

**CAWELO WATER DISTRICT**  
**BOARD MEETING**

*Thursday, January 8, 2026 - 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**

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**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** John Gaugel, Jeremy Blackwell, Keith Watkins, Mark Smith

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Spencer Birch

**STAFF PRESENT:** David Ansolabehere, Dave Halopoff, LeeAnn Giles, John Frankhouser, Myrna Sandoval

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Isaac St. Lawrence

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Sonia Lemus, Kevin Padway, Ryo Takanashi, Michael

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Gaugel at 9:14 A.M.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS**

The CWD Regular Board Meeting Minutes for 11 December 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 11 December 2025** be approved as presented.

**C. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 730 - Adopting Budget for Year 2026 and Fixing and Levying Standby Charges and Fixing Water Tolls for 2026 and Providing for Penalty and Interest Charge on all Delinquent Standby Charges and Water Tolls**

Mr. Ansolabehere provided information on Resolution No. 730 – Adopting Budget for Year 2026 and Fixing and Levying Standby Charges and Fixing Water Tolls for 2026 and Providing for Penalty and Interest Charge on all Delinquent Standby Charges and Water Tolls.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Director Blackwell and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, that Resolution No. 730 – Adopting Budget for Year 2026 and Fixing and Levying Standby Charges and Fixing Water Tolls for 2026 and Providing for Penalty and Interest Charge on all Delinquent Standby Charges and Water Tolls,** be approved as presented.

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

**D. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2025**

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

General Funds	6,717,558.58
Construction Funds	14,975,888.85
Reserved Funds	<u>1,829,535.77</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>23,522,983.20</b>
Receipts for December 2025	4,327,894.72
Manual Cash Disbursements	83,899.28
Net Revenue through December	29,453,673.29
Total Expenses through December	23,091,028.24
<b>NET REVENUE / &lt;LOSS&gt;</b>	<b>6,362,645.05</b>

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

**E. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2025**

Controller, LeeAnn Giles, presented the Accounts Payable report for the month of December 2025. The report covered checks 36357 through 36403, issued 7 January 2026 in the amount of \$1,878,321.62. Manual disbursements included ACH debits totaling \$83,899.28.

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

**F. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**G. REPORTS**

**1) PROJECTS**

**a. Friant-Kern Canal Pump Station**

- i. Status of Project:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the reinforced concrete pump station is backfilled and the underground electrical facilities are being completed.

**b. Poso Creek 2023 Flood Emergency Repairs**

- i. Repairs Status:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the 2023 Poso Creek Flood Emergency Repairs are continuing and the District is actively working on four (4) projects.

**c. Reuse of Produced Water Project**

- i. **Construction Status:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that approximately 9,000 linear feet of pipeline has been installed (95%) and the basin earthwork has been completed.

**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 Annual Grower Education Meetings for the Kern County ILRP coalitions have been scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2026 and Tuesday, January 15, 2026.

**3) SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)**

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

**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 District is participating in ongoing discussions regarding the DCP with KCWA and other Member Units.
- b. **KCWA and Related SWP Matters:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the SWP allocation remains at 10%.

**H. ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** No report at this time.

**I. ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

- 1) **Poso Creek Petition** – Mr. Ansolabehere reported the SWRCB public review period ended 22 December 2025 and no public comments were received.
- 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.

**J. MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

	<u>Ac-Ft Delivered</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Supplies Received	1,991	71,969
Landowner Deliveries	982	62,728
East Poso Basin Recharge	0	1,205
Famoso Basin Recharge	745	1,910
System Loss / Operational Recharge	-100	-3,399
Diversion from Poso Creek		
To Famoso Basin Banking	0	325
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 December 2025 were as follows:**

Chevron	27.1 cfs per day (1,615 ac-ft.)
CRC/Bell Aire	5.7 cfs per day (340 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.

Mr. Ansolabehere provided an update on the District's various power sources, usage, and cost per kilowatt hour of each respective power source for 2024 and 2025.

**ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION** – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 A.M. to Closed Session.

**K. 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) (one matter) and (d)(4) (two 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

**3) Wages/salary/other terms and conditions of employment under authority  
of Government Code Section 54957.6**

- L. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION** – The Board returned to Open Session at approximately 10:14 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.
- M. DISTRICT FACILITY SITE VISIT** – This item was tabled to a future date.
- N. ADJOURNMENT** – The CWD Board meeting adjourned at 10:15 A.M. The next regular CWD Board Meeting is set for Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

  
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Spencer Birch, CWD Board Secretary