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, January 21, 2026
6:30 P.M.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. 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): Vacant: District V

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

Others: There were 6 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 SCHAD:** WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE AUDUBON SOCIETY TO REPORT THAT NINE MONOFILAMENT RECYCLE BINS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED AT HART PARK AND TWO MORE ARE NEEDED. THIS PROGRAM HELPS PREVENT WILDLIFE ENTANGLEMENT. HE THANKED THE COUNTY FOR ITS SUPPORT.

II. **CARLA RIVAS**: WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO REPORT FOUR OF THE FIVE STANDPIPES AT THE NATURE CENTER ARE COMPLETED. THE LAST STANDPIPES WAS DELAYED BY WEATHER BUT IS NEARLY FINISHED, AND PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY BY LATE FEBRUARY.

III. **BROOKE HOLLAND**: WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING KERN ENERGY EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE COMMISSION, ESPECIALLY COMMISSIONER CERVANTES, AND ANNOUNCED THAT KERN ENERGY WILL ADOPT FULLER ACRES PARK, EMPHASIZING THEIR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP.

IV. **DANIEL RODELO**: WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING FAITH IN THE VALLEY THANKING THE COMMISSION FOR THEIR SUPPORT. HE NOTED ONGOING CLEANUP EFFORTS AT FORD CITY PARK, AND ANNOUNCED A COMMUNITY-WIDE PARK CLEANUP SCHEDULED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY, EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION.

V. **SANTIAGO LIZARRAGA**: WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION, A CONSTITUENT OF DISTRICT 2 AND A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL, REQUESTING PERMISSION TO USE FORD CITY PARK FOR A FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT FUNDRAISER ON JANUARY 31, 2026, TO SUPPORT HIS SCHOOL'S BAND AND CHOIR TOUR EXPENSES.

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 VACANT**

II. Miscellaneous Correspondence: Written Correspondence dated January 12, 2026, submitted by Carol Lair; Written Correspondence dated January 08, 2026, submitted by Carol Lair; Written Correspondence dated January 10, 2026, submitted by Carol Lair; Written Correspondence dated January 08, 2026, submitted by Carol Lair; **Ce:Ch TO APPROVE THE WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE; MOTION CARRIED. 4 AYES; 1 VACANT**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

General Services – Status Update

I. **ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, PROVIDED A REPORT STATING FAITH IN THE VALLEY ADOPTED FORD CITY PARK AND VALLEY ACRES PARK. KERN ENERGY IS ADOPTING FULLER ACRES PARK. HE STATED THE PROGRAM ENCOURAGES INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS TO HELP MAINTAIN PARKS WITH A MINIMUM 1-YEAR COMMITMENT, 8 HOURS PER MONTH AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDE LITTER REMOVAL, RAKING, GRAFFITI REMOVAL, PLANTING, AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

II. **PARK UPDATES:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, PROVIDED KERN COUNTY PARK UPDATES:

A. **BUENA VISTA LAKE**: BOAT RAMP COMPLETED AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

B. **DISTRICT 1**: LEROY JACKSON AND WOFFORD HEIGHTS – RESTROOM AND SPORT COURT IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

C. **DISTRICT 2**: SPORT COURT READY; ROSAMOND AND BORON BASEBALL FIELDS TO BE RENOVATED BEFORE LITTLE LEAGUE SEASON

D. **DISTRICT 3**: CONSTRUCTION ONGOING AT HART PARK AND ADVENTURE PLAY AREA (WEATHER DELAYS)

E. **DISTRICT 4**: FULLER ACRES AND LA COLONIA – PUPPY PARKS COMPLETED

F. **DISTRICT 5**: BELLE TERRACE – SHADE STRUCTURES, WALKING PATHS, RESTROOMS, SOLAR LIGHTING IN PROGRESS

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. **DAVID NELSON:** LIEUTENANT, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, REPORTED THAT THE PARK RANGER UNIT IS NOW FULLY STAFFED AND OPERATING SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, WITH EXPANDED COVERAGE PLANNED FOR BUENA VISTA AND KERN VALLEY BY MAY; SINCE NOVEMBER, RANGERS HAVE HANDLED 1,250 CALLS, MADE 57 ARRESTS, AND COMPLETED 427 REPORTS, AND TWO NEW BOATS FOR BUENA VISTA ARE EXPECTED WITHIN TWO MONTHS.

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

I. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO HOLD THE FEBRUARY 18, 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 NOTED THAT THE GARDEN AREA BEHIND THE NATURE CENTER IS PROGRESSING WELL AND WILL LOOK EVEN BETTER ONCE PLANTS ARE ESTABLISHED

II. COMMISSIONER LAIR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS TO STOP SPEEDING ON ALFRED HARRELL HIGHWAY, WHICH HAS BEEN A CONCERN IN THE AREA

III. COMMISSIONER CERVANTES THANKED KERN ENERGY FOR ADOPTING FULLER ACRES PARK AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT BASED ON PAST COLLABORATION

IV. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN ASKED ABOUT RESTROOM ISSUES AT A.W. NOON PARK, AND ISAAC PRESTON EXPLAINED REPAIRS ARE UNDERWAY DUE TO A WATERLINE BREAK AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED SOON

V. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN ASKED IF THE COUNTY WILL TAKE OVER FRANKLIN FIELD, AND ISAAC PRESTON CONFIRMED IT IS ONLY A RUMOR WITH NO CURRENT PLANS

VI. COMMISSIONER ABLER ASKED ABOUT THE OHV PARK STATUS, AND ISAAC PRESTON STATED THE PROPERTY ACQUISITION DEADLINE IS EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 31, 2026, WITH OPTIONS STILL BEING EXPLORED; PUMP TRACK IDEAS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT NO CURRENT PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 7:05 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for February 18, 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.