

The North Kern Cemetery District

Minutes of Regular Meeting held May 14, 2026

The North Kern Cemetery Board meeting was held at 627 Austin St., Delano, CA., at 4:20 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Pearl Rivera, Present were Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye, Alicia Santiago, Jorge Jaime Jr, Manager, and Connie Sandoval; Absent Andrew Mendoza

Audience: Fernando Bravo and Elizabeth Torres

Public Comment:

Fernando Bravo asked the Board about moving the monthly meetings from the 1st Thursday to the 3rd Thursday of each month. He also mentioned that he was out on the grounds on Monday and wanted to ask if security guards submit daily reports. He asked if they report to the Board about what's happening, like seeing solicitors or vandalism.

OPEN SESSION:

Approve Transfer of Revenue April 2026 to the County Treasurer for \$86,078.92. Motion made by Alicia Santiago and seconded by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye. Motion passed. No nays.

Approve April 2026 Bill List in amount of \$65,969.22. Motion made by Alicia Santiago and seconded by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye to accept the bill list. Motion passed. No nays.

Approve Financial Report for March 2026. Motion made by Alicia Santiago and seconded by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye to approve the financial report. Motion passed. No nays.

Approve Financial Report for April 2026. The Board tabled the April 2026 financial report.

Approve Profit and Loss Report for April 2026. Motion made by Alicia Santiago and seconded by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye to approve the profit and loss report. Motion passed. No nays.

Approve April 16, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye and seconded by Alicia Santiago to approve Board Minutes for April 16, 2026. Motion passed. No nays.

Regular Agenda:

Delinquent Account

Elizabeth Torres addressed the Board, stating that her father is buried at the cemetery and she purchased the lot next to him for her mother. She explained she was unable to make payments since January, so the lot was forfeited at last month's meeting. She is here today to ask if she can pay off the remaining balance or start making payments. The District Manager notified the Board

that she had not informed the office of any hardship. It's in the contract to notify the office, and we would have worked with her to pay off the balance. The board discussed, and motion was made by Alicia Santiago and seconded by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye to let her pay in full the remaining balance by Monday. Motion passed. No Nays.

West Side Columbarium Estimate

The grounds men removed all the dirt from the columbarium. The contractor suggests not filling it with foam because it will deteriorate over time. The District Manager presents the Board with an estimate to core drill a weep into the concrete in between the columbarium center void. Building a platform out of pressure-treated wood and creating one that sits one inch below the granite. Installing a wire mesh on top of the platform, allowing water to still pass through and drain. Motion made by Alicia Santiago and seconded by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye to approve the estimate. Motion passed. No Nays.

Update on Expansions

The District Manager reports to the Board that he spoke with Pedro Nunez, assistant engineer at the City of Delano. Pedro Nunez informed him that the District can begin the grading process, including the installation of sewers, water, roadways, and gutters. The District is not in need of building the office yet. Opening land to help with pre-needs to build the flow of income is a priority. The District Manager suggests scheduling a meeting with Holman Group Finance to start pulling the funds. James Lott is available next week in the afternoon. The District Manager will email the Board with dates to coordinate a meeting with James Lott from Holman Group Finance. He reminded the Board that they do not need to finance 9 million, only finance 3 million, and can use what they need, and only get financed on what the District will use. The one question he has for Scott at LAV/Pinnacle is, does the steel building need to be paid now or in the future? He's in the process of talking to them both.

Memorial Day

The Memorial Day program is Monday, May 25th at 10:00 a.m. Dee called the District Manager asking for help with the flyer. He informed her that at the last board meeting, Andrew mentioned he was helping Casey with the flyer. Mr. Rivera and the volunteers he brings out are helping with the flags like every year. The District Manager will go next week, and he will buy the snacks for the volunteers. Martinez Security provides the doves for the dove release; the District can count on him. We are on track to set up chairs, flags, and a canopy.

REPORTS

Manager's/Trustee's Reports: Burials: April Casketed: 17 Cremations: 4 Infants: 0 Disinterment: 0 Monthly Total: 21

YTD: 101 YTD Casketed: 80 YTD Cremations: 20 Infant YTD: 1 Disinterment YTD: 0

The District Manager reports to the Board that he just received Legacy Monuments' proof of payment and will add it to next month's agenda. He also reports that the District is being sued again. He received a certified letter last Friday from an attorney's office, representing a client with the last name Perez. She is suing for \$1 million after tripping and falling on a pothole, which caused severe injuries to her left ankle, toe, and foot in November 2025. He informed the

Board that there are caution signs posted throughout the cemetery grounds for uneven surfaces. Regarding meeting changes, such as adjusting the date or time as Mr. Bravo suggests, should not be scheduled earlier in the week due to financial issues. If the Board would like to add this item to the agenda, please do so. The District Manager updates the Board that the contractor sent to the rental property has addressed a tenant's complaint about foul odor and moisture, including wetness. The drywall crumbled to the touch, and the issue was caused by rats eating on the ABS black pipes. They have fixed the problem. The family is very clean. An option is to retrofit to copper pipes, which rats cannot bite into. The flooring project in the office will start on June 19th, and we may need to close the office during that time. After installing the flooring, we will proceed with painting. The emergency action plan discussed at last month's meeting, the Board requested to add to next month's meeting. Alicia would like to see the map legible and completed. According to a neighbor, the house by the cemetery on Austin Street is vacant. Also, it still does not show no vacancy for George Chase's absence for the new board member, and only three applications have been received.

Adjournment: Motion made by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye and seconded by Alicia Santiago that meeting be closed at 5:17 p.m. Motion passed. No Nays.

Minutes recorded by Connie Sandoval, Executive Assistant