

MEETING MINUTES

KEEP KERN BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

July 16, 2025

PSB Public Meeting Room: 2700 'M' Street, Bakersfield 93301, 1st Floor

2:00-3:00 P.M.

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

2) Welcome and Roll Call

Committee Coordinator Alicia A. Gutierrez welcomed Committee Members, Kern County Public Works staff, Isaac Preston with General Services, Jennifer Feige with County Counsel, and guests present.

Committee Members Present

Gary Ananian (1A), Max Goossen (4), David Kadel (3A), Joel Mackay (2), Steven McDaniel (2A)

Committee Members Not Present

Daniel Harrison (Chairperson) (1), Olivia Jones (3), Christopher McGehee (5A)

3) Approval of Meeting Minutes from Regular Meeting on April 16, 2025

MOTION: *To approve Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2025 Regular Meeting*

Motioned by David Kadel; seconded by Gary Ananian

Approved unanimously by all Committee Members

4) Selection of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to Serve a One-year Term

Committee Coordinator Alicia A. Gutierrez outlined the bylaws concerning the appointments of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Committee Member Gary Ananian (1A) inquired whether alternate Committee Members could be chosen as Chairperson. County Counsel had advised that it wasn't favorable, suggesting that we clarify this point in the bylaws, as it is currently not addressed. The Committee then asked if Committee Member Max Goosen (4) would be open to the possibility of being selected, but he said that he wasn't ready, as this is his first year serving as a Committee Member. The Committee Members decided to schedule the item until the next meeting on October 15, 2025.

MOTION: *To move the selection of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to the next meeting.*

Motioned by Steven McDaniel; seconded by David Kadel

Approved unanimously by all Committee Members

5) **New Business**

A. Welcome and Introduce General Services staff

I. **INTRODUCTIONS**

Isaac Preston, Deputy Chief General Services Officer with General Services' Parks and Recreation

II. **RECEIVE AND FILE PRESENTATION ON ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM**

Isaac's presentation outlined strategies for enhancing and expanding their Adopt-a-Park Program, which supports both individuals and groups.

The program seeks enthusiastic participants from remote areas of Kern County to take on the responsibility of adopting available parks. Isaac emphasized that this is a short-term commitment of just one year, for example, dedicating one Saturday each month with a simple application process of selecting a park and making the commitment.

After one year, a sign featuring the organization's name and/or logo will be displayed.

Committee Member Joel Mackay (2) expressed his concerns regarding park safety within his district. Isaac pointed out that park rangers have recently been reassigned to work alongside the Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) instead of General Services. He also mentioned that while there are numerous parks throughout the County, there aren't enough park rangers for constant monitoring.

Committee Member David Kadel (3A) inquired about increased communication between General Services and KCSO since the jurisdiction change. Isaac responded that no special communication center exists between the two agencies for reporting suspicious activities or incidents.

III. **DISCUSS WAYS TO PARTNER WITH KEEP KERN BEAUTIFUL**

Committee Member Gary Ananian (1A) asked whether there are any parks available in Lake Isabella, as his organization already fulfills routine clean-up commitments there. Isaac assured him that he would look into it.

Committee Coordinator Alicia A. Gutierrez proposed that Committee Members begin researching parks within their respective districts.

MOTION: *To receive and file presentation on Adopt-A-Park Program*

Motioned by Max Goossen; seconded by David Kadel

Approved unanimously by all Committee Members

B. Keep Kern Beautiful Committee Fundraising

I. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO DISCUSS SPONSORSHIP FORM/LETTER**

Committee Coordinator, Alicia A. Gutierrez announced the updates made to the Sponsorship Forms and invited committee members to

provide edits and feedback before she sends it to County Counsel for their review.

C. Upcoming Community Clean-ups

I. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO DISCUSS ANY UPCOMING COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS AND HOW TO GET THE COMMUNITY INVOLVED**

Committee Member Joel Mackay (2) mentioned that his May 17 clean-up saw a fantastic turnout with 50 volunteers. He also announced plans to organize Bulky Waste and Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events in Rosamond.

Committee Member Gary Ananian (1A) celebrated the success of his White River Rafting Clean-up event in collaboration with the Kern River Conservancy. It was reported that they collected the most waste seen in years, and they have another clean-up scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, 2025.

Committee Member Max Goossen (4) announced a Bulky Waste Collection Event in Maricopa, scheduled to take place before the end of September. Additionally, he noted future Bulky Waste Collection Events in Taft and Buttonwillow, in collaboration with Kern County Public Works.

Committee Member Joel Mackay (2) requested an update from Kern County Public Works staff regarding the rise in gate fees, driven by his curiosity about the potential correlation with illegal dumping. Karina Mendez, Public Works Maintenance Technician II chimed in to provide the necessary updates. She clarified to the Committee that the fee increase is routine and not related to any increase in illegal dumping incidents. Additionally, she highlighted a partnership involving Public Right-of-Way Code, R.A.P.I.D., and Kern County Public Works Code Compliance, which focuses on addressing and investigating cases of illegal dumping. Karina also noted the prompt response from the R.A.P.I.D. Crew, facilitated by the MyKern App.

6) **Receive and File a Presentation by Karina Mendez, Public Works Maintenance Technician II, on recent and upcoming community clean-up efforts**

Household Hazardous Waste/Temporary Collection Events

- August 1, 2025 – Tehachapi Landfill
- August 2, 2025 – Tehachapi Landfill
- August 9, 2025 – Ridgecrest Special Waste Facility
- August 16, 2025 – Kern Valley Transfer Station
- August 23, 2025 – Ridgecrest Special Waste Facility
- August 23, 2025 – Shafter-Wasco Landfill
- August 30, 2025 – Taft Landfill
- September 5, 2025 – Tehachapi Landfill
- September 6, 2025 – Tehachapi Landfill
- September 6, 2025 – Mojave Special Waste Facility

- September 13, 2025 – Ridgecrest Special Waste Facility
- September 20, 2025 – Lebec Transfer Station
- September 27, 2025 – McFarland-Delano Transfer Station
- September 27, 2025 – Ridgecrest Special Waste Facility
- October 3, 2025 – Tehachapi Landfill
- October 4, 2025 – Tehachapi Landfill
- October 10, 2025 – Kern Valley Transfer Station
- October 11, 2025 – Ridgecrest Special Waste Facility
- October 18, 2025 – California City
- October 25, 2025 – Boron Landfill
- October 25, 2025 – Ridgecrest Special Waste Facility

Bulky Waste Collection Events

- August 9 – Bakersfield – Meadows Field, Kern County Fairgrounds, Kern Medical – 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
- August 23 – Lamont – Lamont Branch Library – 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
- September 27 – Taft – County Administrative Building – 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
- October 4 – Buttonwillow – Buttonwillow Recreation & Park District – 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

MOTION: *To receive and file a presentation on recent and upcoming community clean-up efforts*

Motioned by Max Goossen; seconded by David Kadel

Approved unanimously by all Committee Members

7) Committee Member Announcements or Reports

No announcements or reports from Committee Members.

8) Staff Comment

No comments from staff.

9) Public Comment

No comments from the public.

10) Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 2025, from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

11) Adjourn

MOTION: *To adjourn the meeting*

Motioned by David Kadel; seconded by Max Goossen

Approved unanimously by all Committee Members

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.