

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
North Kern Water Storage District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 18, 2025

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District was in person - commencing at 7:00 a.m., on November 18, 2025.

President Andrew declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order. The following Directors were present: Kevin Andrew, Joel Ackerknecht, Winn Glende, Robert Holtermann 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, Mark Bateman and Alan Doud of Young Wooldridge, Guests present: Stephanie Hearn, Art Chianello, Sonia Lumus and John Gangel.

President Andrew called the meeting to order at 7:03 am and opened the floor for Public Comments. At this time, there were none.

Board of Directors –

(25-111) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from October 21, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

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

(25-112) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from October 30, 2025, Special 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. PG&E Monthly Analysis
- C. District Exchange Balances
- D. Operations Report
- E. Approve Common Use Agreement for Construction of Roadway over the R-1 Canal, City of Bakersfield

(25-113) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann 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 reported that he received a favorable response from Jenifer Fromm with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers related to the request for additional Lake Isabella winter storage carry-over. Mr. Chianello stated that storage was approved for up-to 190,000 AF of carry-over. He also reviewed various precipitation data impacting storage levels noting that significant precipitation forecasts could result in mandatory water release. He noted that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers appears to be cooperative in working with the Kern River water users on release requirements.

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

Public Hearing –

At this time, President Andrew asked the Board to begin the Public Hearing for Finalizing the NKWSD Base Service Charges. The hearing began at 7:15 a.m. District Counsel Doud stated the hearing notice was published as required by law and that the District had not received any written comment or objection. Mr. Doud stated the District needed to add the Proof of Publication and the Affidavit of Mailing to the Minutes. General Manager Hampton then summarized the projects contained in the 2025 Engineer's Report, noting that the maximum per acre authority of Base Service Charge was estimated to be \$217 per acre for Class 1 Lands and \$196 per acre for Class 2 Lands. Based on the year-to-date operations and forecasted 2025-year end operations, the proposed rates are \$188.00 per acre for Class 1 Lands and \$176.00 per acre for Class 2 Lands and tracts less than an acre at \$50.00. It was also noted that Exhibit A reflects the changes in ownership since the October meeting. Director Andrew then opened the hearing to the public for questions, comments, and/or objections. There were none. At 7:20 a.m. President Andrew closed the public hearing.

- (25-114) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve to add Proof of Publication and the Affidavit of Mailing of Notice to Landowners to the Minutes.

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

- (25-115) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Glende and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution #25-115 Finalizing the NKWSD Base Service Charges and to fix the rates to \$188.00 per acre for Class 1 Lands and \$176.00 per acre for Class 2 Lands and \$50.00 for tracts under 1 acre.

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

At this time, President Andrew asked the Board to begin the Public Hearing for Finalizing the RRID Base Service Charges. The hearing began at 7:22 a.m. District Counsel Doud stated the hearing notice was published as required by law and that the district had not received any written comment or objection. He also stated the District needed to add Proof of Publication and the Affidavit of Mailing to the Minutes. General Manager Hampton then summarized the projects contained in the 2025 Engineer's Report noting that the maximum per acre authority of Base Service Charge was determined to be \$30.32 per acre for the Administrative Charge for All Lands and \$203.95 per acre for Project Charge for Developed Lands. Based on the current operations and for the year 2025, the proposed rates are \$25 per acre for All Lands Administrative Costs and \$156.40 per acre for Developed Lands Project Costs. Director Andrew then opened the hearing to the public for questions, comments and/or objections. There were none. At 7:24 a.m. President Andrew closed the public hearing.

- (RR25-116) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve to add Proof of Publication and the Affidavit of Mailing to the Minutes.

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

- (RR25-117) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to adopt Resolution #RR24-117 Finalizing the RRID Base

Service Charges at \$156.40 per acre for Developed Lands Project Costs and \$25 per acre for All Lands Administrative Costs.

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

Financial Matters –

(25-118) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the North Kern Water Storage District for the month of October as presented.

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

(RR25-119) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried, to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for the Rosedale Ranch Improvement District for the month of October 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 October were reviewed and accepted as presented.

(25-120) Upon motion of Director Akerknechet, 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 October as presented.

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

(RR25-121) Upon motion of Director Akerknechet, 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 October as noted.

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

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

Project Summary – the design team submitted the 90% design for 2022 DRP to the District for review, which is anticipated for completion early in 2026. It is anticipated that GEI Consultants will be submitting a task order in December for specifications and bidding support for the Calloway Canal Lining 7th Standard to 8-1 Backup Weir project.

Status of Grants – Most activity is related to transitioning between grant closings and obtaining new grant agreements. GEI recently closed out 2018 DRP program and are planning to close out the 2020 DRP program and one of the Calloway Canal Lining segments by the first quarter of 2026. NEPA activities for the Partnership Project with North Kern, and Kern-Tulare are underway the scope of which is to drill/connect 2 wells, connect a third well, and pipeline/discharge to the Friant Kern Canal, GEI is also working on NEPA for Calloway Canal Lining from CVC Intertie to Case Street. Ms. Hearn indicated they are still waiting for a response from the Bureau of Reclamation on the Calloway Canal Lining Case Street to Arrow Street grant application which was submitted in the Fall of 2024. GEI is also monitoring Prop 4 grant programs and DWR's Watershed Resilience Program specifically for how it impacts IRWMP and what new grant program requirements will be mandated.

ILRP/CV Salts - Mrs. Hearn reported that the Kern Water Collaborative consultants are working on the Final Management Zone Proposal, which is due to the Regional

Board by February 16. Other significant activities with the Nitrate Control Program are that the Regional Board is working on a Resolution that would require Priority 1 Management Zones to implement its Programs. The Draft Resolution will be available for Public Comment early next year. This draft Resolution is important because it will eventually be applied to all Nitrate Management Zones. The Salt Control Program is working to identify three pilot areas for salt management strategies to test the theoretical salt management approaches to real projects.

Budget & Personnel Committee –

(25-122) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried, to approve setting the District's merit and cost of living adjustment (COLA) at 3.00% and to adjust District's salary rate and schedules effective on December 29, 2025, the beginning of the 2026 pay cycle.

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

Review Draft 2026 Budget – Staff briefly discussed the draft of the 2026 Budget, noting that the Budget has been prepared based on a projected 40% hydrology year reflecting a proposed water toll rate of \$220.00 per acre. A potential wet year projection reflecting a 125% hydrology year was also presented. Staff stated that they would schedule a meeting with the Finance and Budget Committee to review the draft Budget in detail including Reserve balances and present a final proposed Budget to the Board for consideration at the December meeting.

Engineering Committee –

(25-123) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried to authorize the General Manager to execute the Pipeline Crossing Agreement with the Union Pacific Railroad Company for the District's 8-31 pipeline.

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

Groundwater Committee –

General Manager Hampton stated that there were updated groundwater levels and water quality information. Ms. Hearn stated that water levels have been stable since 2023. Collection of groundwater quality samples for compliance with the 2024 plan has begun. Results show that all wells tested are within water quality standards except for TCP and well 88-29-014 unfiltered water exceeds the water quality objective for TCP and TDS.

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 – No report at this time.

General Manager's Report – No report at this time.

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)
- 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 8:17 a.m. The Board reconvened back into the open session at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board
December 16, 2025

Kevin Andrew, President