LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
COUNTY OF KERN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Hybrid In-Person/Video-Conference Meeting
To be held at Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG)
1401 19th Street Suite #300
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Regular Meeting of **November 18, 2026** – 5:15 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS	ALTERNATE COMMISSIONERS
David Couch - Kern County BOS	**Vacant -** Kern County BOS
Jeff Flores- Kern County BOS	**Eric Arias -** City of Bakersfield
Andrae Gonzales - City of Bakersfield	**Kyle Blades -** City of Ridgecrest
Gustavo Olvera - City of Shafter	**Martin Hernandez -** Special District
Travis Endicott - City of Ridgecrest	**Mia Arreola -** Public Member
Gary McKibbin -** Special District Member	**Vacant –** Restricted Public Member
Les Clark III - Special District Member	
Vince Zaragoza*- Public Member	
Ginger Mello – Restricted Public Member	

***Chair **Vice Chair**

AGENDA

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING REMOTE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This meeting will be held both at a physical location and as a video conference to assist any health and safety concerns of the panelist and/or participants. The LAFCo Commission, staff and public may choose to participate in-person, or by video conference using the following:

Please use the link below to join the webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84122937600?pwd=T7QSTrnmIv7buoYvThze690Glc78FM.1

Passcode: **7161076** Webinar ID: **841 2293 7600**

Members of the public who wish to make written comments during the meeting please email the Clerk at: clerk@kernlafco.org. Every effort will be made to read your comment into the record. If a comment is received after the comment portion of the meeting but before the meeting is adjourned, the comment will still be included as a part of the record of the meeting but will not be read into the record.

1. **ROLL CALL**

2. **INVOCATION**

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **COMMISSIONER REMOTE PARTICIPATION REQUEST, IF ANY** ..... *Vote if Required*
   Consideration of or notification regarding Commissioner remote participation pursuant to applicable provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

a. October 21, 2026, Meeting Minutes ..... *Vote Required*

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
   This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons desiring to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda and over which the Commission has jurisdiction. Speakers are limited to two minutes. Please state your name and address for the record before making your presentation.

7. **DETERMINATION PROCEEDING**

None

8. **NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

a. 1878 East Niles Community Services District ..... *Vote Required*

Protest Hearing Results

This proposal is to annex approximately 423.53 acres of five areas located generally between Wilson Road, South Fairfax Road, Weedpatch Hwy. and Redbank Road. This annexation was initiated to add the services of six mutual water systems to the District as part of a grant-funded water system consolidation. The area surrounding the proposed annexation areas consist primarily of residential and agricultural land use. This proposal does not have 100% landowner consent. CEQA: Mitigated Negative Declaration by Applicant. ***(Resolution)***

b. 1879 Weldon Regional Water District ..... *Vote Required*

Dissolution

Dissolution of the Weldon Regional Water District, with Kern LAFCo serving as the applicant and lead agency. The Weldon Regional Water District has remained inactive for six years, with no opportunity to activate the district and begin providing services. (Resolution)

c. 1847 Eastside Kern Water District, A California Water District ..... *Vote Required*

Formation

Consideration of the proposed formation of a California Water District (California Government Code Section 56700 & Water Code § 34153), for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) purposes. The district would comprise approximately 40,000 acres consisting of 22 non-contiguous areas; Primarily agriculture, grazing, resource production, rural residential and vacant land. The proposed area is generally located South of Famoso Road, east/west of Highway 65. As lead agency for CEQA purposes, Kern LAFCo has furnished a Notice of Exemption for Commissions acceptance. If approved, this proposal is subject to the conditions recommended by the Executive Officer. *(Resolution)*

d. 1848 Eastside Kern Water District, A California Water District ..... *Vote Required*

Adoption of Sphere of Influence Boundary Determination

Consideration of the proposed sphere of influence for the Eastside Kern Water District including determination as required by Government Code Section 56425(e). CEQA: consideration of Notice of Exemption as lead agency. *(Resolution)*

9. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

a. Approval of Monthly Expense List No. 26-10 ..... *Vote Required*

b. Financial Audit 2025-2026 ..... *Receive and File*

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 26909, the Commission is required to undergo an independent financial audit. In accordance with the Commission's budgetary authority established under Government Code Section 56381, the independent financial audit for Fiscal Year 2025–2026 has been completed and is presented today for Commission review and formal acceptance.

c. 2026 End of the Year Recap ..... *Informational*

d. Executive Officer Miscellaneous Items ..... Informational

10. **COMMISSION ITEMS**

a. Commissioner comments, questions, referrals or announcements

b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair ..... *Vote Required*

c. 2026 Meeting Schedule ..... *Vote Required*

d. Recognition of Commissioner David Couch for 20 Years of LAFCo Service ..... *Informational*

11. **CLOSED SESSION**

a. Public Employment: Evaluation of Executive Officer by Government Code § 54957 (b) (1).

b. Conference with Labor Negotiators pursuant to GC. § 54954. (f). Agency designated representative: Chairperson; Unrepresented employee; Executive Officer.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next scheduled meeting **Wednesday, January 20, 2027**

NOTE TO THE PUBLIC

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS – If you are an applicant for, or a participant actively supporting or opposing, a proceeding on this agenda involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, you are required to disclose contributions exceeding $500 made within the preceding 12 months to a Commissioner. Commissioners may be required to disclose qualifying contributions and refrain from participating in the proceeding. These restrictions may also apply to agents of parties or participants. Please consult LAFCo staff regarding the requirements of the Political Reform Act (Gov. Code § 84308). This statement is not a comprehensive summary of the law.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS - A request for disability-related accommodations should be made to the Executive Officer no later than 8 days before the need for the accommodation.

For additional information regarding the items listed above please contact the Kern Local Agency Formation Commission at: 5300 Lennox Ave Suite 303, Bakersfield CA 93309, info@kernlafco.org or 661-716-1076.