

**KERN LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MINUTES**

Kern Council of Governments (KernCOG) Conference Room
1401 19th Street Suite 300
Bakersfield CA 93301
In-Person, Zoom and Teleconference
Meeting of March 20, 2024

Pursuant to the Government Code § 54963. et seq., meetings were held both at a physical location and by video/teleconference to attend to any health and safety concerns of the panelist and/or participants.

Regular scheduled meeting called to order at 5:14 p.m. Chair Ayon presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Crump, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Peters, Zaragoza
Absent: Scrivner
Staff: Knox, Menchaca, Rice
Counsel: Tom Schroeter

Item 03/21/24-1: *No Determination Required*

VIDEO CONFERENCE EMERGENCY REQUEST (if necessary): (Agenda Item 3)

Chair Ayon announced Commissioners were present in-person, therefore the item is not necessary.

Item 03/21/24-2: *Approved as Presented*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (Agenda Item 4a) February 21, 2024, Meeting

*Chair Ayon presented the February minutes; Upon motion of Commissioner **Fowler**, seconded by Commissioner **Peters**, IT IS ORDERED: The February 21, 2024, Minutes are approved as presented by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Crump, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Peters, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Item 03/21/24-3: *No Public Comments*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Agenda Item 5)

None

DETERMINATION PROCEEDING: (Agenda Item 6)

Item 03/21/24-4: *Approved to Motion – Resolution No. 24-02*

PROCEEDING 1823: North of the River Sanitary District No. 1 – Annexation 114 & CSA 71 Detachment “V”

Executive Officer Knox recommended that the Commission consider the Environmental Document adopted by the applicant and approve the proposal as presented, subject to conditions recommended by the

*Executive Officer, waiving notice, and protest hearing. Commissioner Peters made a motion to correct Parcel A to read as Nord Road not North Road. Upon motion of Commissioner **Peters**, seconded by Commissioner **Zaragoza**, IT IS ORDERED: The North of the River Sanitary District No. 1–Annexation 114 & CSA 71 Detachment “V” is approved with correction by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Crump, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Peters, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

*5:23pm Commissioner Couch stepped out of the meeting.

*5:24pm Commissioner Couch stepped back into the meeting.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: (Agenda Item 7)

Item 03/21/24-5: Approved to Motion

PRELIMINARY ANNUAL BUDGET 2024-2025 (Agenda Item 7a)

*Executive Officer Knox explained the revenues for the Budget and recommended the Commission accept the Preliminary Budget with input to bring it back at the next commission meeting. Direct staff as to the Commission’s choice on Life Insurance increase for staff and pay down CalPERS unfunded pension liability. Commissioner Zaragoza recommended Life Insurance be referred to the Budget Committee. Commissioner Couch made a motion to adopt the preliminary budget, approve the 50% carryover for CalPERS unfunded liability and refer Life Insurance to Budget Committee. Upon motion of Commissioner **Couch**, seconded by Commissioner **Fowler**, IT IS ORDERED: The Preliminary Annual Budget 2024-2025, 50% carryover for CalPERS unfunded liability, and refer Life Insurance to Budget Committee is approved as motioned by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Crump, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Peters, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

COMMISSION ITEMS: (Agenda Item 8)

Item 03/21/24-6: Approved as Presented

EXECUTIVE OFFICER CONTRACT AGREEMENT: (Agenda Item 8a)

*Executive Officer Knox referred this item to Attorney Tom Schroeder. Mr. Schroeter recommended that the Commission approve the reviewed amended employment contract for Blair Knox. Commissioner Zaragoza inquired regarding number 3. At-Will Employment - item of the amended contract, if the extension was to be terminated, will it require 90 days with notice. Attorney Tom Schroeter answered No to Commissioner Zaragoza. Upon motion of Commissioner **Crump**, seconded by Commissioner **Peters**, IT IS ORDERED: The amended employment contract for Executive Officer Blair Knox, is approved as presented by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Crump, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Peters, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Item 03/21/24-7: Approved as Presented– Resolution No. 24-03

RESOLUTION: VACATE 1777 & 1778 BUENA VISTA WATER STORAGE DISTRICT ANNEXATION NO. 1 & SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AMENDMENT (Agenda Item 8b)

*Executive Officer Knox presented to the Commission, a memo to vacate Buena Vista Water Storage District Annexation No.1 and Sphere of Influence proceeding 1777 and 1778, as per the Commission’s vote on February 21, 2024, to not continue pursuing the lawsuit of Kern Water Bank Authority vs. Kern LAFCo over the BVWSD Annexation and Sphere of Influence. The agenda packet included the resolution vacating Buena Vista’s annexation and sphere of influence in accordance with the appellate court ruling. Commissioner Crump recommended that the minutes reflect the correct proceeding numbers as 1777 & 1778 not 1778 & 1779 as shown in the agenda. Upon motion of Commissioner **Fowler**, seconded by Commissioner **Peters**, IT IS ORDERED: Buena Vista Storage District Annexation No.1 and Sphere of Influence amendment to vacate proceeding 1777 & 1778, is approved as corrected by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Crump, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Peters, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

GENERAL BUSINESS: (Agenda Item 9)

Item 03/21/24-8: Approved as Presented

EXPENSE LIST 24-02 (Agenda Item 9a)

*Chair Ayon presented Expense List 24-02. Upon motion of Commissioner **Crump**, seconded by Commissioner **Peters**, IT IS ORDERED: The general claim set forth in Expense List No. 24-02 is approved for payment, and the Chairman is authorized to certify said list by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Crump, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Peters, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Item 03/21/24-9: Approved to Motion

OFFICE LEASE RENEWAL (Agenda Item 9b)

*Executive Officer Knox recommended the Commission approve the Five-year office lease agreement. Commissioner Couch made a motion for the Common Area Maintenance (CAM) payments to be referred to the Budget Committee. Upon motion of Commissioner **Couch**, seconded by Commissioner **Crump**, IT IS ORDERED: The Office Lease Renewal referral to the Budget Committee is approved to motion by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Crump, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Peters, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Item 03/21/24-10: Informational

REPORT: 2024-2025 STATE LEGISLATION: (Agenda Item 9c)

Executive Officer Knox reported to the Commission that the report was included in their

packets. No questions were addressed. No vote was conducted or necessary.

Item 03/21/24-11: Informational

EXECUTIVE OFFICER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: (Agenda Item 9d)

- Form 700 Reminder deadline 4-1-2024
- Website RFP has been sent out
- List of upcoming projects
- Ridgecrest seat # 3

Item 03/21/24-12:

CLOSED SESSION: (Agenda Item 10)

None

Item 03/21/24-13: Motion to Adjourn

ADJOURNMENT: (Agenda Item 11)

*Chair Ayon announced the next meeting to be April 17, 2024. The chair appointed Commissioner Clark to Budget Committee effective May 1, 2024. There being no further business to come before the Commission. Upon motion of Commissioner **Crump**, seconded by Commissioner **Couch**, IT IS ORDERED: the meeting is adjourned at 6:06 p.m. by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Crump, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Peters, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Patty Manchaca
Clerk

Executive Officer