

AGENDA

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
Kern River Parkway Nature Center
8000 River Road
Bakersfield, CA 93308**

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 16, 2025
6:30 P.M.

All agenda items and supporting documentation are available for public review at the Kern County General Services Division, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor, in Bakersfield, CA 93301 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, following posting of the agenda. Any supporting documentation that relates to an agenda item that is distributed after the agenda is posted and prior to the meeting will also be available at the same location.

Commissioners: Ryan Abler, District I;
William Chapman, District II;
Carol Lair, District III;
Lorena Cervantes, District IV; and
Ucedrah Osby, District V

Disclaimer: This agenda includes the proposed actions and activities with respect to each agenda item as of the date of posting. As such, it does not preclude the Commission from modifying the recommendations of staff or taking different actions than those proposed.

Salute to the Flag

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTS, AND REQUESTS

1. This portion of the agenda is reserved for persons wishing to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda and over which the Commission has jurisdiction. No response is required from the Commission or staff, and no action can be taken on items not on the agenda; however, Commissioners may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. Commissioners may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request staff to report back to the Commission at a later meeting. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD.**

- I. Public Comments and Requests

CONSENT AGENDA

2. All items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by staff. Consent items will be considered first and may be approved by one motion if no member of the Commission or public wishes to comment or ask questions. If discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered in the listed sequence.
 - I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on March 19, 2025; **APPROVE**
 - II. Miscellaneous Correspondence; **RECEIVE AND FILE**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

3. General Services – This portion of the meeting is reserved for General Services staff to provide a report regarding new and ongoing projects, programs, and plans relating to Kern County Parks
 - I. General Services Division; INFORMATIONAL
 - i. Referral by Commissioner Chapman to provide an update on the location of the Hart Memorial Park Adventure Play Area Splash Pad; Relocation of Disc Golf Baskets
 - II. Kern County Sheriff's Office; PARK RANGER INFORMATIONAL UPDATE

NEW, UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS

4. Kern County OHV 2025 Grant Cycle Applications; **DISCUSS; REVIEW GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTAL. GRANT AWARD DECISION TO BE MADE IN MAY 2025**
5. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **SET MAY 2025 MEETING LOCATION**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. On their own initiative, Commission members may make a brief announcement or a brief report on their own activities. Commissioners may request that an item be agendized at a future meeting, make a referral to staff for factual information, or request that staff report back to the Commission at a later meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

7. Adjourn to next regular meeting, scheduled for May 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., to be conducted at the County Administrative Center - 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor, Board of Supervisors Chambers, Bakersfield, CA 93301, unless otherwise indicated, changed, and/or cancelled by the Commission.

Americans with Disabilities Act (Government Code Section 54953.2)

The Kern County Administrative Center is accessible to persons with disabilities. Disabled individuals who need assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission may request assistance at the Kern County Parks and Recreation Division, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bakersfield, or by calling (661) 868-7000. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in alternate formats. Requests should be made five (5) working days in advance whenever possible.

To obtain past [Agendas or Minutes](https://www.kerncounty.com/gsd/parks/), please visit our website at:
<https://www.kerncounty.com/gsd/parks/>



Kern County

Parks and Recreation Commission

Public Presentations, Comments and Requests



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Consent Agenda

MINUTES

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
Richard Prado East Bakersfield Senior Center - 2101 Ridge Road
Bakersfield, CA 93305**

Regular Meeting

*Wednesday, March 19, 2025
6:30 P.M.*

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2025. Commissioner Abler presided and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioner(s): Ryan Abler, District I; William Chapman, District II; Carol Lair, District III; and Ucedrah Osby, District V

Absent: Commissioner(s): Lorena Cervantes, District IV

Staff: Brian Van Wyk, Deputy County Counsel; Geoffrey Hill, Chief General Services Officer; Steve Rhonemus, General Services Manager; Jason Nelson, Sheriff's Lieutenant, Kern County Sheriff; and Augustin Moreno, Sheriff's Commander

Others: There were 8 others present

Note: Ab, Ch, La, Ce, and Os are abbreviations for Commissioners Abler, Chapman, Lair, Cervantes, and Osby. As an example, Ab-La denotes Commissioner Abler made a motion and Commissioner Lair seconded the motion

SALUTE TO THE FLAG: LEAD BY COMMISSIONER ABLER

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

- I. **DAVID SCHAAD** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING KERN AUDOBON SOCIETY TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON STATUS OF PARK MONOFILAMENT RECYCLING BINS INSTALLATION REQUEST; PROVIDED COMMENTS REGARDING HART MEMORIAL PARK PLAY AREA SPLASH PAD
- II. **CARLA RIVAS** - WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR RANGER PRESENCE AT HART PARK
- III. **GEOFFREY HILL** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE REGARDING HIS RETIRMENT FROM THE COUNTY OF KERN AS CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER ON MARCH 21, 2025

- IV. **DANIEL RODELA** - FAITH IN THE VALLEY, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR THE FORD CITY PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND CONGRATULATE CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER GEOFFREY HILL UPON HIS RETIREMENT

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on February 19, 2025; **Ch:La TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN; MOTION CARRIED. 4 AYES; 1 ABSENT-CERVANTES**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

General Services – Status Update

- I. **KERN RIVER VALLEY** – STEVE RHONEMUS, GENERAL SERVICES MANAGER-PARKS & FACILITIES, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON THE PAINTING OF COMMUNITY CENTERS IN KERN RIVER VALLEY
- II. **ROSEMOND PARK** - STEVE RHONEMUS, GENERAL SERVICES MANAGER-PARKS & FACILITIES, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON DRINKING FOUNTAIN REPLACEMENTS AT ROSEMOND PARK; LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD RENOVATION PROJECT IS CURRENTLY OUT TO BID
- III. **PANORAMA PARK** - STEVE RHONEMUS, GENERAL SERVICES MANAGER-PARKS & FACILITIES, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON DRINKING FOUNTAIN AND SOLAR LIGHT REPLACEMENTS AT PANORAMA PARK
- IV. **HART MEMORIAL PARK** - STEVE RHONEMUS, GENERAL SERVICES MANAGER-PARKS & FACILITIES, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE EMBANKMENT PROJECT
- V. **HART MEMORIAL PARK ADVENTURE PLAY AREA** - STEVE RHONEMUS, GENERAL SERVICES MANAGER-PARKS & FACILITIES, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON RESTROOM INSTALLATION PROJECT
- VI. **DELANO MEMORIAL PARK** - STEVE RHONEMUS, GENERAL SERVICES MANAGER-PARKS & FACILITIES, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON BASEBALL FIELD RENOVATIONS, NEW PLAYGROUND; PARKING LOT REPAVING AND UPDATED LIGHTING

- VII. **HERITAGE PARK** - STEVE RHONEMUS, GENERAL SERVICES MANAGER-PARKS & FACILITIES, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATES ON CONTINUING PROJECTS INCLUDING DISC GOLF AND PICNIC BENCHES
- VIII. **BELLE TERRACE PARK** - STEVE RHONEMUS, GENERAL SERVICES MANAGER-PARKS & FACILITIES, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATES ON CONTINUING PROJECTS INCLUDING STRUCTURES, LIGHTING AND SHELTER REPAINTING
- IX. **VIRGINIA PARK** - STEVE RHONEMUS, GENERAL SERVICES MANAGER-PARKS & FACILITIES, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE UPDATES ON THE RESTROOM PROJECT, PLAYGROUND UPGRADES AND LIGHTING
- X. **BUENA VISTA** - STEVE RHONEMUS, GENERAL SERVICES MANAGER-PARKS & FACILITIES, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON RESTROOM RENOVATIONS

Park Ranger – Status Update

- I. **JASON NELSON**, SHERIFF'S LIEUTENANT, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE A PARK RANGER UPDATE; INCLUDING CONTACTS, INCIDENT REPORTS, STAFFING STATUS, AND PARK RANGER FLEET AND BOAT ACQUISITIONS; INTRODUCTION OF AUGUSTIN MORENO, SHERIFF'S COMMANDER, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

- I. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO HOLD THE APRIL 16, 2025, MEETING AT THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER 8000 RIVER ROAD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- I. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN REQUESTED AN UPDATE ON THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE HART MEMORIAL PARK ADVENTURE PLAY AREA SPLASH PAD AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE DISC GOLF BASKETS WILL NEED TO BE MOVED
- II. COMMISSIONER LAIR PROVIDED COMMENTS REGARDING AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A STOLEN PEACOCK FROM HART MEMORIAL PARK
- III. COMMISSIONER OSBY PROVIDED COMMENTS ENCOURAGING AN INCREASE IN POSITIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND THE KERN COUNTY PARK RANGERS PROVIDING PUBLIC SAFETY

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 7:06 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for April 16, 2025, at 6:30 P.M., at the Kern River Parkway Nature Center 8000 River Road, Bakersfield, CA 93308, unless otherwise indicated, changed, and/or canceled by the Commission.



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Staff
Report(s)



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

New/Unfinished/
Other Business

**KERN COUNTY OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE LICENSE FUND
PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM
REQUIRED PROJECT INFORMATION**

Answer every question on this application form in the order that it is presented. Type or print the associated question with each answer in your submittal. Attach any additional information that you feel is relevant to the project. Provide **eight (8) copies** with your submittal package. Package is due in Parks and Recreation Office, 1115 Truxtun Ave., 3rd Floor – General Services, Bakersfield, CA 93301, **by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 21, 2025.**

1. Submittal date February 29, 2025
2. Name and address of applicant
 Stewards of the Sequoia
 PO Box 1246
 Wofford Heights CA 93285
3. Title of project
 Sequoia Trail Maintenance and Repair 2025
4. Amount of funding requested \$82,000
5. Name, title, address, and phone number of project coordinator(s)
 Chris Horgan, Executive Director 760 223-2366
6. Objective of project
 Enhancing OHV recreation by performing trail maintenance and repair of Sequoia National Forest and BLM OHV trails.
7. Complete project description
 The Keysville BLM lands located on the Kern River near Lake Isabella are the most heavily visited lands within the over one million-acre BLM Bakersfield land area. Keysville OHV trail maintenance burden is far in excess of the BLM's already limited trail maintenance capacity, as noted in the attached letter of support from the BLM.
 The Kennedy Meadows, Piute, Greenhorn and Breckenridge Mountain areas of the Sequoia National Forest have extensive OHV trail systems, which the Forest Service lacks the resources to maintain. This year the Forest Service instituted a hiring freeze which means they will not have any seasonal crews to maintain trails this year.
 This project will help fund Stewards of the Sequoia to maintain up to 300 miles of OHV trails in the Sequoia National Forest and BLM lands surrounding Lake Isabella. The mileage of work will depend on the intensity of work needed. Work will include performing much needed trail maintenance including trail tread repair, rebuilding water bars to reduce erosion, eliminating route proliferation, brushing, clearing of downed trees. Funding will be used for project leaders, trail crew, supplies, equipment, fuel, vehicle expense, administration, insurance and project management.
 This project will be very cost effective due to the efficient methods Stewards utilize as well as volunteers.
 This project also has an education component that helps make trails more sustainable. Trail volunteers will learn about why it is important to stay on the trails and the importance of trail maintenance and how to properly maintain trails.
 The BLM and Forest Service enthusiastically supports this project and have entered into a trail maintenance agreements with Stewards of the Sequoia to perform this work. Attached is a letter

of support from the BLM.

8. Project development schedule

The ground needs to be moist in order to perform trail tread maintenance such as water bars. Work will be done in the fall and winter of 2025 and spring of 2026.

9. Other funding sources explored for funding on this project

No other funding sources are available for this project. Volunteers will be used when possible to augment staff. Volunteers will be local as well as coming from as far as Los Angeles.

10. Description of how the project can be phased for funding purposes

This project will perform much needed trail maintenance to improve trail system conditions to make these motorized trails more enjoyable for the public and to reduce environmental impacts.

If the project is not fully funded the trails that cannot be maintained will further degrade to the detriment of recreation and the environment and the economy.

The maintenance of these motorized routes will enhance OHV recreation and would be a higher priority use of the OHV funds compared to funding enforcement grants which do not enhance OHV recreation.

Enforcement agencies have existing funding to patrol in Kern County including areas where OHV use is restricted or prohibited, whereas there is no base BLM or Forest Service trail maintenance funding to maintain sustainable off highway recreation opportunity.

11. Justification for project, including explanation of public benefit, (expected frequency of use, number of users, type of users, etc.) discussion of alternatives for accomplishing project objectives

These motorized routes on BLM and Sequoia National Forest lands are extremely popular. Keeping these motorized trails in good condition is important for tourists and the community. According to BLM and Forest Service data over 250,000 motorized visitor days are made in these areas. The continued use of these motorized trails brings considerable business to the local economy in the form of hotels, dining, food, gas and supply purchases. These trails are also enjoyed by non-motorized users, especially mountain bikers so this work also benefits a wider spectrum of users.

12. Long-range plans of the project

The motorized trails which will be maintained in this project are located within the BLM Keysville lands and other nearby BLM lands and Sequoia National Forest Lands. The continued maintenance of these trails reduces environmental impacts and helps ensure that they remain enjoyable and open to motorized use.

13. Description of land status, ownership, legal description, vicinity and site maps

- In 2012 the Bakersfield BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) designated the motorized routes in Keysville and other nearby BLM lands.
- The 2014 Kern County OHV grant funded the building of new trails per that 2012 BLM RMP in the BLM Keysville Management area.
- In 2008 the Sequoia National Forest completed a Travel Management Plan which designated hundreds of miles of motorized routes. Kern County OHV grants have funded maintaining these trails three years ago.

14. The history of condition and status of resource and expected benefits

Existing motorized trails in Sequoia National Forest and BLM lands need continued maintenance in order to remain open and enjoyable.



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Bakersfield Field Office
35126 McMurtrey Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93308
www.blm.gov/office/bakersfield-field-office

February 12, 2025

Kern County Parks and Recreation Department
2820 "M" Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Kern County Parks and Recreation Department,

The BLM Bakersfield Field Office has worked with the Stewards of the Sequoia for several years to maintain and improve various trails in the region surrounding Lake Isabella in Kern County, California. The Stewards plan to submit a proposal for funding under the Kern County OHV grants program for a project to perform maintenance for the Kevsille SRMA trails in 2025 and 2026.

The BLM Bakersfield Field Office wishes to express its support for the project and grant proposal. Keysville SRMA trails continue to be very popular, and the OHV trail maintenance burden is far in excess of the agency's already limited trail maintenance capacity. In FY 24 the Stewards of the Sequoia completed 20+ miles of trail maintenance on some of the most difficult and hard to access trails within the Keysville SRMA.

The trail maintenance work performed by volunteers with the Stewards of the Sequoia helps to ensure that trails remain open and clear for recreation uses of all kinds, helps limit problems with soil erosion along routes, and helps to reduce trail proliferation caused by OHV users traveling off route to avoid difficult sections of unmaintained trails or unauthorized trails.

All maintenance work performed on BLM trails by the Stewards will be done in close coordination with the BLM under the terms of their volunteer agreement and will be subject to NEPA and NHPA review as necessary. The BLM enthusiastically supports the Stewards in their grant application to this year's Kern County OHV grants program.

Please do not hesitate to contact BLM Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner Brian Ludt (661-391-6183) for further information.

Sincerely,

JOHN
HODGE

Digitally signed by
JOHN HODGE
Date: 2025.02.21
15:39:07 -0800

John Hodge
Field Manager (acting)

INTERIOR REGIONS 8 & 10 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN & CALIFORNIA-GREAT BASIN

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, OREGON*

* PARTIAL

**KERN COUNTY OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE LICENSE FUND
PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM
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John Hodge
Field Manager (acting)

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Parks and Recreation Commission

Commission Member Presentations or Announcements