

CAWELO WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 9, 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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Keith Watkins, Mark Smith

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

LEGAL COUNSEL: Isaac St. Lawrence

OTHER ATTENDEES: Sonia Lemus, Glen Weerheim, Katie Miller

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

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

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

C. PUBLIC HEARING AT 9:03 A.M.

President Gaugel announced this was the time and place for comments regarding the proposed resolution declaring the necessity to levy the Cawelo Water District's Special Assessment for 2026 and opened the floor for public comment. After receipt of all public comments and questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 9:10 A.M.

1) RESOLUTION NO. 733 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Levying 2026 Special Assessments

Mr. Halopoff provided information on Resolution No. 733 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Levying 2026 Special Assessments.

After review and discussion, it was motioned by Director Blackwell, seconded by Director Birch and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, that *Resolution No. 733 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Levying 2026 Special Assessments*, be approved as presented.

AYES: (3) Gaugel, Blackwell, Birch
NOES: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)
ABSENT: (2) Watkins, Smith

D. RESOLUTION NO. 734 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Declaring Necessity for Levying 2026 SGMA Special Assessments

Mr. Halopoff provided information on Resolution No. 734 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Declaring Necessity for Levying 2026 SGMA Special Assessments.

After review and discussion, it was motioned by Director Birch, seconded by Director Blackwell and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, that *Resolution No. 734 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Declaring Necessity for Levying 2026 SGMA Special Assessments*, be approved as presented.

AYES: (3) Gaugel, Blackwell, Birch
NOES: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)
ABSENT: (2) Watkins, Smith

E. RESOLUTION NO. 735 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Declaring Appreciation of LeeAnn Giles’s Service

Mr. Ansolabehere provided information on Resolution No. 735 – Declaring Appreciation of LeeAnn Giles’s Service.

After review and discussion, it was motioned by Director Blackwell, seconded by Director Birch and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, that *Resolution No. 735 – Declaring Appreciation for LeeAnn Giles’s Service*, be approved as presented.

AYES: (3) Gaugel, Blackwell, Birch
NOES: (0)
ABSTAIN: (0)
ABSENT: (2) Watkins, Smith

F. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2026

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

General Funds	6,648,980.87
Construction Funds	15,087,846.55
Reserved Funds	<u>2,683,977.32</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	24,420,804.74
Receipts for March 2026	1,217,603.15
Manual Cash Disbursements	65,618.66
Net Revenue through March	18,215,079.54
Total Expenses through March	6,273,013.97
NET REVENUE / <LOSS>	11,942,065.57

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

G. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT FOR MARCH 2026

Controller, Mr. Frankhouser, presented the Accounts Payable report for the month of March 2026. The report covered checks 36534 through 36585, issued 8 April 2026 in the amount of \$1,396,879.57. Manual disbursements included ACH debits totaling \$65,618.66.

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

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

I. REPORTS

1) PROJECTS

a. Friant-Kern Canal Pump Station

- i. Status of Project:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the electrical construction has passed PG&E inspection. The roof has been constructed and underground electrical conduits have been installed.

b. Poso Creek 2023 Flood Emergency Repairs

- i. Repairs Status:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the Trenton Weir repairs will begin once W.M. Lyles is completed with the Diversion Structure and interbasin structure repairs.

c. Reuse of Produced Water Project

- i. Construction Status:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the collection basin is lined and completed. The Highway 65 crossing is pending the Caltrans permit.

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 2025-2026FY SWRCB ILRP Fees were received March 2026. The SWRCB invoice was in the amount of \$52,094, or \$1.50/acre.
- b. Adopt 2026 Member Fees:** Mr. Halopoff provided an update on the 2025 calendar year financials for the CWDC and provided a draft budget for the 2026 calendar year. Mr. Halopoff recommended a 2026 calendar year budget of \$182,000 with member fees of \$4.80 per irrigated acre in the Primary CWDC and \$6.50 per irrigated acre in the Secondary CWDC.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Blackwell, seconded by Director Birch, and unanimously carried, that the CWDC 2026 Calendar Year Budget and Member Fees be adopted as recommended.**

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 remains at 30%.

J. ATTORNEY’S REPORT: District Legal Counsel, Mr. St. Lawrence, provided an update on the recently enacted SB 827 requiring additional training and time for compliance.

K. ENGINEER’S REPORT:

- 1) **Poso Creek Petition** – Mr. Ansolabehere reported the District beginning discussions with consultants to develop the CEQA documents 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.

L. MANAGER’S REPORT

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

	<u>Ac-Ft Delivered</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Supplies Received	4,670	8,421
Landowner Deliveries	3,764	5,590
East Poso Basin Recharge	0	0
Famoso Basin Recharge	0	1,627
System Loss / Operational Recharge	-234	-349
Diversion from Poso Creek		
To Famoso Basin Banking	0	0
To P.S. E	0	0
Percolation Losses Creek Channel	0	63
Poso Creek Water Passed Trenton Weir	0	845

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

Chevron	27.6 cfs per day (1,642 ac-ft.)
CRC/Bell Aire	5.5 cfs per day (326 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.

4) North West Kern Resource Conservation District Request for Contributions

Mr. Ansolabehere discussed with the Board the North West Kern Resource Conservation District contribution request and recommended a contribution amount of \$3,000.00.

After review and discussion, it was motioned by Director Birch, seconded by Director Blackwell and unanimously carried, that *North West Kern Resource Conservation District Request for Contributions*, be approved as recommended.

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:59 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) (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**

N. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – The Board returned to Open Session at approximately 12:14 P.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 12:15 P.M. The next regular CWD Board Meeting is set for Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.



Spencer Birch, CWD Board Secretary