

CAWELO WATER DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 11, 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, Jeremy Blackwell, Spencer Birch, Keith Watkins
DIRECTORS ABSENT:	Mark Smith
STAFF PRESENT:	David Ansolabehere, Dave Halopoff, LeeAnn Giles, Myrna Sandoval
LEGAL COUNSEL:	Isaac St. Lawrence
OTHER ATTENDEES:	Sonia Lemus, Kevin Padway, Joshua Vogel, Josh Gautreau, Glen Weerheim

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Gaugel at 9:01 A.M.

B. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

The CWD Regular Board Meeting Minutes for 14 August 2025 were presented for approval.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Blackwell and unanimously carried, that the minutes from 14 August 2025** be approved as presented.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

General Funds	9,024,895.83
Construction Funds	18,462,963.99
Reserved Funds	<u>1,718,040.98</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	29,205,900.80
Receipts for August 2025	2,537,330.10
Manual Cash Disbursements	460,693.10
Net Revenue through August	21,609,464.15
Total Expenses through August	11,644,218.14
NET REVENUE / <LOSS>	9,965,246.01

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

D. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FOR August 2025

Controller, LeeAnn Giles, presented the Accounts Payable report for the month of August 2025. The report covered checks 36131 through 36136, 36138 through 36148, and 36150 through 36175 issued 10 September 2025 in the amount of \$1,257,613.39. Manual disbursements included ACH debits totaling \$24,671.26. Ms. Giles noted issues with check numbers 36139 and 36149 requiring them to be cancelled and be brought back to the Board for approval at a future date.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Blackwell, and unanimously carried, that the Accounts Payable from August 2025** be approved with check cancellations as noted by Staff.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

F. Public Hearing re: Proposed SGMA Special Assessment

President Gaugel announced that this was the time and place for the public hearing regarding the proposed implementation of the new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Special Assessment on District lands located within the Cawelo Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Mr. St. Lawrence then provided the recommended procedures to conduct the public hearing and Mr. Halopoff provided an overview of the District's proposal for the proposed new SGMA Special Assessment. Mr. Gaugel then opened the floor for public comment. After receipt of all public comments and questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 9:24A.M.

G. Tabulation of Votes re: Proposed SGMA Special Assessment

Mr. St. Lawrence reported District Staff would begin tabulating votes for the Proposed SGMA Special Assessment in the lobby and that anyone wishing to witness the tabulation could do so.

H. REPORTS

1) PROJECTS

a. Friant-Kern Canal Pump Station

- i. Status of Project:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the pump station slab has been poured and the contractor is progressing to form the pump station walls.

b. Poso Creek 2023 Flood Emergency Repairs

- i. **Repairs Status:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the 2023 Poso Creek Flood Emergency Repairs are continuing. FEMA and Cal-OES submittals are in process and review continues, with approximately \$718,000 received last month and approximately \$580,000 in claims outstanding.

c. Reuse of Produced Water Project

- i. Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the preconstruction biological mitigation measures are being completed and construction is anticipated to begin at the end of the month.

2) ILRP

- a. **Coalition Update:** Mr. Halopoff provided updates on the Groundwater Protection (GWP) Formulas, Values and Targets, CV-SALTS Nitrate Control Program, South San Joaquin Valley Management Practices Evaluation Program (SSJV MPEP), and SWRCB Second Ag Expert Panel. Mr. Halopoff also reported that the 2024 Annual Monitoring Report and the 2025 1st Quarter Poso Creek Surface Water Monitoring Report were submitted to the Regional Board.

3) SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

- a. **Local SGMA Activities:** Mr. Halopoff provided a verbal update on the amended Kern Non-Districted Land Authority Joint Powers of Authority Agreement.

4) FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL

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

5) SWP

- a. **Delta Conveyance Project (DCP):** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the KCWA has been notified the District is reevaluating its involvement in the DCP.
- b. **KCWA and Related SWP Matters:** Mr. Ansolabehere stated there were no new updates to report.

I. ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Mr. St. Lawrence provided an update on the status of AB 1413.

J. ENGINEER'S REPORT:

- 1) Poso Creek Petition** – Mr. Ansolabehere reported the SWRCB was developing the notice package which is anticipated to be complete mid-September.

- 2) **Consider Resolution No. 726: A Resolution of Application Proposing Proceedings for Annexation of Territory to the Cawelo Water District** – This item was tabled to a future date.
- 3) **Consider Resolution No. 727: A Resolution of Application Proposing Proceedings for Detachment of Territory from the Cawelo Water District** – This item was tabled to a future date.

K. MANAGER'S REPORT

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

	<u>Ac-Ft Delivered</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Supplies Received	9,073	57,872
Landowner Deliveries	8,788	50,742
East Poso Basin Recharge	0	1,065
Famoso Basin Recharge	0	840
System Loss / Operational Recharge	-454	-2,540
Diversion from Poso Creek		
To Famoso Basin Banking	0	840
To P.S. E	0	89
Percolation Losses Creek Channel	0	2,363
Poso Creek Water Passed Trenton Weir	0	5,804

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

Chevron	28.4 cfs per day (1,689 ac-ft.)
CRC/Bell Aire	6.2 cfs per day (371 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) **Fish Friendly Diversion:**

Mr. Ansolabehere provided an update on the Fish Friendly Diversion Pilot Project.

After review and discussion, it was motioned by **Director Birch**, seconded by **Director Blackwell**, and unanimously carried, *that the District continue to participate at the current share (\$60,000) in the Fish Friendly Diversion Pilot Project.*

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:46 A.M. to Closed Session.

L. 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
- 4) Wages/salary/other terms and conditions of employment under authority of Government Code Section 54957.6

M. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – The Board returned to Open Session at approximately 10:19 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.

The Board then revisited agenda item G. Tabulation of Votes re: Proposed SGMA Special Assessment.

Mr. Halopoff reported that the tabulation of votes was completed and resulted with 53,334,958.00 votes in approval and 2,241,283.00 votes in disapproval. Mr. St. Lawrence reported that the proposed SGMA Special Assessment was approved by a majority of the voters thus satisfying Proposition 218.

The Board then considered agenda item L. Consider Resolution No. 728 to Adopt SGMA Special Assessment.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Blackwell, seconded by Director Watkins, and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, *that Resolution No. 728 to Adopt SGMA Special Assessment*, be approved as presented.**

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

N. ADJOURNMENT – The CWD Board meeting adjourned at 10:22 A.M. The next regular CWD Board Meeting is set for Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.



Spencer Birch, CWD Board Secretary