

**KERN LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MINUTES**

Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) Conference Room
1401 19th Street Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301
In-Person and Videoconference
Meeting of January 29, 2026

Pursuant to the Government Code § 54963. et seq., meetings were held both at a physical location and by video/teleconference to attend to any health and safety concerns of the panelist and/or participants.

Special scheduled meeting was called to order at 5:22 p.m., with. Chair Zaragoza presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ayon, Clark, Endicott, Flores, Fowler, Arias (alternate for Gonzales), Zaragoza
Absent: Couch, McKibbin
Staff: Knox, Menchaca, Munoz
Counsel: Schroeter

Item 01/29/26-1: *No Determination Required*

INVOCATION: (Agenda Item 2) Led by Chair Zaragoza

Item 01/29/26-2: *No Determination Required*

VIDEO CONFERENCE EMERGENCY REQUEST (if necessary): (Agenda Item 4)

Chair Zaragoza announced that Commissioner Endicott was present via teleconference. Attorney Tom Schroeter announced that Commissioner Endicott was under standard provision therefore no vote conducted or necessary.

Item 01/29/26-3: *Approved as Presented*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (Agenda Item 5) November 19, 2025, Meeting

*Chair Zaragoza presented the November minutes; Upon motion of Commissioner Ayon seconded by Commissioner **Endicott**, IT IS ORDERED: November 19, 2025, Minutes are approved as presented by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Endicott, Flores, Fowler, Arias, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Couch, McKibbin

Item 01/29/26-4: *No Public Comments*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Agenda Item 6)

None

* *Chair Zaragoza announced 8a and 8b City of Bakersfield items will be the first agenda items heard.*

* *5:57 p.m. Commissioner Ayon left meeting and did not return.*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: (Agenda Item 8)

Item 01/29/26-5: *Approved as Presented Resolution 26-01*

1856 City of Bakersfield Annexation No. 722 (Ashe No. 13) & County Service Area 11: Detachment “D” & County Service Area 12.02: Dissolution (Agenda Item 8a)

Executive Officer Knox recommended the Commission consider the Environmental document adopted by the applicant and approve the proposal as presented, subject to conditions recommended by the Executive Officer, waiving notice, hearing, and protest hearing. Yazid Alawgarey, Assistant City Planner for the City of Bakersfield and Gary Hallen, Assistant City Manager for the City Of Bakersfield answered Commissioner and community member questions. Upon motion of Commissioner Flores, seconded by Commissioner Arias, IT IS ORDERED: The City of Bakersfield Annexation No. 722 (Ashe No. 13) & County Service Area 11 Detachment “D” & County Service Area 12.02: Dissolution is approved as presented by the following votes:

AYES: Clark, Endicott, Flores, Arias, Zaragoza
NAYS: Fowler
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ayon, Couch, McKibbin

Item 01/29/26-6: *Approved as Motioned Resolution 26-02*

1866 City of Bakersfield Annexation No.723 (Belle Terrace No.1) Island Annexation (Agenda Item 8b)

Executive Officer Knox recommended the Commission consider the Environmental document adopted by the applicant and approve the proposal as presented, subject to conditions recommended by the Executive Officer, waiving notice, hearing, and protest hearing. Gary Hallen Assistant City Manager for The City of Bakersfield answered Commissioner Fowlers questions. Commissioner Fowler motioned to approve annexation. Upon motion of Commissioner Fowler, seconded by Commissioner Clark, IT IS ORDERED: The City of Bakersfield Annexation No.723 (Belle Terrace No.1) Island Annexation is approved as motioned by the following votes:

AYES: Clark, Endicott, Flores, Fowler, Arias, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ayon, Couch, McKibbin

DETERMINATION PROCEEDING: (Agenda Item 7a)

Item 01/29/26-7: *Approved as Motioned Resolution 26-03*

1855 North of River Sanitary District Annexation No. 118, County Service Area (CSA) 71: Detachment “Z” (Agenda Item 7a)

Executive Officer Knox recommended the Commission consider the Environmental document adopted by the applicant and approve the proposal as presented, subject to conditions recommended by the Executive Officer, waiving notice, hearing, and protest hearing. Commissioner Fowler motioned to approve annexation. Upon motion of Commissioner Fowler, seconded by Commissioner Flores, IT IS ORDERED: North of River Sanitary District Annexation No. 118, County Service Area (CSA) 71: Detachment “Z” is approved as motioned by the following votes:

AYES: Clark, Endicott, Flores, Fowler, Arias, Zaragoza
NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ayon, Couch, McKibbin

Item 01/29/26-8: *Approved as motion to Continue*

1861 Greenfield County Water District Annexation No. 50 (Agenda Item 7b)

*Executive Officer Knox recommended the Commission continue this item for the next scheduled meeting and hold a closed session to discuss the potential liability associated with the use of the Notice of Exemption (NOE) provided by the applicant. Attorney Tom Schroeter notified the Commission of a conflict in regard to a working relationship with the attorney for the applicant. Mr. Schroeter had no objection to continuing this item as recommended by Executive Officer Knox. Commissioner Zaragoza motioned to approve to continue. Upon motion of Commissioner **Zaragoza**, seconded by Commissioner **Endicott**, IT IS ORDERED: Greenfield County Water District Annexation No. 50 is continued to the next scheduled meeting with an additional closed session to discuss potential liability. Item approved as motioned by the following votes:*

AYES: Clark, Endicott, Fowler, Arias, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ayon, Couch, *Flores, McKibbin

* 6:21pm Commissioner Flores stepped away and returned a couple minutes later.

COMMISSION ITEMS: Informational

Item 01/29/26-9:

Chair Committee Assignments (Agenda Item 9)

POLICY AND BUDGET COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: (Agenda Item 9a)
Executive Officer Knox informed the Commission that he and the Chair met to determine the Policy and Budget Committee assignments. The Committee assignments are as followed:

Policy Committee: Commissioners Couch, Gonzales, McKibbin and Fowler

Budget Committee: Commissioners Flores, Clark, Ayon, and Zaragoza

Commissioner Endicott will serve as an alternate for both Committees.

GENERAL BUSINESS: (Agenda Item 10)

Item 11/29/26-10: *Approved as Presented*

EXPENSE LIST 25-11 (Agenda Item 10a)

*Chair Zaragoza presented Expense List 25-11. Upon motion of Commissioner **Fowler**, seconded by Commissioner **Flores**, IT IS ORDERED: The general claim set forth in Expense List No. 25-11 is approved for payment, and the Chairman is authorized to certify said list by the following votes:*

AYES: Clark, Endicott, Flores, Fowler, Arias, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ayon, Couch, McKibbin

Item 01/29/26-11: *Approved as Presented*

EXPENSE LIST 25-12 (Agenda Item 10b)

*Chair Zaragoza presented Expense List 25-12. Upon motion of Commissioner **Clark**, seconded by Commissioner **Fowler**, IT IS ORDERED: The general claim set forth in Expense List No. 25-12 is approved for payment, and the Chairman is authorized to certify said list by the following votes:*

AYES: Clark, Endicott, Flores, Fowler, Arias, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ayon, Couch, McKibbin

Item 01/29/26-12: *Approved as Presented*

Approval of Lease Agreement (Agenda Item 10c)

*Executive Officer Knox recommended the Commission approve the 3-year lease with 2-year extension on agreement. Mr. Knox discussed, terms of the lease, cost to move and need to remain in our office during the current disruption of staffing requiring significant amount of training. Upon motion of Commissioner **Flores**, seconded by Commissioner **Arias**, IT IS ORDERED: The Office Lease Agreement is approved as presented by following votes:*

AYES: Clark, Endicott, Flores, Fowler, Arias, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ayon, Couch, McKibbin

Item 01/29/26-13: *Approved as Presented*

Consideration of Changes to Policies and Regulations by SB 489 (Agenda Item 10d)

*Executive Officer Knox informed the Commission that in their packet were three recommendations along with background information. One proposed change to Kern LAFCo's policies and procedures for evaluation of proposals to comply with SB 489. Proposed changes to Kern LAFCo's regulations and fee schedule. These things were already approved previously but not attached to the document. Mr. Knox recommended the Commission approve the documents as presented. Upon motion of Commissioner **Fowler**, seconded by Commissioner **Endicott**, IT IS ORDERED: The consideration of changes to policies and regulations by SB 489 is approved as presented by following votes:*

AYES: Clark, Endicott, Flores, Fowler, Arias, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ayon, Couch, McKibbin

Item 01/29/26-14: *Informational*

Workplace Violence Protection Plan Adoption and Training Continued (Agenda Item 10e)

Executive Officer Knox reminded Commissioners to complete training by deadline of 2/18/26. No vote conducted or necessary.

* *6:35pm Commissioner Flores stepped away and returned a couple minutes later.*

Item 01/29/26-15: *Informational*

EXECUTIVE OFFICER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: (Agenda Item 10f)

- Ethic Certificate reminder
- ADA Compliance Doc access
- Budget 2026 & 2027 starting soon
- Office Personnel adjustments

Item 01/29/26-16: No Determination Required

CLOSED SESSION: (Agenda Item 11)

None

* Chair Zaragoza requested a Commissioner line item be added to the agenda for Commissioner questions, comments or announcements.

* Commissioner Aries spoke informing that he will be stepping in for most of the upcoming meetings as Commissioner Gonzales tends to campaign duties.

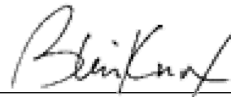
Item 01/29/26-17: Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT: (Agenda Item 12)

Chair Zaragoza announced the next meeting being February 18, 2026. There being no further business to come before the Commission. **IT IS ORDERED:** The meeting is adjourned at 6:43 p.m.



Clerk



Executive Officer