

AGENDA

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

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2026
6:00 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
Vacant, 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 18, 2026; **APPROVE**
 - II. Miscellaneous Correspondence; **RECEIVE AND FILE**
 - a. Letter from the Sierra Club; **RECEIVE AND FILE**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

3. General Services Division – 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 UPDATE**
 - II. Kern County Sheriff's Office; **PARK RANGER INFORMATIONAL UPDATE**

NEW, UNFINISHED AND OTHER BUSINESS

4. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **SET MAY 20, 2026, MEETING LOCATION**
5. Reading of Response to Sierra Club Letter; **RECEIVE PRESENTATION**

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 agendaized 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 20, 2026, 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
County Administrative Center - 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 1st Floor
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Bakersfield, CA 93301**

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
6:30 P.M.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, March 18, 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 3 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 TO REPORT THE STANDPIPE PROJECT HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND RECENTLY CELEBRATED

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on January 21, 2026; **La:Ch TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN; MOTION CARRIED. 4 AYES; 1 VACANT**
- II. Miscellaneous Correspondence: No written correspondence was received for March 18, 2026

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

General Services – Status Update

- I. **PARK UPDATES:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, PROVIDED KERN COUNTY PARK UPDATES:
 - A. **DISTRICT 1:** JIM WILLIFORD PARK IS IN DESIGN WITH PLANNED SHADE AND PLAYGROUND UPGRADES
 - B. **DISTRICT 2:** BORON AND ROSAMOND BASEBALL FIELD RENOVATIONS ARE COMPLETE
 - C. **DISTRICT 3:** PANORAMA PARK'S SKATE PROJECT IS COMPLETE, WITH LIGHTING AND WORKOUT STATIONS FORTHCOMING, AND ANNE'S TRAIL RECENTLY RECEIVED A VOLUNTEER CLEANUP
 - D. **DISTRICT 4:** LAMONT PARK PROJECT IS MOVING FORWARD FOLLOWING STATE APPROVAL OF A REVISED PROJECT SCOPE
 - E. **DISTRICT 5:** VICKI ARAUJO PARK- SIGNAGE, LIGHTING, AND SMALL-COURT UPGRADES IN PROGRESS
- II. **KERN COUNTY OHV GRANT:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, WAS PRESENT BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE KERN COUNTY OHV GRANT IS OPEN UNTIL APRIL 3RD, WITH SEVERAL APPLICATIONS ALREADY RECEIVED. PUBLIC NOTICES WERE RELEASED IN MID-FEBRUARY THROUGH LOCAL NEWS OUTLETS AND ON THE COUNTY'S PARKS AND RECREATION WEBPAGE. THE TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING IS \$80,000

Park Ranger – Status Update

- I. **DAVID NELSON:** LIEUTENANT, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, REPORTED THAT SINCE FEBRUARY 18TH, THE PROGRAM RESPONDED TO 5,088 SERVICE CALLS, TOOK 98 REPORTS, AND MADE 28 ARRESTS. HART PARK IS NOW STAFFED SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, AND STAFFING AT WOFFORD HEIGHTS AND KERN VALLEY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE AS NEW RANGERS COMPLETE FIELD TRAINING. A SENIOR PARK RANGER POSITION REMAINS PENDING DUE TO UPCOMING PROMOTIONS

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 15, 2026, MEETING AT THE KERN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER AT 1115 TRUXTUN AVE. 1ST FLOOR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301 AT 6:00 PM**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- I. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN ASKED FOR AN UPDATE FOR THE SPLASHPAD AT FORD CITY PARK, AND ISAAC PRESTON EXPLAINED PROJECT SHOULD BE COMPLETED MID SUMMER
- II. COMMISSIONER ABLER ASKED IF THE AGREEMENT FOR LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE WILL BE NEGOTIATED EVERY YEAR, ISAAC PRESTON CONFIRMED
- III. COMMISSIONER ABLER INQUIRED ABOUT THE SHORELINE WORK AT BUENA VISTA. ISAAC PRESTON REPORTED THAT SHORELINE REPAIRS ARE UNDERWAY, TEMPORARY SAFETY SIGNAGE WILL BE INSTALLED, AND THE EXPOSED SOIL WILL BE COVERED

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 7:00 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for April 15, 2026, at 6:00 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.



SIERRA CLUB

KERN-KAWEAH CHAPTER

Kern-Kaweah Chapter Sierra Club
P.O. Box 3357
Bakersfield, CA 93385

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Kern County Board of Supervisors
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

April 1, 2026

Re: Conditions at Panorama Park

Greetings, Board of Supervisors,

Attached are observations about Panorama Park from a March 30, 2026 walk in Panorama Park. We appreciate the significant progress which has been made and are asking for a response to our **recommendations**:

1. A written maintenance plan for Panorama Park (previously requested).
2. Kern County apply for grants which might further improve/enhance the park (with the involvement of the Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission and without affecting its primary purpose as a walking park for Northeast Bakersfield residents).

Respectfully Submitted,

Eddy Laine
Executive Committee Member
eddylaine@aol.com

CC: Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
Paul Gipe, California Native Plant Society
Michelle Burns-Lusich, Director, Kern County General Services
Steven Mayer, *The Bakersfield Californian*

OBSERVATIONS OF PANORAMA PARK: MARCH 30, 2026 WALK

Background: Last year maintenance conditions in Panorama Park were a serious concern to the Sierra Club—and more broadly others in the community. And, The Californian ran a couple of front page stories (one regarding dead trees and other showcasing those trees being replaced). Today (9:00 A.M.) Maria Polite (Sierra Club), Paul Gipe, California Native Plant Society and Eddy Laine (Sierra Club) walked portions of the park that had been most troublesome last year. Note: representatives from Supervisor Jeff Flores's Office and staff from the County of Kern were invited.

General Impression: Vast improvements from last year.

Specific observations:

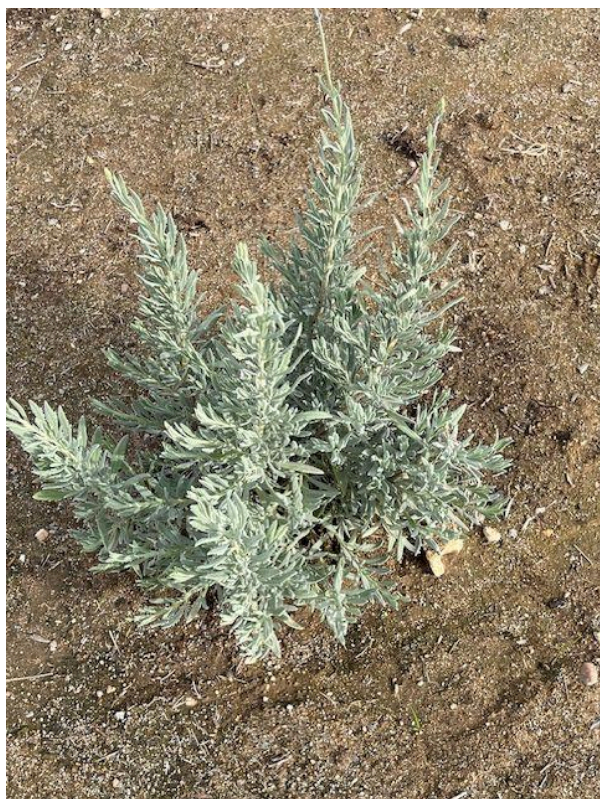
1. Panorama Park is heavily used by those of all ages, but especially younger people (including with small children) and older people.
2. The fountain nearest the corner of River Road and Panorama Drive was working—except for the “dog fountain” spigot.
3. Two Kern County workers appeared at the same time as our walk (9:00 A.M.). During a brief discussion they told us that they were there to remove graffiti in the park (and proceeded to do so).
4. There were many newly planted scrubs in areas of the park which had been dry (with dead shrubs or weeds) last year. Some of the scrubs included: (a) Indian Hawthorne, (b) Bottle brush, (c) autumn sage—as well as another sage and (d) Mexican fan palm.
5. All of the shrubs had been recently watered.
6. Three of the trees which were identified (of the 14 replacement trees) were: (a) a desert willow, (b) a Valley Oak and (c) Coastal Live Oak.
7. There were two areas (near to each other) with water puddles around broken sprinkler boxes. They are located near the bluffs and north of Linden Avenue. They were reported using the County's app (which was not as “user friendly” as other apps).
8. The fountain “in the middle” of the park (again—north of Linden) and near the bluffs worked—except for the water bottle filling feature.
9. A solar light (again—north of Linden) was non-functional. Paul Gipe used the

County's app to report that it wasn't working. He had a quick response that the, "Original contractor is working on the battery issue."

Prepared by Eddy Laine, Sierra Club, Executive Committee March 30, 2026

Photos from the Walk:







Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Staff
Report(s)



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

New/Unfinished/
Other Business



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Commission Member Presentations or Announcements