

CAWELO WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 14, 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, Mark Smith

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Keith Watkins

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

LEGAL COUNSEL: Isaac St. Lawrence

OTHER ATTENDEES: Sonia Lemus, Kevin Padway, Michael, Ty Alexander, Glen Weerheim, Craig Bono

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Gaugel at 9:08 A.M.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

The CWD Regular Board Meeting Minutes for 9 April 2026 were presented for approval.

After review and discussion, **it was motioned by Director Blackwell, seconded by Director Smith and unanimously carried, that the minutes from 9 April 2026** be approved as presented.

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

President Gaugel announced this was the time and place a public hearing regarding the proposed resolution declaring the necessity to levy the SGMA Special Assessment for 2026 and introduced Mr. Halopoff. Mr. Halopoff provided information regarding the SGMA Special Assessment for 2026, and Mr. Gaugel 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. 736 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Levying 2026 SGMA Special Assessments

Mr. Halopoff provided information on Resolution No. 736 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Levying 2026 SGMA Special Assessments.

After review and discussion, it was motioned by Director Birch, seconded by Director Smith and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, *that Resolution No. 736 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Levying 2026 SGMA Special Assessments*, be approved as presented.

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

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

1) Consider 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update

President Gaugel announced this was the time and place for a public hearing regarding the proposed resolution adopting the 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP) Update and introduced Mr. Halopoff. Mr. Halopoff provided information regarding the 2025 AWMP Update and Mr. Gaugel opened the floor for public comment. After receipt of all public comments and questions, the Public Hearing was closed at 9:13 A.M.

2) RESOLUTION NO. 737 – 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. 737 – 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 Birch and unanimously carried by the following roll call vote, *that Resolution No. 737 – A Resolution of the Board of Directors of Cawelo Water District Adopting 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan Update*, be approved as presented.

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

E. TREASURER’S REPORT FOR APRIL 2026

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

General Funds	832,254.20
Construction Funds	15,127,601.53

Reserved Funds	<u>1,946,028.76</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	17,905,884.49
Receipts for April 2026	389,008.53
Manual Cash Disbursements	1,704,872.17
Net Revenue through April	19,807,004.00
Total Expenses through April	8,140,184.73
NET REVENUE / <LOSS>	11,666,819.27

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 April 2026 be approved as presented.

F. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT FOR APRIL 2026

Controller, Mr. Frankhouser, presented the Accounts Payable report for the month of April 2026. The report covered checks 36623 through 36682, issued 13 May 2026 in the amount of \$1,805,252.17. Manual disbursements included ACH debits totaling \$1,704,872.17.

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

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The floor was open for public comments, at which time Director Birch provided a public comment. 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 pumps were delivered and progress continues.

b. Poso Creek 2023 Flood Emergency Repairs

- i. Repairs Status:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the Trenton Weir repairs have restarted and drilling has commenced for the replacement wells.

c. Reuse of Produced Water Project

- i. Construction Status:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the Caltrans permit has been obtained with boring to begin on Monday, May 18, 2026, and the District is working with Regional Board staff for Project commencement.

2) ILRP

- a. Coalition Update:** Mr. Halopoff provided updates on the Groundwater Protection (GWP) Formulas, Values and Targets, Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative (CV-GMC), CV-SALTS Nitrate Control Program, South San Joaquin Valley Management Practices Evaluation Program (SSJV MPEP), and SWRCB Second Ag Expert Panel.

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 still working with the KCWA and participating Member Units on future planning funding.
- b. KCWA and Related SWP Matters:** Mr. Ansolabehere reported that the SWP allocation remains at 30%.

I. ATTORNEY'S REPORT: District Legal Counsel, Mr. St. Lawrence notified the Board that the North Kern Transportation Agreement has been executed by all parties.

J. ENGINEER'S REPORT:

- 1) Poso Creek Petition** – Mr. Ansolabehere reported the District is working with a consultant to prepare the required CEQA documentation.
- 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 April 2026 were as follows:

	<u>Ac-Ft Delivered</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Supplies Received	4,823	13,244
Landowner Deliveries	3,965	9,555
East Poso Basin Recharge	0	0
Famoso Basin Recharge	0	1,627
System Loss / Operational Recharge	-241	-591
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 April 2026 were as follows:

Chevron	25.7 cfs per day (1,532 ac-ft.)
CRC/Bell Aire	4.8 cfs per day (283 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.

a. 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 the District's preventative treatment program.

3) Kern County General Services Easement Request

Mr. Ansolabehere notified the Board that the County of Kern has purchased land north of Lerdo Hwy and have requested an easement to use and improve an existing road which lies on district property to provide access to the subject parcel. The Board discussed the easement request and provided District Staff direction.

4) Multi-Jurisdictional Hazards Mitigation Plan

5) Mr. Ansolabehere provided the Board with an update on the Kern County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazards Mitigation Plan Update.


ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION – The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 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) (three 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 11:12 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. ADJOURNMENT – The CWD Board meeting adjourned at 11:13 A.M. The next regular CWD Board Meeting is set for Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.



Spencer Birch, CWD Board Secretary