

AGENDA

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

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 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 April 15, 2026; **APPROVE**
 - II. Miscellaneous Correspondence; **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. KERN COUNTY OHV 2026 GRANT APPLICATIONS; **DISCUSS AND REVIEW OF GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTALS. GRANT AWARD DECISION TO BE MADE IN MAY 2026**
5. REFERRAL FROM COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN REQUESTING INFORMATION ON THE OFFICIAL CLOSURE DATES FOR BUENA VISTA DURING THE LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE EVENT; **RECEIVE REPORT FROM GENERAL SERVICES**
6. REQUEST TO DISCUSS RELOCATING FUTURE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS TO THE WEST HALF OF THE 3RD FLOOR MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM LOCATED IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER; **DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION**
7. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **SET JUNE 17, 2026, MEETING LOCATION**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. 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

9. Adjourn to next regular meeting, scheduled for June 17, 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](#), 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, April 15, 2026
6:00 P.M.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026. Commissioner Abler presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner(s): Lorena Cervantes, District IV; and 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:** APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. THE CENTER HOSTED ITS ANNUAL PEACOCK PARTY, ATTRACTING APPROXIMATELY 350 ATTENDEES AND FEATURING EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, ALONG WITH OUTREACH ON PROPER ANIMAL FEEDING PRACTICES. ADDITIONAL EVENTS INCLUDED A WILDFLOWER PRESENTATION, FAMILY KITE DAY, AND A NATURE JOURNALING WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES. SHE NOTED THE CENTER'S CONTINUED FOCUS ON HANDS-ON EDUCATION THAT SUPPORTS CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on March 18, 2026; **Ab:Ch TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN; MOTION CARRIED. 3 AYES; 1 ABSENT – CERVANTES; AND 1 VACANT**

- II. Miscellaneous Correspondence: No written correspondence was received for April 15, 2026

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

General Services – Status Update

PANORAMA PARK: ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMISSION TO PRESENT A LETTER FROM THE GENERAL SERVICES DIVISION RESPONDING TO CORRESPONDENCE SUBMITTED BY EDDY LAINE REGARDING PANORAMA PARK. HE OUTLINED THE DEPARTMENT'S COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, WHICH INCLUDES ROUTINE INSPECTIONS, LANDSCAPING, IRRIGATION MONITORING, AND TIMELY REPAIRS SUPPORTED BY COUNTY STAFF AND CONTRACTED SERVICES. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE COUNTY'S COMMITMENT PURSUING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES IN COORDINATION WITH PARKS AND RECREATION AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, NOTING THAT FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS WILL ALIGN WITH THE PARK'S INTENDED USE, PRESERVE ITS CHARACTER, AND MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

- I. **PARK UPDATES:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, PROVIDED KERN COUNTY PARK UPDATES:
- A. **DISTRICT 2:** FRAZIER MOUNTAIN PARK- IS CURRENTLY RECEIVING BIDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A PICKLEBALL COURT, AS WELL AS SMALL AND LARGE DOG PARKS. ADDITIONALLY, A NEW FRONT GATE SIGN AT BUENA VISTA LAKE HAS RECENTLY BEEN INSTALLED
 - B. **DISTRICT 3:** PANORAMA PARK- SIX CONCRETE PADS WILL BE INSTALLED THIS WEEK IN PREPARATION FOR NEW WORKOUT STATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, PHASE III OF THE SOLAR LIGHTING PROJECT WILL COMMENCE, WITH FIVE NEW SOLAR LIGHTS TO BE INSTALLED FROM THE PARKING LOT EXTENDING WEST
 - C. **DISTRICT 4:** DELANO MEMORIAL PARK -BIDS ARE BEING RECEIVED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF WORKOUT EQUIPMENT. STAFF IS ALSO EVALUATING COSTS TO REHABILITATE THE FRONT ENTRANCE AND THE MILITARY FLAT MEMORIAL
 - D. **DISTRICT 5:** VICKI ARAUJO PARK- CONSTRUCTION SERVICES IS INSTALLING A NEW HALF-COURT BASKETBALL COURT, LIGHTING FOR TWO TETHERBALL COURTS, AND TWO NEW SIGNS

II.

Park Ranger – Status Update

- I. **DAVID NELSON:** LIEUTENANT, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, REPORTED THAT SINCE MARCH 18TH, THE PROGRAM RESPONDED TO 895 SERVICE CALLS, TOOK 2,200 REPORTS, AND MADE 36 ARRESTS. HE ALSO NOTED CONTINUED STAFFING EFFORTS, INCLUDING THE ONBOARDING OF TRAINEES

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

- I. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN REQUESTED INFORMATION ON THE OFFICIAL CLOSURE DATES FOR BUENA VISTA DURING THE LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE EVENT
- II. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO HOLD THE MAY 20, 2026, MEETING AT THE KERN RIVER PARKWAY NATURE CENTER AT 8000 RIVER ROAD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308 AT 6:00 PM**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- I. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN INQUIRED ABOUT THE INSTALLATION OF THE PUMP AT WHITE WOLF WELLNESS. ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, REPORTED THAT THE SITE CURRENTLY HAS AN OPERATIONAL WATER SUPPLY

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 7:03 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for May 20, 2026, at 6:00 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.

From: [Carol Lair](#)
To: [Parks and Recreation Commission Correspondence](#)
Subject: END OF THE MONTH REPORT TO GENERAL SERVICES & KCAS FOR APRIL 2026
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 10:42:53 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or provide information unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

4-1-26 A black cat with ringworm was picked up and placed in foster care. It died of an unknown cause.

4-4-26 A long haired calico was picked up from a cardboard box along with her two kittens and they were placed in foster care. The 2 kittens died. The mother cat was taken to KCAS.

4-7-26 A gray tabby and an orange tabby were taken to Critters Without Litters and TNR back to the park.

4-8-26 A black/white bunny was picked up and taken to KCAS.

4-8-26 A gray cat was taken to CWL and it was discovered that she had recently had kittens. She was returned to the park. TNR

4-8-26 An orange tabby was picked up from the east entrance and taken to CWL and then relocated to an appropriate feeding location. He returned to his home turf. TNR

4-9-26 A ground squirrel was killed by a car on AHH.

4-12-26 Three dogs abandoned in a bathroom and were rescued by a park visitor.

4-14-26 A duck was killed by a car on Lake Road. Another duck was hit but was not killed. It ran off and could not be caught.

4-14-26 A black/white cat was picked up and was in foster care briefly and then taken to KCAS.

4-15-26 A black cat was picked up and was in foster care briefly then taken to KCAS.

4-18-26 A long haired orange cat was apparently killed by predators.

4-19-26 A brown bunny was picked up and was in foster care briefly then taken to KCAS.

4-21-26 A brown tabby and a gray/white cat were picked up and in foster care briefly then taken to CWL and returned to the park TNR.

4-22-26 A black cat was picked up and in foster care briefly then taken to KCAS.

4-22-26 A black cat, believed to have ringworm, was in foster care briefly then taken to KCAS. No ringworm found and the cat was accepted for adoption.

4-23-26 A long haired black/white mother cat and her 4 kittens were picked up. She and all 4 kittens had ringworm. All were placed in foster homes and are being treated.

4-28-26 A Canadian goose, entangled in fishing line, was caught and fishing line removed and leg treated but it may lose the leg due to the injury.

4-29-26 An orange tabby was picked up at the east entrance and taken to CWL and relocated to an appropriate feeding area. It returned to its original location.

4-29-26 A gray tabby was picked up at the east entrance and taken to CWL. Cat was already fixed and it was TNR back to the park and relocated to an appropriate feeding area.

4-30-26 An orange tabby was picked up and was in foster care briefly then taken to KCAS.

4-30-26 A gray cat was found dead from an unknown cause.

4-30-26 A starling was killed by a car on Canal Road.

SUMMARY

6 Cats taken to KCAS

5 Cats died--4 from unknown causes, 1 killed by a predator

5 Cats in foster care

TOTAL CATS REMOVED FROM THE PARK: 16

8 Cats TNR back to the park, 3 were relocated and 2 returned to their original locations

3 Small dogs abandoned

2 Bunnies abandoned

1 Canadian goose entangled in fishing line helped

4 Birds/animals killed/injured by cars--2 ducks 1 survived, 1 ground squirrel, 1 starling

We continue to see newly abandoned cats almost every day. Some cats have a tipped ear so they at least have been spayed/neutered. We are trapping feral ones and picking up friendly ones as fast as we can.

Carol Lair



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Department Staff
Report(s)



Kern County
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New/Unfinished/
Other Business



Kern County
Parks and Recreation Commission

Commission Member Presentations or Announcements