

CAWELO WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 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 Padway, Michael

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Gaugel at 9:05 A.M.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

The CWD Regular Board Meeting Minutes for 12 February 2026 were presented for approval.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Birch, seconded by Director Blackwell and unanimously carried, *that the minutes from 12 February 2026*** be approved as presented.

C. PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:00 A.M.

1) Consider 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update

President Gaugel announced the public hearing regarding the proposed adoption of the 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan be opened at 9:06 A.M. Mr. Halopoff provided a summary of the proposed 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan and opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

2) RESOLUTION NO. 731 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Adopting 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update

Mr. Halopoff provided information on Resolution No. 731 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Adopting 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update.

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. 731 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District***

Adopting 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update, be approved as presented.

AYES: (5) Gaugel, Blackwell, Watkins, Smith, Birch
NOES: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)
ABSENT: (0)

D. RESOLUTION NO. 732 – Declaring Necessity for Levying 2026 Special Assessments

Mr. Ansolabehere provided information on Resolution No. 732 – Declaring Necessity for Levying 2026 Special Assessments.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Blackwell, seconded by Director Smith and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, *that Resolution No. 732 – Declaring Necessity for Levying 2026 Special Assessments*, be approved as presented.**

AYES: (5) Gaugel, Blackwell, Watkins, Smith, Birch
NOES: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)
ABSENT: (0)

E. TREASURER’S REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026

The Treasurer’s Report for the month of February 2026 was presented by Assistant Controller, Mr. Frankhouser. Balances for February 2026 were as follows:

General Funds	7,700,526.88
Construction Funds	15,053,808.48
Reserved Funds	<u>2,488,492.74</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	25,242,828.10
Receipts for February 2026	1,228,430.88
Manual Cash Disbursements	62,211.94
Net Revenue through February	17,810,415.15
Total Expenses through February	1,029,852.89
NET REVENUE / <LOSS>	12,681,027.04

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 February 2026* be approved as presented.**

F. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Assistant Controller, Mr. Frankhouser, presented the Accounts Payable report for the month of February 2026. The report covered checks 36473 through 36532, issued 11 March 2026 in the amount of \$1,773,874.62. Manual disbursements included ACH debits totaling \$62,211.94.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Watkins, seconded by Director Smith, and unanimously carried, *that the Accounts Payable from February 2026* be**

approved as presented.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The floor was open for public comments, at which time Mr. Halopoff reported a letter addressed to the Board regarding past due assessment penalties and interest 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.

H. REPORTS

1) PROJECTS

a. Friant-Kern Canal Pump Station

- i. **Status of Project:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the project is proceeding on schedule, and the electrical switchgear and starts have recently been set in the pump station building.

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 Famoso Basin Sediment Removal has 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 encroachment permit for the jack and bore crossing.

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. In addition, Mr. Halopoff reported that the annual member reporting for the 2025 crop harvest year was due 1 March 2026 and 95% of members have submitted the required reports, and the 2025 3rd Quarter Poso Creek Surface Water Monitoring Report was submitted to the Regional Board 2 March 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 with the KCWA and other participating Member Units on future planning funding.
- b. KCWA and Related SWP Matters:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the SWP allocation has been increased to 30%.

I. ATTORNEY’S REPORT: No report at this time.

J. ENGINEER’S REPORT:

- 1) **Poso Creek Petition** – Mr. Ansolabehere reported the District is working with the Division of Water Rights to identify the required steps to comply with CEQA for the petition.
- 2) **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.

K. MANAGER’S REPORT

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

	<u>Ac-Ft Delivered</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Supplies Received	1,792	3,751
Landowner Deliveries	1,576	1,826
East Poso Basin Recharge	0	0
Famoso Basin Recharge	162	1,627
System Loss / Operational Recharge	-18	-116
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	601	845

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

Chevron	26.3 cfs per day (1,460 ac-ft.)
CRC/Bell Aire	6.0 cfs per day (333 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) **Golden Mussel Update**

Mr. Ansolabehere and Mr. Halopoff provided the Board with an update on the invasive

Golden Mussel infestations within Kern County, and status on State and County-wide response plans.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION – The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:01 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) (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**

M. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – The Board returned to Open Session at approximately 10:36 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.

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

O. ADJOURNMENT – The CWD Board meeting adjourned at 10:37 A.M. The next regular CWD Board Meeting is set for Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

Spencer Birch, CWD Board Secretary