

**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 15, 2025

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.

Regular scheduled meeting called to order at 5:20 p.m. Chair Flores presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Flores, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Zaragoza
Absent: Ridgecrest Representative
Staff: Knox, Menchaca, Rice
Counsel: Schroeter

Item 01/15/25-1: *Informational*

CLOSED SESSION: (Agenda Item 2)

- a. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT: Evaluation of Executive Officer per Government Code § 54957 (b) (1).
- b. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS PURSUANT TO GC. § 54954. (F). Agency designated representative: Chairperson; Unrepresentative employee; Executive Officer.

No Reportable Action

- c. Closed Session Meeting Minutes May 15, 2024..... *Vote Required*

IT IS ORDERED: The Commission unanimously adopted to approve the minutes of the closed session held on May 15, 2024.

Item 01/15/25-2: *No Determination Required*

INVOCATION: (Agenda Item 3)

Chair Flores announced the invocation would be led by Commissioner Clark.

Item 01/15/25-3: *No Determination Required*

VIDEO CONFERENCE EMERGENCY REQUEST (if necessary): (Agenda Item 5)

Chair Flores announced Commissioners were present in-person, therefore the item is not necessary.

Item 01/15/25-4: *Approved as Presented*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (Agenda Item 6) December 4, 2024, Meeting

*Chair Flores presented the December minutes; Upon motion of Commissioner **Fowler**, seconded by Commissioner **Ayon**, IT IS ORDERED: The December 4, 2024, Minutes are approved as presented by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Flores, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Zaragoza

NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ridgecrest Representative

Item 01/15/25-5: *No Public Comments*

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Agenda Item 7)

None

Item 01/15/25-6: *No Determination Required*

DETERMINATION PROCEEDING: (Agenda Item 8)

None

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: (Agenda Item 9)

Item 01/15/25-7: *Approved as Presented - Resolution 25-01*

1831 City of Bakersfield Annexation No. 717 (Zerker No. 2) Protest Hearing Results
(Agenda Item 9a)

*Executive Officer Knox informed the Commission that a protest hearing was held on Thursday January 9, 2025, at the Kern LAFCo office. Executive officer Knox recommended the Commission accept and approve the results of the protest hearing, as there were no protests filed therefore failed. Upon motion of Commissioner **Ayon**, seconded by Commissioner **Clark**, IT IS ORDERED: The City of Bakersfield Annexation No. 717 (Zerker No. 2) Protest Hearing Results is approved as presented by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Flores, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ridgecrest Representative

Item 01/15/25-8: *Approved as Presented - Resolution 25-02*

1836 City of McFarland Annexation No. 20 (Agenda Item 9b)

*Executive Officer Knox recommended that the Commission review and consider the Environmental Document adopted by the applicant and approve the proposal subject to conditions recommended by the Executive Officer. Mr. Paul Saldana, Community Development Director of the City of McFarland spoke to this being a continuation of Annexation 17 adopted in 2019, continues the development to the West. Upon motion of Commissioner **Couch**, seconded by Commissioner **Gonzales**, IT IS ORDERED: The City of McFarland Annexation No. 20 is approved as presented by the following votes:*

AYES: Ayon, Clark, Couch, Flores, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ridgecrest Representative

* 5:30pm Attorney Tom Schroeter recused himself as he is the city attorney for Wasco.

* 5:30pm Commissioner Ayon stepped out of the meeting and did not return

Item 01/15/25-9: *Approved as Presented - Resolution 25-03*

1831 City of Wasco Annexation 41 (Agenda Item 9c)

*Executive Officer Knox recommended that the Commission review and consider the Notice of Exemption adopted by the applicant and approve the proposal subject to conditions recommended by the Executive Officer waiving notice, hearing and protest hearing. Keri Cobb, Community Development Director for City of Wasco was present to answer commissioner questions. Keri advised the commission that Wasco Union School District has taken ownership of the parcel and likely the tax roll has not yet been updated. Upon motion of Commissioner **Couch**, seconded by Commissioner **Clark**, IT IS ORDERED: The City of Wasco Annexation 41 is approved as presented by the following votes:*

- AYES: Clark, Couch, Flores, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Zaragoza
- NAYS: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: Ayon, Ridgecrest Representative

* 5:34pm Attorney Tom Schroeter returned to the meeting.

COMMISSION ITEMS: (Agenda Item 10)

Item 01/15/25-10: *Receive and File*

2023-2024 AUDIT (Agenda Item 10a)

Executive Officer Knox advised the Commission that the Audit 2023-2024 performed by accounting firm Brown Armstrong confirmed accounting policies correspond with general accounting principles. Lindsey Zimmerman was present for any Commissioner questions. Ms. Zimmerman spoke to the results of the Audit reiterating that the Audit performance and fair statement of the numbers of the audit are correct. Ms. Zimmerman mentioned there were no issues or any other findings with the Audit. Executive Officer Knox recommended the commission receive and file the 2023-2024 Audit. No vote was conducted or necessary.

Item 01/15/25-11: *Informational*

POLICY AND BUDGET COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: (Agenda Item 10b)

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, McKibbin, Gonzales, and Zaragoza

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

Executive Office Knox advised that there is no recommendation, and no vote required as these appointments are at the pleasure of the chair. Mr. Knox announced that the Policy Committee needs to meet February 19, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. to discuss and make recommendations to a remote work policy. Also, to consider changes in the due structure regarding map and legal description review. No vote conducted or necessary.

GENERAL BUSINESS: (Agenda Item 11)

Item 01/15/25-12: *Approved as Presented*

EXPENSE LIST 24-11 (Agenda Item 11a)

*Chair Flores presented Expense List 24-11. Upon motion of Commissioner **Couch**, seconded*

by Commissioner **McKibbin**, *IT IS ORDERED: The general claim set forth in Expense List No. 24-11 is approved for payment, and the Chairman is authorized to certify said list by the following votes:*

AYES: Clark, Couch, Flores, Fowler, Gonzales, McKibbin, Zaragoza
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Ayon, Ridgecrest Representative

* 5:35pm Chair Flores announced Commissioner Zaragoza had a Commission Item to address. Commissioner Zaragoza made a recommendation for LAFCo to create a strategic 3-5-year plan and present it at the next scheduled meeting.

Item 01/15/25-13: Informational

EXECUTIVE OFFICER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: (Agenda Item 11b)

- Lease agreement ending April 30, 2025.
- Annexation coming processed by Ms. Menchaca – Cross Training
- 6 Annexations proceedings in process possibly coming in February

Item 01/15/25-14: Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT: (Agenda Item 12)

Chair Flores announced the next meeting to be February 19, 2025. There being no further business to come before the Commission. IT IS ORDERED: The meeting is adjourned at 5:41 p.m.



Clerk



Executive Officer