Middle Rivers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PEF	Pastoria Energy Facility
P/MA	Projects and Management Actions
PoE	Probability of Exceedance
PROJ	SSC Project Service Charge, for project costs related to, but not specific to a particular system
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SLR	San Luis Reservoir
SoD	South of the Delta
SOKR	South of Kern River
SSC	Special Service Charge, consists of ADM SSC, GEN SSC and PRO SSC
SSJVWQC	Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition
SVWRA	South Valley Water Resources Authority
SWC	State Water Contractors
SWP	State Water Project (operated by DWR)
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SWSA	Surface Water Service Area or contracted acreages
WAC	Water Availability Charge, consists of BDS, OMR & FO
Water User	A landowner holding a Water Service Contract with the District
WD	Water District
WRMWSO	Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
WS5	Westside 5 Water Districts - Belridge, Berrenda Mesa, Dudley Ridge, Lost Hills & Wheeler Ridge
WSC	Water Service Contract
WSD	Water Storage District
WUC	Water Use Charge, consists of State Pumping/Variable and District Pumping/Variable
WWGSA	White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency