

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
North Kern Water Storage District  
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 20, 2026

A Meeting of the Board of Directors of North Kern Water Storage District was in person - commencing at 7:00 a.m., on January 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, Glende and Monte Mitchell 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 Mark Batemann and Brett Stroud of Young Wooldridge, Guests present: Stephanie Hearn, Art Chianello, Craig Bono and John Gaugel.

President Andrew called the meeting to order at 7:00 am and opened the floor for Public Comments. At this time, there were none.

Board of Directors –

- (26-01) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to approve the minutes from December 16, 2025, Regular 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. District Exchange Balances
- C. Operations Report
- D. Approve Standard Form License Agreement, Spectrum Pacific West LLC

- (26-02) Upon motion of Director Holtermann, seconded by Director Ackerknecht 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 reviewed a presentation of the Relicensing Overview of the Southern California Edison Kern River Powerhouse No. 1 and the License Surrender for Borel Hydroelectric Project.

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

Financial Matters –

- (26-03) 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 December as presented.  
(Ayes: Andrew, Ackerknecht, Mitchell, Glende & Holtermann, Noes: None, Absent: None, Abstain: None)
- (RR26-04) 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 December 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 December were reviewed and accepted as presented.

(26-05) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, 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 December as presented.

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

(RR26-06) Upon motion of Director Mitchell, 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 December 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 – GEI completed the 88-25 Friant Kern Canal discharge meter testing on 1/13/2026. This 36" mag meter was not producing stable or accurate readings. Testing the meter with the new firmware and a higher capacity power source produced stable and accurate measurements. McCrometer is ordering sufficient solar panels and battery for this application. They will return to install the new power components when they receive them. Once the new power system is installed then the district should be able to move forward with closing out the contract.

Budget & Personnel Committee – No Report at this time

Engineering Committee –

(26-07) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried, to authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order 26-03 with GEI Consultants to provide bid-phase support for the Calloway Canal lining project from 7th Standard Road to 8-1 back-up weir for a budget amount not to exceed \$50,000.

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

(26-08) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried to authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order 26-04 with GEI Consultants for providing administrative support for the High-Speed Rail CP-4 Project for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$18,000.

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

(26-09) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Ackerknecht and unanimously carried to authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order 26-05 with GEI Consultants to prepare grant applications with the Bureau of Reclamation to construct groundwater extraction wells and continue concrete lining of the Calloway Canal for a budget amount not-to-exceed \$48,000.

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

Groundwater Committee –

General Manager Hampton reported that the Kern Subbasin received a letter from the State Water Resources Control Board officially returning the Kern County Subbasin to Department of Water Resources oversight. The Basin scheduled a meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> between subbasin representatives and DWR to discuss the transition and updates to the plan. Subbasin GSAs continue to provide their respective annual data and information for the required Annual Report that is due

April 1, 2026. Todd GW has historically provided that annual report service and is again leading that effort this year.

(26-10) Upon motion of Director Ackerknecht, seconded by Director Mitchell and unanimously carried to approve the 2026 Kern Subbasin technical consultant proposals to support implementation of the Adopted 2025 GSPs, for a total of \$455,344 and authorize North Kern WSD GSA's cost share not to exceed 6% of the total which is \$27,321.

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

(26-11) Upon motion of Director Glende, seconded by Director Holtermann and unanimously carried to approve the INTERA December 31, 2025, Proposal for As-Needed SGMA Technical Support for the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District and North Kern Water Storage District for January – December 2026 in the amount of \$149,592, and authorize North Kern WSD cost share up to \$94,243.

(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 – No report at this time.

Rosedale Ranch – No report at this time.

General Manager's Report – General Manager Hampton informed the Board that if anyone was interested in attending the Water Association Kern County Water Summit Event to reach out to him.

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 8:20 a.m. The Board reconvened back into the open session at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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David Hampton, General Manager

Approved by Board  
February 17, 2026

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Kevin Andrew, President