

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF THE
GREATER BAKERSFIELD SEPARATION OF GRADE DISTRICT

Held: May 11, 2026

A regular meeting of the Commission of the Greater Bakersfield Separation of Grade District was held on May 11, 2026, at 1518 Mill Rock Way, Suite 100, Bakersfield, California.

CALL TO ORDER:)
_____)

President Steven Ruetters called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and presided thereat. Jeevan Muhar acted as secretary of the meeting.

ROLL CALL:)
_____)

The following Commissioners were present:

Steven M. Ruetters
Jeremy Tobias
Barry Hibbard
Jeevan Muhar
Jake Wood

Also present were John Schuler, the District Engineer, Sheila Plane, Assistant Secretary, and Vivian Bravo, Assistant Secretary, and Ben LeBeau, District Legal Counsel.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS)
& COMMENTS:)
_____)

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES,)
REGULAR MEETING OF)
March 9, 2026)
_____)

On motion of Commissioner Muhar, seconded by Commissioner Wood, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 9, 2026, were approved on the following vote of the Commissioners.

Ayes:	Steven M. Ruetters
	Jeremy Tobias
	Barry Hibbard
	Jeevan Muhar
	Jake Wood

Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

ATTORNEY OF DISTRICT)
REPORT:)
_____)

1. Mr. LeBeau advised the Commissioners on potential sexual harassment training pursuant to Cal Government Code §53237.1. Mr. LeBeau advised that it's not required. The Commission has no employees and does not meet other criteria that would require this training.

2. Mr. LeBeau next reported on a question regarding ethics training requirements from the previous meeting, whether Commissioners are required to take ethics training courses if the District has an expense reimbursement policy but no Commissioner submits reimbursement requests. Mr. LeBeau reviewed the language of the applicable statutes describing the ethics training requirements. Ethics training is required of all Commissioners if any one of them receives any form of compensation from the District. Fiscal and Financial training is required of all Commissioners.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S)
REPORT:)
_____)

Mr. Schuler provided the engineer's report as follows:

1. Project Funding Sources:

- a. Federal State Partnership (FSP) Inter-city Rail Program: Cherry/BNSF application submitted Feb. 6, 2026
- b. CRISI and RCE NOFOs released.

2. Intercity Federal State Partnership (FSP) Grant Program:

- a. Cherry Ave/BNSF grant application submitted February 6, 2026. Selection and response still pending from Federal Rail Administration

3. CRISI and Rail Crossing Elimination Grant Programs 2025 and 2026:

a. NOFOs released – Applications are being prepared by AECOM, under contract with BNSF, with support from the District and local agencies. RCE will be combined Renfro/BNSF, Kratzmeyer/BNSF and Cherry/BNSF application. CRISI will be Cherry/BNSF application.

- b. Lead Supporting Agencies and District's Role. Local agencies are deciding on

appropriate lead agency for each of the application submittals.

c. Letters of Support requested. Mr. Schuler requested that the Commissioners authorize the delivery of a letter of support to KernCOG.

4. High Speed Rail Impacts/Santa Fe Way Corridor/Edison Highway Corridor:

- a. On-going discussion between the City of Shafter and High Speed Rail

5. Renfro /BNSF:

- a. The Renfro/BNSF project will be combined with the Kratzmeyer/BNSF and Cherry/BNSF projects for a single application for the RCE Grant program

6. Kratzmeyer – Olive @ BNSF:

- a. The Kratzmeyer/BNSF project will be combined with the Renfro/BNSF and Cherry/BNSF projects for a single application for the RCE Grant program

7. Morning Drive @ UPRR:

- a. No change or recent activity

8. Baker E./Truxtun/Beale @ BNSF:

- a. No change or recent activity

9. Baker Street @ UPRR:

- a. No change or recent activity

10. Rosedale Highway @ Landco Branch SJVRR:

- a. On-going conversation with Caltrans and County regarding relinquishment of Rosedale Highway

11. Cherry Avenue & Los Angeles Street/Beech Avenue @ BNSF:

- a. see above, project will be included both the RCE and CRISI grant applications

12. Nominations – CPUC Order Instituting Investigation (OII) 2026-2027, 2027-2028:

- a. Priority List has been released.

In connection with the applications to be submitted for the CRISI and RCE grant projects, Mr. Schuler requested that the Commissioners authorize Commissioner Ruettgers to sign letters of support to KernCOG on behalf of the District. Upon motion by Commissioner Hibbard, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the authorization to

deliver such letters of support as requested by Mr. Schuler was approved by the following vote of the Commissioners:

Ayes:	Steven M. Ruettgers Jeremy Tobias Barry Hibbard Jeevan Muhar Jake Wood
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Noes:	None
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Absent:	None
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Abstain:	None
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FINANCIAL REPORT:)
_____)

The Secretary then presented the Financial Report for May 2026, in the form attached as **Exhibit "A"**. Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Hibbard, seconded by Commissioner Muhar, and unanimously carried, the report was approved and ordered filed on the following vote of the Commissioners.

Ayes:	Steven M. Ruettgers Jeremy Tobias Barry Hibbard Jeevan Muhar Jake Wood
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Noes:	None
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Absent:	None
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Abstain:	None
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ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:)
_____)

1. Electronic Record Keeping/Document Back-up and Disposal - Sheila Plane and Vivian Bravo attended a CSDA virtual workshop concerning electronic records management. They are making preparations for converting the District's record keeping and document backup processes to electronic storage as authorized by and in accordance with applicable provisions of the California Government Code. This continues to be a long on-going process.
2. District Mission, Function and Continuity – Sheila Plane reported that she has begun preparing a procedures manual to ensure that operational knowledge concerning the

administrative requirements of the District are preserved. John Shculer has begun making notes for continuity of operational knowledge as well.

AUDIT REPORT: _____)
_____)

The Commissioners next reviewed the FYE June 30, 2025 Audit Report by Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock accounting firm, Correspondence from DPVB dated May 6, 2026 concerning the same, and the Representation Letter to DPVB dated May 5, 2026 executed by the Commissioner Ruettgers and Sheila Plane concerning the same.

After discussion, upon motion of Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Tobias, and unanimously carried, the Letter from Auditor dated 5/6/26, including Representation Letter dated 5/5/26 and final Audit Report was received and filed on the following vote of the Commissioners:

Ayes:	Steven M. Ruettgers Jeremy Tobias Barry Hibbard Jeevan Muhar Jake Wood
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

STANDING COMMITTEE _____)
REPORTS: _____)
_____)

1. Right of Way: (Hibbard/Muhar) None
2. Advance Planning: (Ruettgers/Tobias) None
3. Budget: (Hibbard/Wood) None
4. Regulatory & Audit: (Ruettgers/Muhar) None
5. Government Relations: (Tobias/Wood) None

CORRESPONDENCE: _____)
_____)

1. SDRMA 2026-2027 Property/Liability Contribution Estimate dated 3/3/26 was received and filed.
2. California Secretary of State Registry of Public Agencies date 3/24/26 was received and filed.
3. Letter from LeBeau-Thelen to Daniells Phillips Vaughan & Bock re Material ending or threatened litigation, claims, and assessments against the District for Audit Ending June 30, 2025, dated 4/2/26 was received and filed.
4. Kern County Cities and Special Districts' Share of Property Tax Administration Cost for 2025-2026, received 4/25/26 was received and filed.

The correspondence was received and filed.

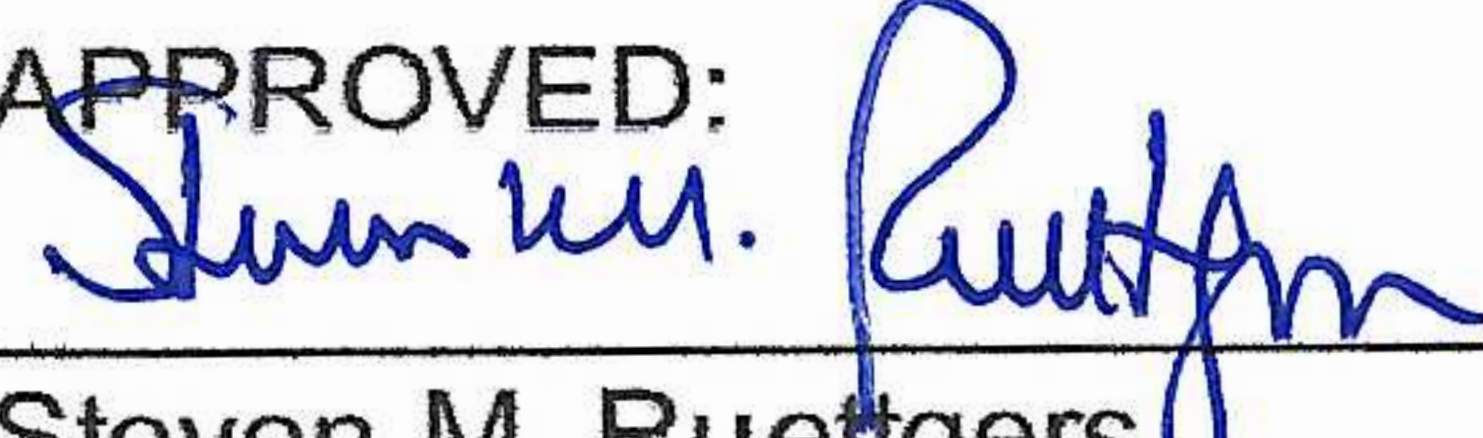
COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:)
_____)

None

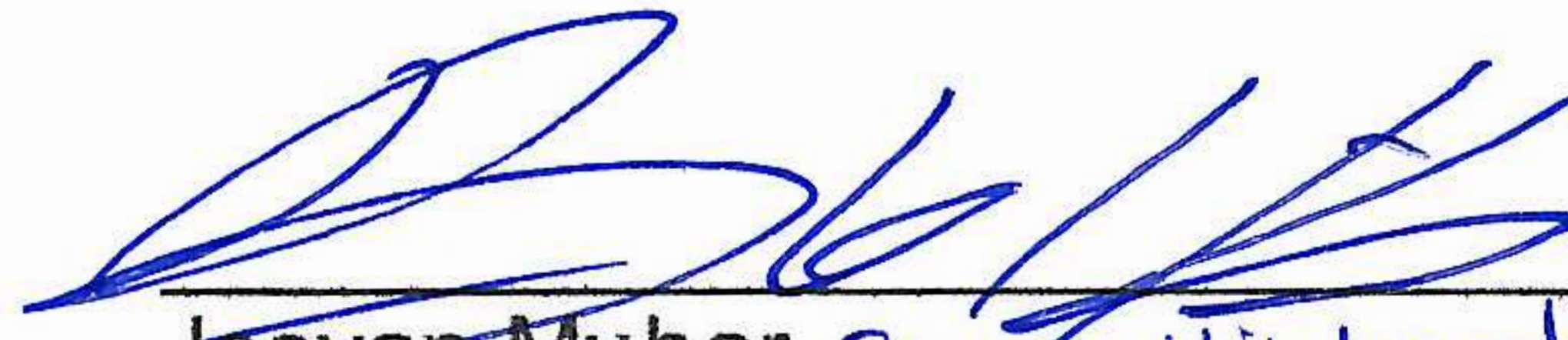
NEXT MEETING AND)
ADJOURNMENT:)
_____)

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED:



Steven M. Ruetters
President



Jeevan Muhar Barry Hilbard
Assistant Secretary of the Commission

Exhibit A

MONTHLY MEETING MAY 2026

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

DISTRICT EXPENSE FUND:

LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services – March 2026	\$ 2,325.00
LeBeau Thelen	Professional Services – April 2026	\$ 262.50
Provost & Pritchard	Engineering Services-March 1, 2026 thru April 30, 2026	\$ 21,236.40
Daniells Phillips Vaughn & Bock	Year End June 2025 services	<u>\$ 6,485.00</u>
		<u>\$ 30,308.90</u>