

MINUTES

**Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission
Multi-Purpose Room - 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 3rd Floor
County Administrative Center
Bakersfield, CA 93301**

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 19, 2026
6:00 P.M.

The Kern County Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, August 19, 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 and Stephanie Lugo, District V

Absent: Commissioner(s): Lorena Cervantes, District IV

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 Lu are abbreviations for Commissioners Abler, Chapman, Lair, Cervantes, and Lugo. 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 EXPRESS HER CONCERNS ABOUT EXCESSIVE NOISE AND POTENTIALLY INAPPROPRIATE MUSIC ASSOCIATED WITH A CAR CLUB RESERVATION AT SECTION 7. SHE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUITABLE USE OF SHARED PARK FACILITIES AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE COUNTY'S NOISE ORDINANCE, AND ALSO RECOGNIZED PARKS AND MAINTENANCE STAFF FOR THEIR PROMPT RESPONSE AND ASSISTANCE DURING A RECENT FIRE NEAR THE NATURE CENTER.

CONSENT AGENDA

- I. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting on May 20, 2026; **Ch:La TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN; MOTION CARRIED. 4 AYES; 1 ABSENT – CERVANTES**

- II. Miscellaneous Correspondence: No written correspondence was received for August 19, 2026

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

General Services – Status Update

- I. **PARK UPDATES:** ISAAC PRESTON, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, PROVIDED KERN COUNTY PARK UPDATES:
- A. **FRAZIER MOUNTAIN PARK:** IS HAVING NEW DOG PARK INSTALLED, FOLLOWED BY PLANS TO DEVELOP A PICKLEBALL COURT. STAFF IS ALSO OBTAINING COST ESTIMATES FOR CLEARING CATTAILS AND OTHER VEGETATION FROM THE PARK POND.
 - B. **VALLEY ACRES PARK:** HAS COMPLETED THE RESURFACING OF A BASKETBALL COURT AND THE INSTALLATION OF TWO NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS. A DELINEATING FENCE HAS ALSO BEEN INSTALLED BETWEEN THE BASKETBALL AND PICKLEBALL COURTS.
 - C. **GREENACRES PARK:** HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING INSTALLATION OF A NEW SECURITY GATE, PARK SIGN, AND BARK IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE AREA. THE IMPROVEMENTS WERE COMPLETED AS PART OF A SMALL PARK BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT.
 - D. **DELANO MEMORIAL PARK:** THE ENTRY WALL HAS BEEN DEMOLISHED AND RECONSTRUCTED, WITH THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPING AREA FULLY RENOVATED. NEW MILITARY PLAQUES HAVE BEEN ORDERED AND WILL BE INSTALLED ONCE RECEIVED, WITH THE PROJECT REMAINING IN PROGRESS.
 - E. **VICKI ARAUJO PARK:** IS CURRENTLY IN THE DESIGN PHASE FOR A NEW HALF-COURT BASKETBALL/PICKLEBALL COURT, NEW LIGHTING, AND TWO TETHERBALL COURTS. THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS REMAIN IN THE DESIGN PHASE.
- II. **BUENA VISTA LAKE:** BILL POTTER, DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER, PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON THE BUENA VISTA LAKE BOAT LAUNCH RAMP, REPORTING THAT WARRANTY-RELATED ISSUES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND THE CONTRACTOR IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN REPAIRS. THE APPROXIMATELY 10-DAY REPAIR PROJECT WILL INCLUDE RELOCATING ROCK PILES TO ALLOW THE FULL BOAT RAMP TO REOPEN, WITH STAFF MONITORING THE WORK THROUGH COMPLETION.

Park Ranger – Status Update

- I. **JUSTIN SAWASKE:** SERGEANT, KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, REPORTED THAT ONE RANGER RECENTLY COMPLETED THE FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM AND WILL BE ASSIGNED TO BUENA VISTA LAKE, WHILE TWO ADDITIONAL RANGERS HAVE BEGUN FIELD TRAINING. RANGERS HAVE HANDLED MORE THAN 1,300 CALLS FOR SERVICE, CONDUCTED OVER 700 PATROL CHECKS AND 200 TRAFFIC STOPS, AND RESPONDED TO WELFARE CHECKS AND DISTURBANCE CALLS. RANGER INVESTIGATIONS HAVE RESULTED IN ARRESTS RELATED TO VEHICLE BURGLARIES, A CARJACKING, DUIS, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE OFFENSES, UNLAWFUL LODGING, LOITERING, AND TRESPASSING, WITH A RECENT INCREASE IN DUI ACTIVITY REPORTED AT COUNTY PARKS. STAFF ALSO REPORTED THAT THE CONTINUED NIGHTLY CLOSURE OF PANORAMA PARK HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE IN ADDRESSING NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS.

NEW, UNFINISHED, AND OTHER BUSINESS

- I. Upcoming Commission meeting locations as per code §2.50.060(D); **THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED TO HOLD THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2026, MEETING AT THE WEST HALF OF THE 3RD FLOOR MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM LOCATED IN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER AT 1115 TRUXTUN AVE., BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301 AT 6:00 PM**

COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENTATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- I. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN INQUIRED ABOUT THE ANTICIPATED COMPLETION OF THE HART PARK SPLASH PAD. DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER BILL POTTER REPORTED THAT INSTALLATION OF THE LANDING, SAFETY PADDING, AND SPLASH PAD TANKS IS UNDERWAY, WITH COMPLETION AND THE PUNCH LIST ANTICIPATED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THE SPLASH PAD WILL LIKELY MISS THIS SUMMER SEASON.
- II. COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN INQUIRED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE CONCRETE EROSION-CONTROL MATTING AT BUENA VISTA LAKE, NOTING CONCERNS REGARDING THE AREA REMAINING UNFILLED AND ITS CURRENT CONDITION. DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER BILL POTTER STATED THAT THE EROSION-CONTROL WORK WAS PART OF THE OVERALL PROJECT AND THAT HE WOULD REVIEW THE STATUS AND REPORT BACK TO THE COMMISSION.
- III. COMMISSIONERS CHAPMAN AND ABLER EXPRESSED CONCERNS REGARDING THE CONDITION OF THE BUENA VISTA LAKE BOAT RAMP, NOTING THAT EXPOSED ROCKS AND UNEVEN SURFACES HAVE RESULTED IN DAMAGE TO COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN'S TRAILER LIGHT AND CAUSED A FOOT INJURY TO COMMISSIONER ABLER. THE COMMISSIONERS ALSO REPORTED DIFFICULTIES

LAUNCHING BOATS DUE TO THE CONDITION OF THE RAMP AND EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR NECESSARY REPAIRS TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY.

- IV. COMMISSIONER ABLER INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF IDENTIFYING APPROXIMATELY 22 TO 50 ACRES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) PARK WITHIN THE AREA. DEPUTY CHIEF GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER ISAAC PRESTON REPORTED THAT SEVERAL POTENTIAL PROPERTIES HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EVALUATED UNDER THE GRANT PROGRAM AND STATED THAT HE WOULD REVIEW THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROPERTY SEARCH AND GRANT EXTENSION, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE IN DECEMBER.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn at 6:37 P.M. to the next regular meeting, scheduled for September 16, 2026, at 6:00 P.M., at the West half of the 3rd Floor Multi-Purpose Room, 1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA. 93301 unless otherwise indicated, changed, and/or canceled by the Commission.