

The North Kern Cemetery District Minutes of Regular Meeting held September 11, 2025

The North Kern Cemetery Board meeting was held at 627 Austin St., Delano, CA., at 4:15 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Andrew Mendoza, Present were, Pearl Rivera, George Chase, Susana Valenzuela, Alicia Santiago, Jorge Jaime Jr, Manager, and Connie Sandoval

Audience: Fernando Bravo

Public Comment: Fernando Bravo commented to the board that item #13 on the agenda addressed his concern regarding the tree trimming, specifically the willow tree that hits his car, and also the hanging limbs on the east side.

OPEN SESSION:

Approve Transfer of Revenue August 2025 to the County Treasurer for \$134,623.56.

Motion made by George Chase and seconded by Pearl Rivera to approve the Transfer of Revenue to the County Treasurer for \$134,623.56. Motion passed. No nays.

Approve August 2025 Bill List in the amount of \$89,789.02.

Bill List was discussed, and motion made by Alicia Santiago and seconded by George Chase to accept the Bill List for \$89,789.02. Motion passed. No nays.

Approve Financial Report for June 2025.

Financial report discussed, the District Manager informed the board that the county is slowly transitioning over to the new program. He received an email from the county informing him that they will be issuing a check instead of direct deposit for the tax return. Motion made by George Chase and seconded by Susana Valenzuela to approve the financial report. Motion passed. No nays.

Approve Financial Report for July 2025.

The board tabled the July 2025 financial report.

Approve Financial Report for August 2025.

The board tabled the August 2025 financial report.

Approve Profit and Loss Report for August 2025.

Motion made by Alicia Santiago and seconded by Pearl Rivera to approve the Profit and Loss report. Motion passed. No nays.

Approve August 14, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Susana Valenzuela and seconded by George Chase to approve the Board Minutes for August 14, 2025. Motion passed. No nays.

Regular Agenda:

Property at 605 Austin Street

Denice, the property owner at 605 Austin Street, reached out to the District Manager to inquire about the board's interest in purchasing her home. The District Manager requested a written document to present to the board, and the asking price is \$220,000 as it stands. Both the District Manager and Connie went to look at the house. In the kitchen, there is a huge crack that runs down the middle of the house. George suggests flipping the house, but Andrew states that, because of prevailing wages, it would be too expensive to fix. The board discussed building an indoor niche, but that too would be too expensive. George stated he feels the district should concentrate on opening the west side of the cemetery. The board decided they are not interested in the 605 Austin Street property; it is just bad timing.

Tree Trimming Estimates

The District Manager presents the board with three Tree Trimming estimates. On Friday morning, the Triple A Insurance company contacted the District Manager to notify him that a tree limb had fallen on their client's truck. It happened at 9:00 p.m. inside the cemetery property. The truck was parked beneath a tree, and the limb fell on the hood of the truck, causing damage to the hood. The district's insurance company representative spoke with the District Manager, asking him several questions about the tree trimming, for example, how often the trees are trimmed. The District Manager plans to have the trees trimmed every other year and suggests adding tree trimming to the yearly budget. The estimates are from Rancho Tree Service, All Tree Care Service, and Jesus Christ Lawn Service. The board states the reasonable estimate is from Jesus Christ Lawn Service, but reasonable does not always mean good work. The board asks the District Manager how long it will take for each of the companies to finish the tree trimming. According to Davila, who met with the company because the District Manager was not available, Rancho Tree Service could finish in one week. All Tree Care Service were notified to finish the job before the Day of the Dead, which is November 2nd. Jesus Christ Lawn Service took 1 to 3 months last time they trimmed the trees, due to the trees not being cut down for so long, they struggled. George suggests calling All Tree Care and getting an estimated date as to when they can finish the trimming, and who can do it within a month? Alicia suggests keeping Jesus Christ Lawn Service with weekly landscaping maintenance. Andrew asks if the All-Tree Care estimate includes the dump fees. George asks the District Manager to call All Tree Care and see if they can have it done by October 11, 2025. Susana Valenzuela made a motion to go with Rancho Tree Service, No Second. George made a motion to go with All Tree Care if they can have it within a month, including dump fees, and seconded by Pearl Rivera. Susanna Valenzuela, nays. Motion passed. If not, go with Rancho Tree Service if they can get it done within a month.

Day of the Dead

The District Manager informed the board that the grounds men are willing to work on Sunday, November 2nd, for Day of the Dead. Father Miguel will be giving mass on the cemetery grounds if given permission from the diocese. The District Manager has three vendors who reached out to him and will be attending that day. The District Manager knows someone who is willing to donate potter potties. There will be transportation for the public, like last year. Normally, there is no flower pickup in November due to the Day of the Dead. The board agreed to No flower pick up for the month of November.

Delinquent Accounts

A certified letter was mailed to Monica Tobias; her account is 90 days past due, and it is delinquent. Before going delinquent, she did call the office to notify them that she is temporarily on disability and unable to make the monthly payment. She turned in proof that she is on disability. The District Manager informed the board that he has given her until October 15th to start giving monthly payments. No action needed.

REPORTS

Manager's/Trustee's Reports: Burials: August Casketed: 27 Cremations: 9 Infants: 0
Disinterment: 0 Monthly Total: 36
YTD: 247 YTD Casketed: 176 YTD Cremations: 66 Infant YTD: 4 Disinterment YTD: 1

The District Manager informed the board that the vehicle on which the tree limb fell was reported to the district's insurance. The insurance company requested pictures of the damage done to the truck. The day before flower pick-up, the drive-in gates are left open. He was there late at night, visiting his mother because it was her birthday. He seems to have been very understanding about the whole incident. Also, on Monday, the district's attorney and the plaintiff's attorney will come out and investigate the ongoing gate lawsuit. The District Manager was advised by the district's attorney not to answer any questions, but to refer any questions to the district's attorney. Also, this week, the district lost an employee. A random drug screening was conducted, and he tested positive for marijuana. The District Manager stated that he was a very good employee, probably one of the best workers. Also, the District Manager has contacted temp agencies to help hire a temporary worker in the office. Lita San Pedro from the temp agency is helping and trying to look for someone suitable. The District Manager informed the board that he is not going to hire someone to replace the employee who was fired because the season is slowing down. Jesus Christ Lawn Service is doing a lot of the heavy maintenance. DADD has three workers who come out and help, and we have a really good community service worker as well, so we can manage without hiring. The District Manager asks the board, once the city connects the water, how would you want to finance the project? James Holman reached out to the District Manager, and he plans to set up a meeting with the board to start looking at finance options for the project. Alicia asks how it went with Lupe Rodriguez, whether the issue from the last board meeting was resolved, and whether he planted the tree. The District Manager states she has not come back into the office to complain and that he will plant the tree in early spring. Also, the gopher activity is increasing, so we will pay more attention to getting rid of the gophers.

Adjournment: Motion made by Susanna Valenzuela and seconded by George Chase that meeting be closed at 5:18 p.m. Motion passed. No Nays.

Minutes recorded by Connie Sandoval, Executive Assistant