

CAWELO WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

17207 Industrial Farm Road, Bakersfield CA 93308

Public Participation Possible via Zoom 1 (669) 444-9171

Meeting ID: 864 4790 5118 / Passcode: 333638

Or via Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86447905118?pwd=gz5GfdapfXeTttwtM7NTRsAfnYxaE.1>

MINUTES

DIRECTORS PRESENT: John Gaugel, Keith Watkins, Spencer Birch, Mark Smith

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jeremy Blackwell

STAFF PRESENT: David Ansolabehere, Dave Halopoff, LeeAnn Giles

LEGAL COUNSEL: Isaac St. Lawrence

OTHER ATTENDEES: Sonia Lemus, Parker Rous, Michael Engelbrecht, Albert Reyes, Trung Luc, Faramarz Yousefzazet, Alan Yousefzazet, Glen Weerheim, Brian F. Kelsey, Tyson Poulsen, Craig Bono

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Gaugel at 9:11 A.M.

B. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

The CWD Regular Board meeting minutes for 13 March 2025 were presented for approval.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Smith and unanimously carried, that the minutes from 13 March 2025** be approved as presented.

C. PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:11 A.M.

President Gaugel announced that this was the time and place for comments regarding the proposed levying of the Cawelo Water District's Special Assessment for 2025 and opened the floor for public comment. After receipt of all public comments and questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 9:16 A.M.

1) RESOLUTION NO. 724 – LEVYING 2025 SPEIAL ASSESSMENTS

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Smith, and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, that Resolution No. 724 – Levying 2025 Special Assessments**, be approved as presented.

AYES: (4) Gaugel, Watkins, Birch, Smith
NOES: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Blackwell

D. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2025 were presented by Controller, LeeAnn Giles. Balances for March 2025 were as follows:

General Funds	5,014,475.39
Construction Funds	5,353,973.12
Reserved Funds	<u>1,444,575.49</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	11,813,024.00
 Receipts for March 2025	 704,004.55
Manual Cash Disbursements	164,648.57
 Net Revenue through February	 16,567,087.12
Total Expenses through February	<u>1,723,451.71</u>
NET REVENUE / <LOSS>	14,843,635.41

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Birch, and unanimously carried, that the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2025** be approved as presented.

E. RESOLUTION NO. 725 – AUTHORIZING PROCEEDINGS AND AGREEMENTS RELATED TO FINANCING

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Smith, and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, that Resolution No. 725 – Authorizing Proceedings and Agreements Related to Financing,** be approved as presented.

AYES: (4) Gaugel, Watkins, Birch, Smith
NOES: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)
ABSENT: (1) Blackwell

F. Approval of Financing Package

Mr. Ansolabehere provided an overview of the proposed financing plans and presented the Financing Package for approval by the Board. After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Birch, seconded by Director Watkins, and unanimously carried that the 2025 Financing Package documents** be approved as presented.

G. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FOR MARCH 2025

Controller, LeeAnn Giles, presented the Accounts Payable report for the month of March 2025. The report covered checks 35803 through 35855 issued 7 April 2025 in the amount of \$1,141,305.26. Manual disbursements included ACH debits totaling \$164,648.57.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Birch, and unanimously carried, that the Accounts Payable from March 2025** be approved as presented.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The floor was open for any public comments, at which time there were none.

I. REPORTS

1) PROJECTS

a. Friant-Kern Canal Pump Station

- i. **Status of Project:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that property purchase and easement documents are in the process of being finalized.
- ii. **Pump Station Construction:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the District has received updated construction quotes and comments on the draft contract and District Staff is in the process of reviewing.

b. Poso Creek 2023 Flood Emergency Repairs

- i. **Repairs Status:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that 2023 Poso Creek Flood Emergency Repairs continue until completed. FEMA and Cal-OES submittals are in process and review of submittals continue. Mr. Ansolabehere reported that additional questions were received from FEMA and District Staff provided responses.

2) ILRP

- a. **Coalition Update:** In addition to providing a written report, Mr. Halopoff provided updates on Groundwater Protection (GWP) Formulas, Values and Targets, CV-SALTS Nitrate Control Program, the South San Joaquin Valley Management Practices Evaluation Program (SSJV MPEP), and 2024-2025FY State Water Resources Control Board ILRP fees.
- b. **2025 Membership Fees:** The Board discussed the potential increase in fees. Action on this item was tabled until next month.

3) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update

- a. **Local SGMA Activities:** No report at this time.

4) Financial and Personnel

- a. **Employee Compensation:** No report at this time.

5) SWP

- a. **Delta Conveyance Project (DCP):** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the District has not received a response to the letter sent to KCWA regarding confirmation on certain matters related to the DCP and the KCWA approved participating in the 2026-2027 DCP planning. The Board directed staff to send follow-up correspondence to the KCWA seeking a response, before any commitment to fund the next phase of the DCP is made.
- b. **KCWA and Related SWP Matters:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the SWP allocation increased to 40 percent.
- J. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Mr. St. Lawrence provided an update on the appellate court's ruling in the Bring Back the Kern lawsuit and its impact on the District.
- K. **ENGINEER'S REPORT:** District Staff notified the Board that they are in the process of receiving proposals from consultants to prepare the required 2026 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update. District Staff also reviewed the draft Cawelo Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency budget that will be used in the Engineer's Report and Prop 218 process.
- L. **MANAGER'S REPORT**

1) **Water Deliveries/Supplies into the District** for March 2025 were as follows:

	<u>Ac-Ft Delivered</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Supplies Received	4,088	8,513
Landowner Deliveries	2,831	5,334
East Poso Basin Recharge	460	1,065
Famoso Basin Recharge	360	840
System Loss / Operational Recharge	-21	-137
Diversion from Poso Creek		
To Famoso Basin Banking	0	0
To P.S. E	89	89
Percolation Losses Creek Channel	1,532	2,363
Poso Creek Water Passed Trenton Weir	3,332	4,376

Produced Water Deliveries for the month of March 2025 were as follows:

Chevron	27.6 cfs per day (1,646 ac-ft.)
CRC/Bell Aire	6.6 cfs per day (396 ac-ft.)

2) **System Operations & Maintenance:**

Copper sulfate applications to the distribution canal and reservoirs continue as needed. Meter repairs are still being conducted throughout the District.

3) **Bond Update:**

Mr. Ansolabehere provided an update on the status of the District bonding status.

4) Equipment Acquisition:

Mr. Ansolabehere reported that District Staff recommend purchasing a new vehicle for the General Manager which was included in the 2025 Budget.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Birch, seconded by Director Smith, and unanimously carried, that the vehicle purchase for the General Manager** be approved as presented.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION – The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:13 A.M. to Closed Session.

M. CLOSED SESSION:

- 1) To confer with legal counsel regarding pending litigation under authority of Government Code Section 54956.9 (a) California Department of Water Resources v All Persons Interested, Sac. Sup. Ct. No. 34-2020-00283112; Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District v KCWA, KCSC BCV-21-100418; (d)(2)(3) (two matters) and (d)(4) (three matters):
- 2) Conference with real property negotiators and/or properties under authority of Government Code Section 54956.8
 - a) City Water Purchase
 - b) North Kern Canal Facility Use
 - c) Miscellaneous Water Supplies
 - d) Real Property Purposes; Storage/Well Sites
- 5) Wages/salary/other terms and conditions of employment under authority of Government Code Section 54957.6

N. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – The Board returned to Open Session at approximately 10:45 A.M. District Legal Counsel announced that no action was taken in Closed Session that would require disclosure under the Brown Act at this time.

O. ADJOURNMENT – The CWD Board meeting adjourned at 10:46 A.M. The next regular CWD Board Meeting is set for Thursday, May 8, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.



Spencer Birch, CWD Board Secretary