

## **Kern County Cemetery District** Minutes for

September 21, 2023

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

Call to Order: Call to Order at 12:00 pm by Chairman Braun. Chairman Braun led the flag salute and invocation.

Roll Call: In attendance was Barry Braun, Chairman of the Board; Belton Banks, Vice-Chair; Jerry Ezell, Secretary of the Board.

Employees: Eliza Caudillo, District Manager; Denton Carender, Superintendent; Alicia Reveles, District Secretary.

Visitors: None

Public Comment: None

Consent Calendar: Includes the approval of the agenda for the current meeting and minutes of the regular Board meeting for August 2023. The payroll warrants for 23/16 through 23/18 were approved. Vouchers, checks, and financial reports for August 2023 were approved. This was done by approval of the consent calendar by motion of Trustee Ezell and seconded by Trustee Banks; 3 ayes, 0 Nays.

### Management Update

- We had 16 services in Shafter and 6 services in Wasco for the month of August 2023. This gives us 54 services for the fiscal year to date. We had 11 cremation services in Shafter and 2 in Wasco for a total of 13 cremation services. For the month of August 2023, we are at a 24% cremation rate.
- The Finance Committee met on September 6, 2023, to discuss the investment options for the Stifel Redwood TR Inc. Note that matured on August 15, 2023. Sandra Wheeler, the Stifel Financial Advisor presented several investments. The committee selected as the reinvestment option a Discover CD at 4.6%, with a maturity date of September 11, 2028.
- Manager Caudillo is researching the need for a company that will ensure contractors performing work at the district adhere to the prevailing wages filing requirements.
- The 2022-23 annual audit is underway via Albert and Associates. It is anticipated the audit findings will be presented at the October Board Meeting.
- Tentatively cancelling the November 2023 Board Meeting. Cancellation will be confirmed at the October meeting.

### Trustees Comments

Trustee Banks: None.

Trustee Ezell: None.

Trustee Braun: Had the opportunity to attend the Kern County Special Districts Roundtable at the North of the River Recreation and Park District facility. There was approximately 15 people present including staff from both David Valadao and Kevin McCarthy's office. The focus of the meeting was to encourage individuals to send letters to our Washington leaders to help recognize Special Districts in the same light as other government agencies.

Currently, federal law lacks a single definition of "special district." Defining the term will ensure that special districts have a formal place in federal law, which would better facilitate districts' inclusion federal programs geared toward local governments.

Defining special districts in federal law would greatly improve access to major programs and offer a uniform approach to how districts may be defined as eligible in major programs, such as direct aid programming as seen through coronavirus relief efforts and other landmark programs such as the Community Development Block Grant.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm by Chairman Braun. The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2023.

Signed,

Eliza Caudillo  
District Manager