

Kern County Cemetery District

Minutes for

August 20, 2026

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

Call to Order: Call to Order at 12:14 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: Lisa Mundis, District Manager; Denton Carender, Superintendent; Alicia Reveles, Secretary.

Visitors: None.

Public Comment: None.

Consent Calendar: The Minutes of the regular Board meeting for July 2026 were approved. The payroll warrants for 25/14 through 25/16 were approved. Vouchers, checks, and financial reports for July 2026 were approved. The receipt and filing of the reappointment of Trustee Jerry Ezell was 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 22 services in Shafter and 18 services in Wasco for July 2026. This gives us 40 services for the fiscal year to date. We are at a 28% cremation rate.
- Bid Opening for the Basin Improvement Project to take place August 21, 2026, with results and recommendations to be presented at September 17, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.
- Four electric golf carts were delivered, covered by grants. The Board instructed Superintendent Carender to send one non-operational electric cart to Cal-Turf for a lithium battery retrofit, with an estimated cost of \$3,200.
- While the City of Shafter completed a sand seal on a small section of Burbank Street, at the entrance to the cemetery, it is a temporary fix. The Board instructed District Manager Mundis to contact the City of Shafter Planning Commission regarding the future use and volume of truck traffic that will be using this route from the distribution centers to the south of the cemetery. Additionally, they wish to plan for the eventual need to install a gate across the entrance to the cemetery to prevent tractor trailers and similar trucks from using the cemetery entrance as a turnaround, as they have been. A traffic signal controlled intersection at the junction of Burbank and Highway 43 (Santa Fe Way) may be necessary, as well as a traffic study to determine volume of use.
- The Board was informed that families can now pay their pre-need contract payments online. Chairman Braun suggested that pre-need contracts be limited to residents of households within our taxpaying district boundaries. A policy change will need to be developed.
- The District received a President's Special Acknowledgement Award from the SDRMA for no property or liability claims for five years. Another certificate was awarded for no Worker's Compensation Claims for one year.

CAPC Honorary Membership Nomination of Eliza Caudillo

The District nominated Eliza Caudillo for Honorary Membership in the CAPC, which is offered to all retirees from CAPC affiliated cemetery agencies. This entitles her to continue to attend events hosted by the CAPC. She will be presented with the award at the CAPC Annual Conference in March 2027.

Trustee Ezell made the motion to nominate Eliza Caudillo. Trustee Olsen seconded the motion: 3 ayes, unanimous.

Residency Verification Requirements

As a public cemetery, we must only inter those who live within the District boundaries, non-resident boundary, or have a family member interred in either Shafter or Wasco Memorial Parks. Due to the increase in falsification of residency, Resolution 2026-2027 2 was adopted to empower District staff to request multiple forms of documentation to prove residency prior to services being provided.

The motion was made to adopt Resolution 2026-2027 2 by Trustee Ezell and seconded by Trustee Olsen: 3 ayes, unanimous.

New Policy on Balloon and Bird Release

To preserve the dignity, beauty, safety, and environmental integrity of the District's cemeteries, Resolution 2026-2027 3 was adopted to eliminate the release of balloons or birds from any service scheduled on cemetery property, and to eliminate any foil balloons from District properties.

The motion was made to adopt Resolution 2026-2027 3 by Trustee Olsen and seconded by Trustee Ezell: 3 ayes, unanimous.

Trustees' Comments

- Trustee Ezell: Commented on how good the grounds look and surprised by how many families are out visiting on a Sunday.
- Trustee Braun: Asked if the new chain barrier installed by the farmer on the orchard road between Wasco Memorial Park and the orchard to the east has reduced vehicle traffic, off road. Superintendent Carender reported a major reduction in vehicles entering illegally.
- Trustee Olsen: Congratulated Trustee Ezell on his reappointment to the Board for another term.

Report of Action Taken in Closed Session

The Board convened in Closed Session to confer with labor negotiators for staff. The Board approved a new Salary Schedule, Step Schedule and Criteria, and Evaluation Form, all to take effect August 22, 2026. Also approved is a new policy which covers all employees for a Short- and Long-term Disability Policy with Sun Life Insurance. The District Manager's contract was revised.

The motion was made to adopt the new Salary Schedule, Step Schedule and Criteria, Evaluation Form, Short- and Long-term Disability Policy, and District Manager contract revisions by Trustee Olsen and seconded by Trustee Ezell: 3 ayes, unanimous.

Adjournment

Chairman Braun adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2026.

Signed,

Lisa Mundis
District Manager