

Kern County Cemetery District
 Minutes for
 May 15, 2025

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

Call to Order: Call to Order at 12:15 p.m. by Chairman Braun. Chairman Braun led the flag salute.

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

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

Visitors: None.

Public Comment: None

Consent Calendar: Minutes of the regular Board meeting for April 2025. The payroll warrants for 25/08 through 25/09 were approved. Vouchers, checks, and financial reports for April 2025 were approved. This was done by approval of the consent calendar by motion of Trustee Ezell and seconded by Trustee Olsen: 3 ayes, unanimous.

Management Update

- We had 20 services in Shafter and 8 services in Wasco for the month of April 2025. This gives us 230 services for the fiscal year to date. We are at a 21% cremation rate.
- Section B Development is underway. The Bid for Proposal has been run in the Bakersfield Californian on April 25, 2025, and May 7, 2025. Provost and Pritchard will have a Pre-Bid Conference on May 20, 2025, at 10 a.m. Interested contractors to attend and will review the scope of the Section B expansion. Manager Caudillo, Superintendent Carender and Trustee Ezell will be attending the Pre-Bid Conference to be held at Shafter Cemetery.
- Memorial Day 2025: Staff will be present at this event. Nayeli Delgado will work to coordinate this event. Reading the veterans' names will be the responsibility of the Wasco community and will only occur if there are volunteers.

Contract Fund Reinvestment

The Federal Home Loan Mtg. Corp. Note (CUSIP #3134HABJ1) for \$150,000.00 due to mature on July 30, 2029, and callable January 30, 2025; The FHLM Note was called April 30, 2025. Following the recommendation of Sandra Wheeler, the Stifel Advisor, for reinvestment of these funds according to the District Policy and Government Code §53601, which outlines the percentages that are allowed for the permitted indebtedness. Manager Caudillo requested that any funds available be invested in the following options: If these exact investments are unavailable upon the date of the decision of the Board, these funds will be invested as stated or in the most similar investment available.

Corporate Bond

Description	Rating	Coupon	Call	Maturity	Y-T-M
So. Cal Edison Corp	A2/A-	4.90%	04/26	06/26	4.212%

Certificate of Deposit

Description	Rating	Coupon	Call	Maturity	Y-T-M
Morgan Stanley	34221	4.000%	DOH	05/26	4.000%
Pcb Bk LA, CA	57463	4.150%	DOH	11/25	4.150%
Morgan Stanley Bank	34221	4.700%	DOH	05/30	4.700%

The motion was made to invest available Contract funds of \$150,000.00 plus accrued interest into the Morgan Stanley at Y-T-M of 4.700%, to mature 05/30, callable DOH. The motion was made by Trustee Ezell and seconded by Trustee Olsen. If this investment is not available, then Sandra Wheeler, the investment advisor, may select a similar available investment; 3 ayes, unanimous.

MOU – Employee Negotiation Contract

Attorney Bob Hunt advised against using the term MOU. Moving forward, the term will be ENC for Employee Negotiation Contract. The current ENC was developed in June of 2023 and is due to expire June 29, 2026. The contract requests that the Trustees look at the District's financial position and the California April CPI rate. April's CPI rate was not available for the May 2025 meeting. The CPI for March was 2.2%, and the first Quarter of 2025 averaged 2.4%. Trustee Carl Olsen was appointed to serve on the Negotiation Committee during this Board meeting, and the Committee would meet on June 6, 2025, and bring back the Committee's recommendation for potential COLA at the next Board Meeting.

The Trustees appointed Trustee Olsen to replace Belton Banks on the Negotiation Committee. Manager Caudillo and Superintendent Carender will remain as part of the Negotiation Committee. The Committee is scheduled to meet on June 6, 2025. This was a motion made by Trustee Braun and seconded by Trustee Ezell. 2 ayes, 1 abstain, 0 nays.

District Manager Performance Evaluation

The Board reviewed the evaluation form and, without further discussion, felt it was time to go into a closed session under section §54954.5 of the California Government Code. The request was made under the code to meet and confer regarding the District Manager evaluation at 1:17 p.m. Manager Caudillo and staff left the room.

Chairman Braun motioned to go into a closed session, seconded by Trustee Ezell, under section 54954.5 of the California Government Code. 3 ayes, unanimous.

Reconvened into Open Session

The Board requested that Manager Caudillo return to the closed session at 1:34 p.m. to discuss the results of the Performance Evaluation. During this session, Manager Caudillo asked for consideration of a salary incentive. The Board then asked her to leave the room at 2:08 p.m. She was called back to the closed session at 2:20 p.m.

Manager Caudillo received a favorable evaluation, and the Board stated that Manager Caudillo was meeting their expectations. The Board recommended that Manager Caudillo prepare a Managerial Employment Contract to present for consideration including a salary adjustment; 3 ayes, unanimous.

Trustees' Comments

Trustee Braun: No comments
Trustee Ezell: Concern over Shafter's new housing developments. Increased population.
Trustee Olsen: Requested that a member of the Shafter Planning Commission attend a Board meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Braun adjourned at 3:05 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2025.

Signed,

Eliza Caudillo

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District Manager