

MINUTES

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
County Administrative Center - 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Bakersfield, CA 93301**

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

6:30 P.M.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, October 15, 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 Lorena Cervantes, District IV

Absent: Commissioner(s): Ucedrah Osby, District V

Staff: Brian Van Wyk, Deputy County Counsel; Isaac Preston, Deputy Chief General Services Officer

Others: There were 4 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. **CARLA RIVAS** – WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE STANDPIPE PROJECT. TWO STANDPIPES ARE COMPLETE. THE REMAINING THREE ARE DELAYED DUE TO THE WEATHER AND VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES. COMPLETION ANTICIPATED IN DECEMBER
- II. **STEVEN BARRETT**: - WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO EXPRESS SAFETY CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSED WHITEWATER PROJECT DUE TO THE KERN RIVER'S DANGEROUS CONDITIONS, WHILE SUPPORTING RIVERBANK EROSION PROTECTION

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- II. Miscellaneous Correspondence: No written correspondence was received for November 19, 2025

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

General Services – Status Update

- I. **LA COLONIA PARK:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, REPORTED THAT A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY WAS HELD ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 FOR LA COLONIA PARK, A NEW POCKET PARK IN KERN COUNTY. THE EVENT WAS WELL ATTENDED BY THE COMMUNITY
- II. **HART PARK STANDPIPE PROJECT:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, ANNOUNCED THAT A RIBBON CUTTING AND PROJECT OPENING IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 3. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT STAFF WILL APPLY A GRAFFITI-RESISTANT COATING TOO THE STANDPIPES TO FACILITATE EASIER CLEANING
- III. **PYLES BOYS CAMP / PANORAMA PARK / ANNE’S TRAIL:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO READ A LETTER FROM THE GENERAL SERVICES DIVISION IN RESPONSE TO CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM EDDY LAINE REGARDING MAINTENANCE CONCERNS. THE LETTER CONFIRMED WATER DISCHARGE NEAR PYLES BOYS CAMP WAS IRRIGATION AND STORMWATER RUNOFF WITH NO AGENCY CONCERNS, REPORTED COMPLETED IRRIGATION REPAIRS AND UPDATED SIGNAGE, AND OUTLINED MAINTENANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AT ANNE’S TRAIL AND PANORAMA PARK

Park Ranger – Status Update

- I. **JUSTIN SAWASKE:** SERGEANT, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT, REPORTED THAT FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO PRESENT, PARK RANGERS RESPONDED TO 754 CALLS FOR SERVICE, GENERATED 201 REPORTS AND MADE 34 ARRESTS, AND PROVIDED A BRIEF UPDATE ON RANGER TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENT

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

- I. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **THE COMMISSION ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY, WITH NO MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER IN OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON. A MOTION WAS MADE AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY TO HOLD THE JANUARY 21, 2026, MEETING AT THE KERN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER AT 1115 TRUXTUN AVE. 1ST FLOOR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- I. COMMISSIONER LAIR REQUESTED A REEVALUATION OF COUNTY CHARGES FROM THE LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE EVENT. ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, REPORTED THAT STAFF IS REVIEWING ASSOCIATED COSTS
- II. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN REPORTED THAT HE DISCUSSED COUNTY FEES FOR THE LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE EVENT WITH HIS DISTRICT SUPERVISOR AND WAS ADVISED THAT THE MATTER IS BEING REVIEWED
- III. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN COMMENTED THAT HERITAGE PARK HAS SHOWN IMPROVEMENTS AND ATTRIBUTED POSITIVE CONDITIONS IN PART TO THE PRESENCE OF DISC GOLF ACTIVITY

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 6:54 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for January 21, 2026, at 6:30 P.M., at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1115 Truxtun Ave. 1st Floor, Bakersfield, CA. 93301 unless otherwise indicated, changed, and/or canceled by the Commission.