

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 February 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.