



# North of the River Recreation & Park District

## NORTH OF THE RIVER RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING 3825 RIVERLAKES DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312 MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026, 4:30 P.M.

DISCLAIMER: This agenda includes proposed actions and activities with respect to each agenda item, as of the date of posting. As such, it does not preclude the Board from taking other actions on any item on the agenda that is different or in addition to what may have been recommended.

**1. CALL TO ORDER: BOARD MEETING CONVENED BY CHAIRPERSON JENIFER VANALSTEIN AT 4:36 P.M.**

**2. ROLL CALL: BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jenifer VanAlstein; Bob Smith; Ryan Skidmore; Garrison Moratto; Jeff Chudy

**BOARD CLERK PRESENT**

Janett Miller

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**STAFF PRESENT**

Bret Haney; Allison Bryant; Sarah Plank; Esther Grijalva; Steph Thisius; Christy Woolfolk; Isaiah Lopez; Jasmine LoBasso; Lauren Cronk; Mike Evans

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

Jacob Thomasy

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

Jason List; Jeffrey Land from Isom Advisors

Via zoom: Chay Thao; Brad Dawson from San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

**3. NOTICE OF MEETING BEING TAPED, FILMED, STREAMED OR BROADCASTED**

Please be aware that a recording and broadcasting of tonight's meeting is being made and may capture images and/or sounds of those attending tonight's meeting.

**4. FLAG SALUTE:** The flag salute was led by Bob Smith at 4:36 P.M.

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Items requiring attention after the agenda is posted may be added to the agenda with 2/3 majority approval of the Board. Items to be added will be made available to the public at the meeting.

**Motion:** Skidmore **Second:** Smith **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy

**Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

**6. NOR COMMUNITY CHAMPION**

There is no Community Champion for the month of April.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The North of the River Recreation and Park District Board of Directors may take official action only on items included in the posted agenda. Items addressed during the Public Comment section are generally matters not included on the agenda and, therefore, the Board will not take action at this scheduled meeting. Such items, however, may be added to a future meeting's agenda. Members of the public may address the Board on items included on the agenda in the order that the items appear. Speakers are limited to two minutes. Please state your name before making your presentation. Thank you!

No comments

## 8. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are deemed routine in nature. Information concerning these items has been forwarded to each Board Member prior to this meeting for their study. The Consent Agenda is acted upon in one motion unless members of the Board, staff, or public request discussion and/or removal of an item.

### A. Posting of Agenda

Approval of Secretary Declaration of Posting of Agenda 72 Hours in Advance of Meeting

### B. Minutes

Approval of Minutes from the Board of Directors' Regular Meeting Held March 23, 2026

### C. Financial

Approval of Receipt of Bills and Invoices

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve Consent Agenda

**Motion:** Smith **Second:** Moratto **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

## 9. BOARD BUSINESS

### A. Agreement for Afterschool Summer Aquatics Program for Standard School District, Resolution #14-26

Director of Recreation Lauren Cronk requested Board approval of an agreement with Standard School District to provide aquatics programming for the Summer Camp program during the 2025-2026 school year. Standard School District will manage all required waivers and provide sixty aquatics sessions for students in 1st through 7th grade. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, THE BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #14-26 APPROVING THE AGREEMENT WITH STANDARD SCHOOL DISTRICT.

**Motion:** Moratto **Second:** Skidmore **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

### B. Agreement for Afterschool Jr Theatre Programming for Rosedale Union School District During the 2026-2027 School Year, Resolution #15-26

Director of Recreation Lauren Cronk requested Board approval of an agreement with Rosedale Union School District to provide Afterschool Jr. Theatre Programming through ELOP during the 2026-2027 school year. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, THE BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #15-26 APPROVING THE AGREEMENT WITH ROSEDALE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT.

**Motion:** Smith **Second:** Moratto **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

**C. Agreement with San Joaquin Unified Valley Air Pollution Control District (“SJUVAPCD”) to install air monitoring equipment at Standard Park, Resolution #16-26**

General Manager Bret Haney requested Board approval of an agreement with the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJUVAPCD) for the installation of air monitoring equipment at Standard Park. The equipment will not interfere with normal park operations, and SJUVAPCD will reimburse all electrical costs associated with the equipment. The agreement includes a mutual sixty-day cancellation notice and is for a one-year term with automatic renewal provisions. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, THE BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #16-26 APPROVING THE AGREEMENT WITH SAN JOAQUIN UNIFIED VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT FOR INSTALLATION OF AIR MONITORING EQUIPMENT AT STANDARD PARK.

**Motion:** Smith **Second:** Skidmore **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

**D. Creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee for Discussion and Direction Regarding Austin Creek Park, Resolution #17-26**

General Manager Bret Haney requested Board approval of Resolution #17-26 appointing two Board members to serve as representatives on the Ad-hoc committee for Austing Creek Park. The committee was established to assist with discussions regarding the completion of phase I of the park project. Appointed Board members will provide updates and report to the full Board during regular scheduled Board meeting. Director Skidmore nominated Director VanAlstein, and Director Smith nominated Director Moratto. Both nominees accepted the appointments. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION AND VOTE, THE BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #17-26 APPOINTING DIRECTOR VANALSTEIN AND DIRECTOR MORATTO AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE FOR AUSTING CREEK PARK.

**Motion:** Skidmore **Second:** Smith **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

**E. Approval of Final Resolution to Amend CalPERS Pension Contract to Include Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act Language, Resolution #18-26**

Director of Finance Allison Bryant and Sarah Plank requested Board approval of final Resolution #18-26 approving the Resolution of Intention to amend the CalPERS Pension contract to include Public Employees’ Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) language. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, THE BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #18-26 AMENDING CALPERS PESION CONTRACT TO INCLUDE PREPRA LANGUAGE.

**Motion:** Smith **Second:** Moratto **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

**F. Approve Proposed Revisions to the Scholarship Program, Policy #9-302, Resolution #19-26**

Director of Community Relations Jasmin LoBasso requested Board approval of final Resolution #19-26 approving the proposed revision to the policy #9-302 including eligibility requirements, scholarships funded by North of the River Recreation Foundation, scholarships application, and

program applicability and selection. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, THE BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #19-26 APPROVING PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM POLICY #9-302.

**Motion:** Moratto **Second:** Smith **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

**G. Discussion and Direction Regarding the California Consumer Price Index Adjustment to the Chevron North Meadows Maintenance District for Fiscal Year 2026-2027**

The North Meadows Assessments engineer's report prepared in 2005 included language to facilitate adjustments made after FY 2006-2007 based on the California Consumer Price Index (CPI). Staff have received information that the current CPI for FY 2026-2027 will increase by 2.9%. Staff recommend applying the current CPI due to the volatile state of the current economy as cost for labor, supplies and equipment continue to increase due to inflation. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, THE BOARD GAVE DIRECTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH RECOMMENDATION.

**H. Discussion and Direction Regarding the California Consumer Price Index Adjustment to the NOR Park Maintenance District for Fiscal Year 2026-2027**

The NOR Park Maintenance District Assessments engineer's report prepared in 2006 includes language to facilitate adjustments based on the California Consumer Price Index (CPI). The NOR Park Maintenance District budget was established to set aside funds to assist with major maintenance costs created by new development with the District. Staff have received information that the CPI for FY 2026-2027 will increase by 2.9%. Staff recommend a 2.9% increase for the NOR Maintenance District assessments. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, BOARD GAVE DIRECTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH RECOMMENDATION.

**I. Presentation by Isom Advisors**

Representatives from Isom Advisors presented the results of the community survey regarding a potential bond measure to the Board and staff. Jason List reviewed the survey findings, noting that the District does not face significant underlying community negativity; however, the community remains cautious regarding tax increases. Survey results indicated approximately 71% community support for a proposed \$12 tax rate. Mr. List discussed the option of pursuing a bond election with a \$12 tax rate and advised that, should the Board choose to proceed, a bond resolution would need to be adopted by August in order to qualify for the November ballot. Mr. List also reviewed the bond sale process, financial considerations associated with a bond measure, and potential campaign strategies. The Board requested additional information, including a project priority list, estimated campaign costs, and follow-up from staff regarding any additional timelines required by the County.

**J. Presentation by MIG, Inc.**

This item was removed from the agenda following the posting of the agenda.

**10. STAFF REPORTS**

**A. General Manager**

General Manager Bret Haney welcomed the District's new Director of Finance, Sarah Plank. Ms. Plank stated that she is looking forward to serving both the Board and the community. Mr. Haney also distributed and reviewed the Austin Creek Park project timeline with the Board. Reporting that the streets and gutters construction is expected to take approximately one year to complete,

with completion anticipated by March 1, 2028. Mr. Haney further noted that the park project must be shovel-ready by March 1, 2029, with construction scheduled to begin on March 1, 2030. Mr. Haney also informed the Board that NOR is expected to complete the zone change process by the end of the current fiscal year in June, after which the annexation process will begin. In addition, Mr. Haney stated that he will follow up with Mr. Batey regarding the agricultural timeline associated with the project. The Board requested to see a timeline for Standard Park and staff will have one ready for them by June's Regular Board meeting.

**B. Capital Improvement Projects**

Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius provided the Board with updates on the Marcona Preserve, Mission Lakes, and North King Ranch park projects. Ms. Thisius reported that the Marcona Preserve project is progressing as planned, with a plant inspection scheduled. She also noted that Lennar is continuing to move forward with the project while working with different landscape architects. Additionally, Ms. Thisius informed the Board that the Palm Crossing Park site developer is consulting with electrical engineers regarding certain construction elements of the project. The Board inquired whether staff could establish a deadline for receipt of the third-party insurance documentation related to the NOR Pool project. Staff indicated that they would meet with legal counsel regarding the matter. Mr. Chudy and the Director of Operations and Maintenance will also schedule a walkthrough of Polo Park.

**C. Financial**

Director of Finance Allison Bryant and Sarah Plank reported that the financial report was included in the Board's digital packet for review. Mr. Haney added that the budget will be reviewed in June and finalized in July.

**D. Personnel**

Director of Human Resources Esther Grijalva reported on the Employers' Training Resource job fair for trades, which the Human Resources Department was invited to attend. Ms. Grijalva stated that it was encouraging to hear the positive recognition and familiarity attendees had with the District. Ms. Grijalva also informed the Board that NOR will host the annual Employee Appreciation BBQ on May 6, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. At the request of the Board, Ms. Grijalva researched the On-the-Job Training Program offered through Employers' Training Resource. She explained that the program requires participating agencies to hire new employees with no prior experience, with Employers' Training Resource covering 50% of the employee's wages. She further noted that the positions must be full-time. Ms. Grijalva stated that, due to NOR being a smaller organization and the District's operational need for experienced employees, staff determined not to move forward with participation in the program. Lastly, Ms. Grijalva reported that SB 827 requires Fiscal and Financial Training for Board Members. General Manager Bret Haney will provide the Board with training information through CSDA via email.

**E. Parks Division**

Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Evans reported that the Easter holiday period was successful across all parks. He noted an increase in vandalism incidents while local schools are still in session. Mr. Evans also reported the completion of parking lot repairs and seal coating at Polo Park, as well as the tree trimming project at Fruitvale Norris. Mr. Evans further stated that the Maintenance Department serviced all air conditioning units and ice machines at all community centers. In addition, he provided an update on the department's tree trimming plan and reported that staff have begun surveying community center needs in preparation for the next fiscal year project plan.

**F. Recreation**

Director of Recreation Lauren Cronk highlighted participant counts for the new primary soccer program, which included 49 participants. She also reported the success of two Easter egg hunts, as well as the April 15, 2026 grant-funded Water Safety Day for Neighborhood Place and Co-Op program participants. Ms. Cronk further reported that open registration for the aquatics program will begin on May 1. In addition, she noted that the Recreation Department conducted a tour of the Boys and Girls Club facility.

**G. Community Relations**

Director of Community Relations Jasmin LoBasso reported an increase in the District’s social media presence, including the launch of a TikTok platform. She also noted that the Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued. Ms. LoBasso provided a presentation of the summer fund book and reported that NOR has been nominated for the Beautiful Bakersfield Award.

**H. Training**

Reports Received and Filed.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE**

No Correspondence was received in April

**12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Opportunity for the Board to comment on items not listed on the agenda

**BOB SMITH-** no comment

**GARRISON MORATTO-** no comment

**RYAN SKIDMORE-** no comment

**JENIFER VANALSTEIN-** requested that staff explore potential funding options, including the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) and return to the Board with finding and recommendations.

**JEFF CHUDY-** no comment

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m. to the next meeting of the Board of Directors of North of the River Recreation and Park District scheduled on May 18, 2026, 4:30 p.m. at the Riverlakes Ranch Community Center and District Administrative Complex.

Minutes to be approved at Board

Meeting held on May 18, 2026



[Bret Haney \(May 21, 2026 10:39:22 PDT\)](#)

Bret Haney, General Manager



Janett Miller, Clerk of the Board



[Jenifer VanAlstein \(May 21, 2026 10:35:46 PDT\)](#)

Jenifer VanAlstein, Chairperson

# 8B 04-20 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-05-21

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|-----------------|---|
| Created:        | 2026-05-21                                    |
| By:             | Janett Miller (jmiller@norrecreation.org)     |
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