

Good afternoon,

The Kern County Board of Supervisors met today as scheduled for Tuesday's August 24, 2021 Board Meeting. Chairman Phillip Peters (District 1), Supervisor Zack Scrivner (District 2), Supervisor Mike Maggard (District 3), Supervisor David Couch (District 4), and Supervisor Leticia Perez (District 5) were in attendance. Board meetings have resumed in-person attendance at full capacity seating inside the Board Chamber. For more information on how to address the Board on a specific agenda item or provide general public comment, please click [here](#).

Meeting Highlights:

- **Item No. 4 AM session:**
 - o The Board proclaimed September 2021 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in Kern County.
- **Item No. 5 AM session:**
 - o The Board proclaimed September 2021 as National Suicide Prevention Month in Kern County.
 - o Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Stacy Kuwahara, presented important information about local resources and suicide prevention measures available to Kern County residents.
 - o Watch the presentation here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qs1_7A_CPXo
- **Item No. 6 AM session:**
 - o The Board proclaimed September 2021 as Recovery Month in Kern County.
 - o Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Stacy Kuwahara, introduced members of her team aiding in this effort, as well as a 16-year-old advocate who shared her impactful story.
 - o Watch the presentation here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qs1_7A_CPXo
- **Item No. 12 AM session:**
 - o Kern County Fire Chief Aaron Duncan presented an update on the French Fire currently burning near Lake Isabella and Wofford Heights at more than 16,000 acres with 19% containment.
 - o Evacuation orders are in place throughout this area. Residents are encouraged to stay up to date with this important information by signing up for Ready Kern to ensure their loved ones remain safe. 180
 - o Visit the Kern County Fire Department's website, kerncountyfire.org, to create a Ready Kern account and view current evacuation orders.
 - o Kern County Public Health Director Brynn Carrigan updated the Board on Kern County's current standing regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, COVID-19 vaccination distribution among residents, updated CDC vaccination approvals and guidelines, and local COVID-19 case numbers and projections.
 - o Watch both presentations here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qs1_7A_CPXo
- **Item No. 18 AM session:**
 - o Kern County Chief Human Resources Officer Devin Brown presented the 2019-2020 Employee Recognition Awards to deserving County employees who were honored for their dedication and leadership.
 - o Please congratulate Brandon Smith, Jill Christopher, Kimberly Hernandez, Michelle T. Ayala, Kevin Wright, Brett Sakamoto, Jessica Cortez, Sarah Radney, Victoria Anderson, Maura Rivas, and April Tabarez.

- **Item No. 26 – 28 AM session:**
 - The Board approved nearly \$207,000 in job training for Kern County residents, including an agreement with California State University Bakersfield to provide computer, healthcare, and management training, an agreement with Mexican American Opportunity Foundation to provide paid work experience for office readiness training, and an agreement with California Community Colleges to provide third party human resources and payroll services, in addition to paid work experience for national farmworker jobs participants.
- **Item No. 35 AM session:**
 - The Board updated their agreement with Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) to provide Housing for the Harvest services to local farmworkers who have contracted COVID-19.
- **Item No. 41 – 44 AM session:**
 - The Board dedicated nearly \$385,000 in funding to Positive Visions for Men, Bakersfield Recovery Services Inc., Garden Pathways Inc., and Minnie Marvels Sober Living for Women and Children to provide sober living programs to Kern County residents.
 - This is a vital component in combating Kern County's homelessness crisis by ensuring residents have support when striving to make positive lifestyle changes.
- **Items No. 50 – 51 AM session:**
 - The Board extended COVID-19 testing services with the Kern County Hospital Authority through December 31, 2021, and with the Kern Valley Healthcare District through September 30, 2021.
- **Item No. 3 PM session:**
 - The Board voted 5-0 to approve the Raceway 2.0 Solar Project by AES, which is a 271 MW commercial scale solar project with 100MW hours of battery storage on 1,250 acres of land.
 - The project will be located at 90th Street East and Avenue A in the Eastern Kern community of Willow Springs.
 - Project actions include Specific Plan Amendments, Zone Changes, Conditional Use Permits, and cancellation of a Williamson Act Land Use Contract.
 - The Board approved this project based on the Final Environmental Impact Report following 53 mitigation measures, cumulative impacts on aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, noise during construction, biological resources, and wildlife risk findings.
 - The fiscal benefits with the battery storage for the project include a one-time contribution of \$ 2.3 million to the General Fund and \$637,000 a year in property taxes.
 - The project will generate over 200 construction jobs and provide electricity grid stability for Southern California customers, including the over 81,000 customers in Kern County, while providing direct power to the East Bay Community Energy located in Alameda County.
- **Item NO. 28 AM session:**
 - The Board continued the local emergency due to drought conditions.

The Board will hold a Budget Hearing August 31, 2021. The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.