

CAWELO WATER DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 12, 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

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

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

LEGAL COUNSEL: Isaac St. Lawrence

OTHER ATTENDEES: Sonia Lemus, Kevin, Ryo Takanashi, Paul Bowles, Llams iphone, Michael

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Gaugel at 9:00 A.M.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

The CWD Regular Board Meeting Minutes for 8 January 2026 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 8 January 2026** be approved as presented.

C. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026

The Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2026 was presented by Assistant Controller, John Frankhouser. Balances for January 2026 were as follows:

General Funds	8,960,018.26
Construction Funds	15,015,533.13
Reserved Funds	<u>1,862,821.89</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	25,838,373.28
Receipts for January 2026	8,181,681.39
Manual Cash Disbursements	97,314.44

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Director Birch, and unanimously carried, that the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2026** be approved as presented.

D. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026

Assistant Controller, John Frankhouser, presented the Accounts Payable report for the month of January 2026. The report covered checks 36409 through 36469, issued 11 February 2026 in the amount of \$2,131,698.97. Manual disbursements included ACH debits totaling \$97,314.44.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Blackwell, and unanimously carried, that the Accounts Payable from January 2026** be approved as presented.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The floor was open for public comments, at which time Mr. Halopoff reported a letter addressed to the Board was received from a landowner within the District and has been provided to the Board. The Board reviewed the correspondence. Mr. Halopoff reported the matter will be discussed with the Board in closed session due to potential litigation. No other public comments were received.

F. REPORTS

1) PROJECTS

a. Friant-Kern Canal Pump Station

- i. Status of Project:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the project is proceeding on schedule, the building foundation has been completed and the contractor is beginning the building masonry wall work.

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 Poso Creek Diversion Structure repairs have been completed.

c. Reuse of Produced Water Project

- i. Construction Status:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the District is currently working with Caltrans to obtain the bore and jack permit. Mr. Ansolabehere also reported the pipeline is near completion.

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 were conducted and the Annual Member Reporting deadline is 1 March 2026. In addition, Mr. Halopoff a comment letter was submitted regarding the Regional Board's Draft ILRP Trigger Limits for Select Pesticides.

3) SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

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

4) FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL

- a. **Employee Compensation / Benefits:** District Legal Counsel announced this item is tabled until after Closed Session.

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 participating Member Units.
- b. **KCWA and Related SWP Matters:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the SWP allocation has been increased to 30%.

G. ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Mr. St. Lawrence provided an update on the Brown Act and provided a copy to each Director.

H. ENGINEER'S REPORT:

- 1) **Poso Creek Petition** – Mr. Ansolabehere reported the District is working with the Division of Water Rights to identify the petition CEQA requirements.
- 2) **RESOLUTION NO. 726 – A Resolution of Application Proposing Proceedings for Annexation of Territory to the Cawelo Water District**

Mr. Gaugel announced a potential conflict of interest and recused himself from the Board Meeting at this time.

Mr. Halopoff provided information on Resolution No. 726 – A Resolution of Application Proposing Proceedings for Annexation of Territory to the Cawelo Water District

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Blackwell and carried by the following roll call vote, that Resolution No. 726 – A Resolution of Application Proposing Proceedings for Annexation of Territory to the Cawelo Water District, be approved as presented.**

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

Mr. Gaugel rejoined the Board Meeting.

- 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 meeting.

- 4) **Authorize Engineer’s Report for Water Toll Rate Study** – Mr. Halopoff provided an update to the Board on the status of the District’s Water Toll Rates. The Board discussed the potential need for an increase due to increasing power costs.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Blackwell and unanimously carried, that the Board authorize an Engineer’s Report for a Water Toll Rate Study.**

I. MANAGER’S REPORT

- 1) **Water Deliveries/Supplies into the District** for January 2026 were as follows:

	<u>Ac-Ft Delivered</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Supplies Received	1,959	1,959
Landowner Deliveries	250	250
East Poso Basin Recharge	0	0
Famoso Basin Recharge	1,465	1,465
System Loss / Operational Recharge	-98	-98
Diversion from Poso Creek		
To Famoso Basin Banking	0	0
To P.S. E	0	0
Percolation Losses Creek Channel	63	63
Poso Creek Water Passed Trenton Weir	138	0

Produced Water Deliveries for the month of January 2026 were as follows:

Chevron	27.2 cfs per day (1,620 ac-ft.)
CRC/Bell Aire	5.7 cfs per day (339 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 and Mr. Halopoff also provided the Board with an update on the invasive Golden Mussel infestations within Kern County, and status on State and County-wide response plans.

- 3) **Equipment Acquisition:**

Mr. Ansolabehere reported to the Board that due to the existing fleet truck repair costs increasing due to age and wear, Staff is recommending the purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet with government discounts provided at a cost of \$49,888.38. The existing fleet truck would be salvaged for approximately \$5,500, resulting in a net cash outlay of approximately \$46,000.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Blackwell, seconded by Director Birch and unanimously carried, to authorize the**

General Manager to purchase one new vehicle at a net cash outlay not to exceed \$46,000.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 A.M. to Closed Session.

J. 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**

K. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – The Board returned to Open Session at approximately 10:35 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 considered Agenda Item F.4 (a), Employee Compensation / Benefits.

After review and discussion, it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Birch, and unanimously carried, that employee wages be increased in accordance with Staff's recommendations as presented.

L. District Facility Site Visit – This item was tabled to a future meeting.

M. ADJOURNMENT – The CWD Board meeting adjourned at 10:36 A.M. The next regular CWD Board Meeting is set for Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

Spencer Birch, CWD Board Secretary