

Kern County Cemetery District
Minutes for
August 21, 2025

Regular Board Meeting
Shafter Memorial Park Office
18662 Santa Fe Way, Shafter, CA

Call to Order: Call to Order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Braun. Chairman Braun led the flag salute.

Roll Call: In attendance were Barry Braun, Chairman of the Board; Carl Olsen, Vice-Chair; Jerry Ezell, Secretary of the Board.

Employees: Eliza Caudillo, District Manager; Denton Carender, Superintendent; Nayeli Delgado, Secretary.

Visitors: None.

Public Comment: None.

Consent Calendar: Minutes of the regular Board meeting for July 2025. The payroll warrants for 25/14 through 25/16 were approved. Vouchers, checks, and financial reports for July 2025 were approved. This was done by approval of the consent calendar by motion of Trustee Olsen and seconded by Trustee Ezell: 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Management Update

- We had 11 services in Shafter and 17 services in Wasco for July 2025. This gives us 28 services for the fiscal year to date. We are at a 36% cremation rate.
- The 2026 California Association of Public Cemeteries Calendar is now available. The District receives one calendar as part of its annual CAPC membership. If additional calendars are needed, they must be ordered by September 19, 2025, and cost \$10.00.
- Robert Holtermann of Holtermann Farms requested a signature on the National Resource Conservation Concurrence Form to install structural or vegetative activities in U. S. agriculture to receive funding for a micro-irrigation system. The Holtermanns have opted to plant almond trees on the leased cemetery land instead for leaving it fallow.
- There was Damage to a Cemetery/Almond orchard irrigation bypass located to the north of Heinrich Street due to a possible big rig running over the road (previously damaged in 2023; the repair cost at that time was \$4,210.00). Wilson Farms paid to install the bypass in 2013, as SWID water was not available for irrigating the almond orchard. Rather than incur additional cost bypass was capped off, and Wilson agreed that if it were ever needed, the District and Wilson Farms would split the cost of reinstatement.
- A Preconstruction Conference was held on August 14, 2025. Attendees included John Schuler and Manny Gonzalez of Provost and Pritchard, John Sturgeon and Edward Torres of Griffith Co., and Manager Caudillo and Superintendent Carender represented the District. The Agenda for this meeting targeted the expectations for the development of Section B.

Electric Vehicle Replacement

The District currently owns four electric utility/cargo units purchased in 2023. Three of the units are non-operational due to battery issues. Battery replacement costs range from \$2,500 to \$3,500 per unit, and this excluding installation costs. These EVs were purchased through the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control (SJVAPC) Clean Air Grant. The grant requires the EVs to remain with the purchaser (District) for three years. SJVAPC is still offering the Zero-Emission Electric Vehicle Replacement Incentive program for EV units not to

exceed \$22,000.00 per unit, with a potential maximum of \$100,000.00. Manager Caudillo requests authorization of Resolution No. 2025/26-2, for the purchase of EV utility or transport units.

Trustee Olsen made the motion to authorize the signing of Resolution 2025/26-2, for the purchase of EVs under the San Joaquin Valley Air Zero-Emission EVs Program. The motion included the purchase of EVs with the trade-in of current non-operational EVs. Trustee Ezell seconded the motion: 3 ayes, unanimous.

Reinvestment of Endowment Care Principal

This month, two Stifel Endowment Care investments matured: a New York Municipal Bond for \$50,000.00, and a Southern California Edison Corp. Bond for \$55,000.00. Our Investment Policy requires that we diversify our investments as much as possible within the confines of the law. This will require the District to reinvest this money in a Corporate Bond, Treasury Note, Agency Bond, or a Certificate of Deposit.

The motion was made to invest \$126,000.00, plus accrued interest, into the Southern California Edison Corporate Bond, with a rating of A2/A-, coupon of 5.250%, Callable 02/30 and Maturity Date of 03/30, and Y-T-M of 4.447%. If this investment is no longer available, the next most similar investment would be acceptable. The motion was made by Trustee Ezell and seconded by Trustee Olsen: 3 ayes, unanimous.

Reinvestment of Contract Fund

The Southern California Edison Corp. Bond for \$150,000.00. Our Investment Policy requires that we diversify our investments as much as possible within the confines of the law. This will require the District to reinvest this money between a Corporate Bond, Treasury Note, Agency Bond, or a Certificate of Deposit.

The motion was made to invest \$150,000.00, plus accrued interest, into the State Bank India New York Certificate of Deposit, with a rating of 33682, Coupon of 4.00%, Callable DOH, and Maturity Date of 08/30, and Y-T-M of 4.000%. If this investment is no longer available, the next most similar investment would be acceptable. The motion was made by Trustee Olsen and seconded by Trustee Ezell: 3 ayes, unanimous.

Miscellaneous Lawn Debris

An overabundance of grass clippings, tumbleweed, sump debris, and broken tree branches has accumulated at both the Shafter and Wasco Cemeteries. This debris needs to be cleared up before the commencement of the Section B development project. Wasco Cemetery will also need to be cleared of this type of debris for aesthetic and fire safety purposes. Manager Caudillo has obtained two quotes, and the awarded company will begin debris removal as soon as possible. A review of the District policy confirms that Manager Caudillo should advise the Board of the intended cleanup and approximate cost.

Trustees' Comments

Trustee Olsen: None. Trustee Ezell: None

Trustee Braun: Requested Manager Caudillo agendize discussion for the Wasco Cemetery Office/Shop Construction.

Adjournment

Chairman Braun adjourned at 1:12 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2025.

Signed,

Eliza Caudillo
District Manager