

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.