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Kensington Community Services District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 2026
Kensington Community Center
59 Arlington Avenue, Kensington, CA 94707

6:00 p.m. (Special Meeting)

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

   President Sylvia Hacaj called the special meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

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

   Present: Directors Alexandra Aquino-Fike (arrived 6:13 p.m.), Rick Artis, Adam Bastein, Sarah Gough, Sylvia Hacaj, Daniel Levine, Danielle Madugo, Rodney Paul, David Spath, and Jim Watt.

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

   None.

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

   The Board convened to closed session at 6:08 p.m. to discuss two items.

   Announcement from closed session [TS 4:45]. President Hacaj announced that the Board gave direction to staff and the ad hoc committee as needed.

7:00 p.m. (Regular Meeting)

1. **Call to Order** [TS 4:54]

   President Sylvia Hacaj called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. **Roll Call** [TS 5:01]

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

   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 Valenzuea, and KCSD Consultant Raychel Jackson.

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3. **President's Comments** [TS 5:29]

President Hacaj announced that an urgent matter came to the Board's attention at the last minute, consequently it was not placed on the agenda. She pointed out that KCSD has been following a bill (AB 1383) along with the California Special District Association related to CalPERS pensions, and we determined that it would adversely impact the District if the bill passed. President Hacaj requested permission to send a letter to Governor Newsom on KCSD's behalf expressing opposition the bill.

4. **Public Comment** [TS 7:06]

None.

Consent Calendar [TS 7:48]

Director Watt pulled Item 8 to request clarification about an expenditure to SDRMA.

- Director Levine made a motion, seconded by Director Paul, to approve Consent Calendar Items 7 and 9, carried by unanimous voice vote (9-0): (AYES) Directors Aquino-Fike, Artis, Bastein, Gough, Hacaj, Levine, Madugo, Paul, and Watt.

- Director Madugo made a motion, seconded by Director Levine, to approve Consent Calendar Item 8, carried by unanimous voice vote (9-0): (AYES) Directors Aquino-Fike, Artis, Bastein, Gough, Hacaj, Levine, Madugo, Paul, and Watt.

7. Approved the KCSD regular meeting minutes of August 13 and the special meeting minutes of August 28, 2026.

8. Approved the KCSD deposit summary and bills paid for August 2026.

9. Approved the KCSD August 2026 financials.

Police and Fire Chief's Reports

10. **Police Chief's Monthly Report**. [TS 11:25]

Police Chief Mike Gancasz announced that the monthly report was submitted as part of the agenda packet. He highlighted some notable incidents and events as follows: a) Kensington Police Department (KPD) conducted the first DUI enforcement operation of the new grant cycle and the new grant funded vehicles were in service; b) officers conducted a domestic violence arrest and were the first responders to a homicide in El Cerrito; c) success of National Night

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Out events; d) KPD holds the only state-certified "red dot" firearms training in the state; e) Kensington Food Truck event at Kensington Park is scheduled for September 11th; f) Tri-City Community Event is scheduled for September 19th in El Cerrito; g) Coffee with the Cops event is scheduled for September 30th at Semi Freddy's Bakery; h) Solano Stroll in Albany is planned for September 13th and KPD volunteers have agreed to assist; i) KPD is testing "Barricade AI" software for report writing. Chief Gancasz responded to questions from the Board.

11. **Fire Chief's Monthly Report**. [TS 19:50]

President Hacaj suggested posting reminders in various KCSD communications encouraging residents to clear their gutters and trim foliage as the rainy season approaches. Next, Battalion Chief Joe Torres responded to questions from the Board regarding: a) incident response times inside and outside of Kensington; and b) operational insights on staffing levels (i.e., Captain, Engineer, and Firefighter/Paramedic). President Hacaj reminded board members to submit questions or specific comments about fire services to the IGM Aranda.

Discussion and Action

12. **Approve Resolution No. 2026-17— A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Kensington Community Services District Approving the Declaration of Surplus Property for the 2015 Ford Explorer Police Car and Authorization for Staff to Dispose or Donate the Vehicle**. [TS 27:50]

Chief of Police Mike Gancasz reported that based on the condition, age, and value of the vehicle, staff recommends that the Board declare the vehicle surplus property and authorize the General Manager and/or the Police Chief to dispose of the property through liquidation or donation to another public agency or nonprofit organization, consistent with District policy and state law.

- Director Levine made a motion, seconded by Director Artis, to adopt Resolution No. 2026-17— A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Kensington Community Services District Approving the Declaration of Surplus Property for the 2015 Ford Explorer Police Car and Authorization for Staff to Dispose or Donate the Vehicle, carried by unanimous voice vote (9-0): (AYES) Directors Aquino-Fike, Artis, Bastein, Gough, Hacaj, Levine, Madugo, Paul, and Watt.

13. **Approve Resolution No. 2026-18—A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Kensington Community Services District Approving the Form of and Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and Authorizing Participation in the Special District Risk Management Authority's (SDRMA) Health Benefits Program.** [TS 30:33]

Interim General Manager reported that this administrative action relates to dental, vision and life insurance benefits for police officers that we pay into SDRMA's pool.

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- Director Gough made a motion, seconded by Director Madugo, to approve Resolution No. 2026-18—A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Kensington Community Services District Approving the Form of and Authorizing the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and Authorizing Participation in the SDRMA's Health Benefits Program, carried by voice vote (9-0): (AYES) Directors Aquino-Fike, Artis, Bastein, Hacaj, Gough, Levine, Madugo, Paul, and Watt.

14. **Approve Hazardous Vegetation Removal Reimbursement for Projects #31857 and #25130 in the combined total amount of $4,200**. [TS 33:40]

IGM Aranda presented information on the recommended action. Significant discussion focused on vegetation removal and new state laws regarding "Zone Zero". Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela clarified that the grant was for hazardous vegetation removal.

– Addressing the Board was Cassandra Duggan who suggested that further discussion is needed on the vegetation removal issue.

- Director Madugo made a motion, seconded by Director Paul, to approve the hazardous vegetation removal reimbursement for projects #31857 and #25130 in the combined total amount of $4,200, carried by voice vote (8-0-1): (AYES) Directors Aquino-Fike, Artis, Bastein, Hacaj, Levine, Madugo, Paul, and Watt; (Noes) None; and (ABSTAIN) Gough.

15. **Discussion of licensing agreement with the City of El Cerrito in housing the police station modular unit**. [TS 55:25]

Director Jim Watt expressed concerns about the licensing agreement with El Cerrito and offered suggested changes. Significant discussion ensued about the long-term stability of the police station's current modular facility in El Cerrito and the need for a permanent location for the KPD.

– Addressing the Board was Cassandra Duggan who commented that many residents want the police housed in Kensington.

Reports & Director's Comments

16. **Emergency Preparedness Coordinator's Monthly Report**. [TS 1:10:34]

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Johnny Valenzuela announced that the monthly report had been submitted as part of the agenda packet. He highlighted the following: a) Watch Duty Zoom presentation to demonstrate their app would be held on Monday, September 14th at 6:30 p.m.; b) Community Chipping Days were completed for the Maybeck Firewise and Edgecroft Firewise areas; and c) El Cerrito-Kensington CERT will host an engaging preparedness and social activity event called, "Go-Bag Bingo: What's Really in Your Bag?" on October 6th at 6:30 p.m. at the Kensington Community Center; and d) He received notification from Wildfire Defense Mesh that our first set of mesh had been fabricated and is being packaged for shipment.

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17. **General Manager's Monthly Report**. [TS 1:14:40]

Interim General Manager Aranda announced that the monthly report had been submitted as part of the agenda packet. He pointed out that "Cleanup Week" (Sept 21st – 25th) and secure shredding day (Oct 24th) events have been promoted via social media and the website. He noted that the last Food Truck in Kensington Park event would be held September 11th. Lastly, he commented on efforts to transition former Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) documents and KFPD emails to the KCSD website, and the ongoing IT project at the Public Safety Building.

18. **KCSD Consultant's Monthly Report**. [TS 1:18:34]

KCSD Consultant Mary Morris-Mayorga announced that the monthly report had been submitted as part of the agenda packet. She reported on continuing communication with IGM Aranda on a variety of District transition activities. She highlighted discussions regarding the eucalyptus trees under the hazardous mitigation program and on work with the IT team on the transition of emails and files of the KFPD to the KCSD.

19. **Directors' Comments**.

None.

Adjournment [TS 1:23:04]

President Hacaj adjourned the regular meeting at 8:22 p.m. She announced that the next regular meeting of the KCSD is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2026.

SUBMITTED BY:

DocuSigned by:
Lynelle M. Lewis
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Lynelle M. Lewis, District Clerk of the Board

APPROVED: October 8, 2026

Signed by:
David Aranda
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David Aranda, Interim General Manager

DocuSigned by:
Sylvia Hacaj
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Sylvia Hacaj, President of the Board

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