Kensington Community Services District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 8, 2026
Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707

6:00 p.m. (Special Meeting – Closed Session)

1. **Call to Order** [inaudible]

   President Sylvia Hacaj called the special meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. [inaudible]

2. **Roll Call** [inaudible]

   Present: Directors Alexandra Aquino-Fike, Adam Bastein, Sarah Gough, Sylvia Hacaj, Daniel Levine, Danielle Madugo, Rodney Paul, David Spath, and Jim Watt. Director Rick Artis was absent.

3. **Special Meeting Agenda Item Public Comments** [inaudible]

   None.

4. **Convene to Closed Session** [inaudible]

   The Board convened to closed session to discuss one item.

5. **Announcements from Closed Session** [TS 2:16]

   President Hacaj announced that the Board gave direction to staff and appointed Director Levine to the ad hoc committee to join her, Directors Paul, and Aquino-Fike related to the hiring of the new general manager.

7:00 p.m. (Regular Meeting)

1. **Call to Order** [TS inaudible]

   President Sylvia Hacaj called the regular meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. **Roll Call** [TS inaudible]

   Present: Directors Alexandra Aquino-Fike, Adam Bastein, Sarah Gough, Sylvia Hacaj, Daniel Levine, Danielle Madugo, Rodney Paul, and Jim Watt. Director Rick Artis was absent.

   Staff present: Interim General Manager (IGM) David Aranda, Kensington Community Services District (KCSD) Consultant Mary Morris-Mayorga, Chief of Police Mike Gancasz, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela, and Clerk of the Board Lynelle Lewis.

3. **President's Comments** [TS 1:40]

None.

4. **Public Comment** [TS 1:46]

- Addressing the Board was Linea Due who asked for a repeat of the closed session announcement.

Consent Calendar [TS 2:50]

- Director Levine made a motion, seconded by Director Paul, to adopt the Consent Calendar, carried by voice vote (8-0): (AYES) Directors Aquino-Fike, Bastein, Gough, Hacaj, Levine, Madugo, Paul, and Watt; (ABSENT) Director Artis.

7. Approved the KCSD regular meeting minutes of September 10, 2026.

8. Approved Kensington Community Services District bills paid and deposit summary for September 2026.

9. Approved the September 2026 financials.

10. Received the Treasurer's Quarterly Report for the Kensington Community Services District (July 2026 through September 2026).

Police and Fire Chief's Reports

11. **Commendations – Sergeant Brian Lande and Officer Jose Fajardo (oral)**. [TS 4:05]

Police Chief Gancasz presented Sergeant Brian Lande and Officer Jose Fajardo commendations for their response to an emergency radio broadcast reporting a shooting in a neighboring jurisdiction. He highlighted their swift actions, courage, composure, initiative, and decisive leadership under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. Chief Gancasz also recognized volunteers Mike Logan and Walt Gill who assisted the Albany Police Department during this year's Solano Stroll.

12. **Police Chief's Monthly Report**. [TS 12:03]

Police Chief Gancasz announced that the monthly report was submitted as part of the agenda packet. He highlighted the following: a) incidents; b) calls for service were down, while traffic stops rose 33%; c) 6 catalytic converter thefts; d) 144 staff training hours; e) October community events such as the Tri-City Safety Day, Kensington Park food truck event, Halloween Harvest Celebration, Kensington Parade, Coffee with the Cops events; f) DUI saturation patrol, and g) 25- 1/2 volunteer hours. He reported that Officer Fajardo was recently appointed to Contra Costa County's newly formed Child Death Protocol Incident Team. Chief Gancasz responded to questions from the Board related to information in the report.

In concluding, Chief Gancasz announced that the Police Chief of Albany sent a letter thanking KCSD volunteers Mike Logan and Walt Gill for their assistance at the Solano Stroll event.

13. **Fire Chief's Monthly Report**. [TS 20:19]

Battalion Chief Chase Beckman announced that the Fire Chief's Monthly Report was submitted as part of the agenda packet. Next, Director Levine presented Fire Service Activity Reports he developed showing January through September 2026 data as an example to improve future reports for the Board. He responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion about how the Fire Department would generate this report and Director Levine agreed to write code to generate a report from data received from the Fire Department.

Discussion and Action

14. **Discussion and Direction Regarding Zone 0 and Kensington Local Alternative Practices**. [TS 42:06]

Interim General Manager Aranda pointed out that the information presented is to obtain board direction on the following recommendations of the IGM: 1) Form an ad hoc committee to draft some clear direction on what local alternative practices the District wants to pursue; 2) The ad hoc committee meets with the Fire Chief to coordinate and reach agreement on what technical support he thinks is needed to support the alternative practices; 3) Hold Town Hall meetings for input from the community; and 4) Bring back to the Board for discussion, and at subsequent board meeting approve an ordinance incorporating the alternative practices into local law. He thanked Director Levine for volunteering to provide the first draft as a starting point. Following discussion, President Hacaj urged board members to provide input to the General Manager so that information can be updated the next meeting.

15. **Discussion about District Finances and Reserves**. [TS 49:51]

Interim General Manager Aranda commented that the Board discussed this subject a few months ago, but noted that Director Watt desired to share some thoughts regarding the District financial status. Director Watt reviewed calculations on the status of reserves and noted his concerns about unrestricted available cash for future capital improvement. He also expressed concern about the trend of expenses increasing faster than money taken in and the District's response over new few years. Director Watt said that KCSD needs to plan how to move forward in meeting our future obligations.

IGM Aranda said he would meet KCSD Consultant Mary Morris-Mayorga and Ridgeline to review the reserve fund data. President Hacaj said this item should come back to the Board upon completion of his findings.

16. **Discussion and direction regarding ADA parking at the Public Safety Building**. [TS 1:03:41]

IGM Aranda provided background information on this item. There was considerable discussion about the current ADA parking spot on Arlington and use of the ADA spot behind the Public Safety Building. Director Watt requested that the District conduct analysis on the viability of providing full ADA access on the Arlington to allow van use at this spot. He emphasized his desire to have an adequate handicap space so members can participate in meetings and have access to the PSB.

The Board's consensus was to direct IGM Aranda to: prepare a memo stating that the ADA spot in the upstairs bay at the PSB only be used for ADA parking and that all items in the bay that don't belong should be taken away; paint over the "do not enter" piece; and request a formal letter from Contra Costa County on their opinion of creating an ADA spot, whether it's perpendicular or parallel, on the Arlington.

17. **Discussion and Consensus of Extreme Fire Weather Approach by East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWCG)**. [TS 1:33:49]

Director Paul presented slides outlining EBWCG's proposed regional approach to extreme fire weather. He requested a Board resolution supporting ongoing regional planning for a coordinated Extreme Fire Weather Approach. After questions and answers, the Board reached consensus to support the effort and have Director Paul convey KCSD's support to EBWCG.

Reports & Director's Comments

18. **Emergency Preparedness Coordinator's Monthly Report**. [TS 1:45:31]

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela announced that the monthly report had been submitted as part of the agenda packet. He presented highlights from the report on the emergency preparedness workbook, watch duty presentation on September 14th, CERT program activities, Firewise progress, neighborhood preparedness, and mesh distributions.

19. **General Manager's Monthly Report**. [TS 1:50:16]

Interim General Manager Aranda announced that the monthly report had been submitted as part of the agenda packet. He said that data from the Clean-up Week Event would be provided next month.

20. **KCSD Consultant's Monthly Report**. [TS 1:53:07]

KCSD Consultant Mary Morris-Mayorga announced that the monthly report had been submitted as part of the agenda packet. She highlighted plans for email and data migration from the Kensington Fire Protection District to the Kensington Community Services District website.

21. **Directors' Comments**. [TS 1:54:52]

- President Hacaj thanked directors for their service.

- Director Levine commented on possible generation of board meeting transcripts and suggested a future agenda item on this topic.

Adjournment [TS 1:56:13]

President Hacaj adjourned the regular meeting at 9:07 p.m. She announced that the next regular meeting of the KCSD is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2026.

SUBMITTED BY:

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Lynelle M. Lewis, District Clerk of the Board

APPROVED: November 12, 2026

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David Aranda, Interim General Manager

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Sylvia Hacaj, President of the Board