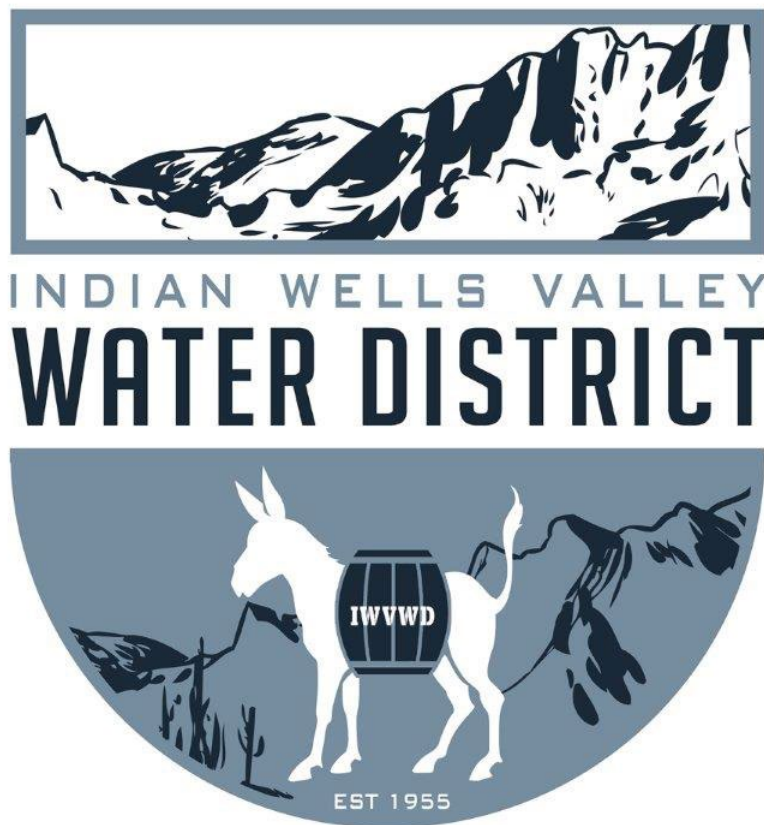


INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting



September 14 2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026
CLOSED SESSION - 4:30 P.M.
OPEN SESSION - 6:00 P.M.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' HEARING ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

All District meetings are streamed live through Zoom	
Join Zoom Meeting at: https://zoom.us/j/9649549487 Meeting ID: 964 954 9487	One tap mobile: 669-900-9128, 9649549487# US (San Jose) 669-444-9171, 9649549487# US Dial by your location: 669-900-9128 US (San Jose) 669-444-9171 US 253-215-8782 US (Tacoma)

(In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Isabel Tejeda at (760) 384-5502. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting. Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, any materials relating to an open session item on this agenda, distributed to the Board of Directors after the distribution of the agenda packet, will be made available for public inspection at the time of distribution at the following location: Indian Wells Valley Water District, 500 W. Ridgcrest Blvd., Ridgcrest, CA.)

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Posting of Agenda Declaration
5. Conflict of Interest Declaration
6. Public Questions and Comments on Closed Session
7. Closed Session
 - A. Potential Litigation
 - Conference with Legal Counsel
 - 1 Matter
 - (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)(4))

- B. Existing Litigation
Conference with Legal Counsel
Mojave Pistachios, LLC v Indian Wells Valley Water District, et al.
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))
- C. Real Property Negotiations
District Negotiators: Renee Morquecho and Jim Worth
Landowner Negotiator: Gary Arnold, Esq.
Property Description: Little Lake Ranch, Inc.
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)
- D. Real Property Negotiations
District Negotiators: Renee Morquecho and Jim Worth
Property Description: Grant Airport
APN: 033-490-03
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)
- E. Real Property Negotiations
District Negotiators: Renee Morquecho and Jim Worth
Property Description: Stine Ranch
APN: 033-060-20 & APN: 033-060-21
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)
- F. Real Property Negotiations
District Negotiators: Renee Morquecho and Jim Worth
Property Description: Butterworth Ranch
APN: 033-110-12 & APN: 033-110-19
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)
- G. Conference with Labor Negotiators
District Representatives: Renee Morquecho and Jim Worth
Employee Organizations: Exempt and Non-Exempt
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6)
- 8. Public Questions and Comments
(This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons desiring to address the Board on any matter not on the agenda and over which the Board has jurisdiction. However, no action may be taken by the Board of Directors on any item not appearing on the agenda. Non-agenda speakers are asked to limit their presentation to five minutes. Public questions and comments on items listed on the agenda will be accepted at any time the item is brought forth for consideration by the Board. When you are recognized by the chairperson, please state your name for the record.)
- 9. Current Business/Committee Reports
 - A. Consent Calendar
Description: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes and Accounts Payable Disbursements.

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - i. August 10, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.
 2. Approval of Accounts Payable Disbursements.
- B. October Board Meeting Date
Description: Board to discuss October Board meeting date due to Regular Board meeting date falling on a holiday.
- C. Administration / Executive Committee
1. Stark Street Consolidation
Description: Committee to review resolution authorizing General Manager to apply for funds and enter into an agreement with the State on behalf of the Board.
Committee Recommendation: The Committee recommended the Board approve the resolution as presented by staff.
- D. Finance Committee
1. Credit Card Fees
Description: Options on mitigating credit card fee cost increases.
Committee Recommendation: The Committee recommends taking the item to the Board for further discussion.
- E. Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication
Description: Report and discussion regarding the status of the Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication.
- F. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
Description: Report and discussion regarding meetings of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA). Including, Board discussion and consideration of issues of importance requiring action by the IWVGA. Next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2026.
- G. General Manager Update (The Board will consider and may act on the following items):
Description: Water District Business
1. Significant WD events, service outages, emergencies etc.
 2. Pertinent Legislative Updates
 3. Personnel safety and injury reports
- H. Engineering/Water Supply Update (The Board will consider and may act on the following items):
Description: Engineering updates
1. Update on District consolidations
 - i. Inyokern CSD
 - ii. Rademacher Way/Gordon St.
 - iii. Dune 3 Mutual Water Company
 - iv. Stark Street Water System
 2. Update on Special Project Grant Funding
 - i. Potential Storm Water Project

- i. Potential Storm Water Project
 - ii. Additional Capital Projects
 - 3. Water Supply Department
- I. Financial Update (The Board will consider and may act on the following items):
Description: Report on the District's current financial status
 - 1. Year to date water use
 - 2. Financial Reports and status
 - 3. Water Smart notifications
 - 4. Turn-off/Turn on monthly data
- J. Operations Update (The Board will consider and may act on the following items):
Description: Update on Operations
 - 1. Valve exercising
 - 2. Utility marking data (USA North and South)
 - 3. NO-DES Flushing
 - 4. After Hours Calls
 - 5. Service Lateral Repairs
 - 6. Lateral Replacements
 - 7. Hydrants Repairs / Replacements
 - 8. Mainline Repairs
- 10. Board Comments/Future Agenda Items.
- 11. Date of next Regular Board meeting: **October 2026.**
- 12. Adjournment.



INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ronald R. Kicinski, President
David C. H. Saint-Amand, Vice President
Mallory J. Boyd
Charles D. Griffin
Stanley G. Rajtora

George D. Croll
General Manager
Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated
Engineers
McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth & St. Lawrence
Attorneys-at-Law

2026 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (GRIFFIN/KICINSKI)

Personnel, Legal Matters, General Plan, Community Relations, Board Meeting Agendas, Ordinances, Rules, Regulations, Policies, Procedures, Customer Service, Variances, Director's Manual. Groundwater Sustainability Act, Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, Water Management, Water Policy, Conservation, Alternative sources for water supply including Blending, Importation, Reuse, etc.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (KICINSKI/BOYD)

Rates, Cost-of-Service, Budget, Audits, Cost Allocation, Investments, Financial Services, Insurance, Loans/Grants, Water Sales & Service Policy Manual, Accounting, Assessment Districts, Billing, etc.

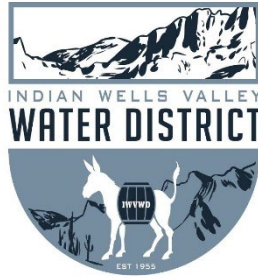
PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE (RAJTORA/ SAINT-AMAND)

Transmission/Distribution System, Vehicles & Equipment, Wells, Reservoirs, Real Property Management, and Telemetry, Water Quality, Urban Water Management Plan, CalWEP, Title 22 Compliance, etc.

Committee Meetings are generally scheduled on a regular day and time.
Committee Meetings are subject to change.

Plant & Equipment
Finance
Administration/Executive

Monday before the Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday before the Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday before the Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.



Committee Reports

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

REPORT

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 – 3:00 PM
BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

ATTENDEES: Ron Kicinski, Mallory Boyd, Renee Morquecho, Ty Staheli, John Svika, and Justin Thompson

1. Call to Order

The Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Committee/Public Comments

The Committee heard comment for the Ground Water Authority General Manager.

3. Fraud Risk Discussion

Description: Discuss potential or actual fraud risks within the organization.

The District has scheduled the final 2026 Audit for the end of October.

4. Credit Card Fees

Description: Options on mitigating credit card fee cost increases

Over the last few years, payment processing costs have increase from an average of \$60,000 per year to \$250,000 per year. We have seen an industry-wide movement to push some of these fees to the customer.

Our payment processor provides a Revenue Neutral option that removes the District from the collection and payment of these credit/debit card processing fees. The cost to the customer, if choosing to pay by credit or debit card, is the greater of \$3.00 or 3.5% of the payment.

Cash, check, Electronic check, ACH, and bank BillPay payments would continue to be accepted at no cost to the customer.

Anticipated savings to the District from this action would approximate \$110,000.

Committee recommends bringing the item to the Board.

5. Second Quarter 2026 Investment Reports

Description: Presentation to Committee of the quarterly investment earnings of the District's reserves in the Kern County Treasury and the State Treasury's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT QUARTER ENDING JUNE 2026

INVESTMENTS	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Cash in Bank	\$ 3,922,484	0	
Local Agency Investment Fund	365,376		
Kern County Treasurer	7,528,864	155,194	
BNY Mellon 2024 Bond Project Fund		2,843,135	
Total Water District Investments	\$ 11,816,723	\$ 2,998,328	\$ 14,815,052

RESERVES	DISTRICT DESIGNATED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Capital Improvements & Replacements (Committed)	\$ 782,890		
Vehicle Replacement (Assigned)	355,545		
Computer Equipment Replacement (Assigned)	100,700		
Emergency Reserve (Committed)	3,542,983		
Alternate Water Supply/Future Source of Supply (Assigned)	2,372,045		
Miscellaneous Capital (Assigned for projects postponed)	21,338		
Customer Deposits & Credits (Nonspendable)	279,282		
Prepaid Connection Fees (Nonspendable)	391,006		
Post-Retirement Health Benefits - Kern County (Assigned)	353,363		
Emergency Reserve (Uncommitted)	3,617,572		
AD 87-1 Reserve Funds		80,546	
2024 Bond Project Funds		2,843,135	
Capital Facility Fees		74,647	
Total Water District Reserves	\$ 11,816,723	\$ 2,998,328	\$ 14,815,052

In the event of an emergency, the District may be required to use any or all unrestricted funds in Mission Bank, Kern County Treasury and LAIF

6. Financial Statements June 30, 2026 (preliminary)

Description: Presentation to Committee financial report depicting preliminary revenue and expense of the previous fiscal year.

Estimated year-to-date revenues as of June 30, 2026, are \$20,537,353 and expenses are \$1,774,378, therefore revenues exceeded expenditures by \$1,774,378, which is better than budget by \$1,181,640. Additional year-entries have yet to be made that will impact the net revenue.

Staff presented the following spreadsheet, which compares June year-to-date actual to budgeted revenues and expenses by category:

Indian Wells Valley Water District
Revenues vs. Expense
Actuals & Budget through June 2026 (Preliminary)

	FY2026 Budget	Actuals	Δ
Revenues			
Total Water Sales	14,939,300	15,343,205	403,905
GSA Fees	3,377,580	3,564,922	187,342
Total Water Service Revenue	375,900	434,498	58,598
Total Non-Operating Income	172,400	482,726	310,326
Capital Contributions	1,594,372	712,002	-882,370
Total Revenues	20,459,552	20,537,353	77,801
Expenses			
Water Supply	1,907,557	1,731,547	-176,010
Arsenic Treatment Plants	462,519	189,842	-272,677
Transmission & Distribution	1,898,115	1,552,712	-345,403
Engineering	696,189	689,213	-6,976
Customer Service	566,939	470,896	-96,043
Field Services	600,408	597,277	-3,131
General & Administration	3,169,078	2,939,251	-229,827
Legal	1,500,000	2,098,617	598,617
Legislative	107,100	117,060	9,960
Depreciation	3,300,000	3,300,000	0
Non-Operating, Interest	1,674,379	1,746,104	71,725
Non-Operating, Miscellaneous	437,500	467,294	29,794
GSA Fees	3,420,830	2,806,107	-614,723
Non-Operating, Conservation	34,200	15,594	-18,606
Non-Operating, Alternate Water	92,000	41,459	-50,541
Total Expenses	19,866,814	18,762,975	-1,103,839
Net Revenue Increase (Decrease)	592,738	1,774,378	1,181,640
Capital Expenditures		2,927,989	
-Bond or Grant Funded		2,170,063	
Debt Service Principle		1,235,611	
Total GSA Extraction Fee Paid		3,942,611	
Total GSA Replenishment Fee Paid		16,360,688	
		20,303,299	

7. Financial Statements August 31, 2026 (preliminary)

Description: Presentation to Committee financial reports and graphs depicting current revenue and expense trends compared to budget and previous fiscal year actuals.

Estimated year-to-date revenues as of August 31, 2026, are \$2,562,261 and expenses are \$2,268,010, therefore revenues exceeded expenditures by \$294,251, which is better than budget by \$840,589.

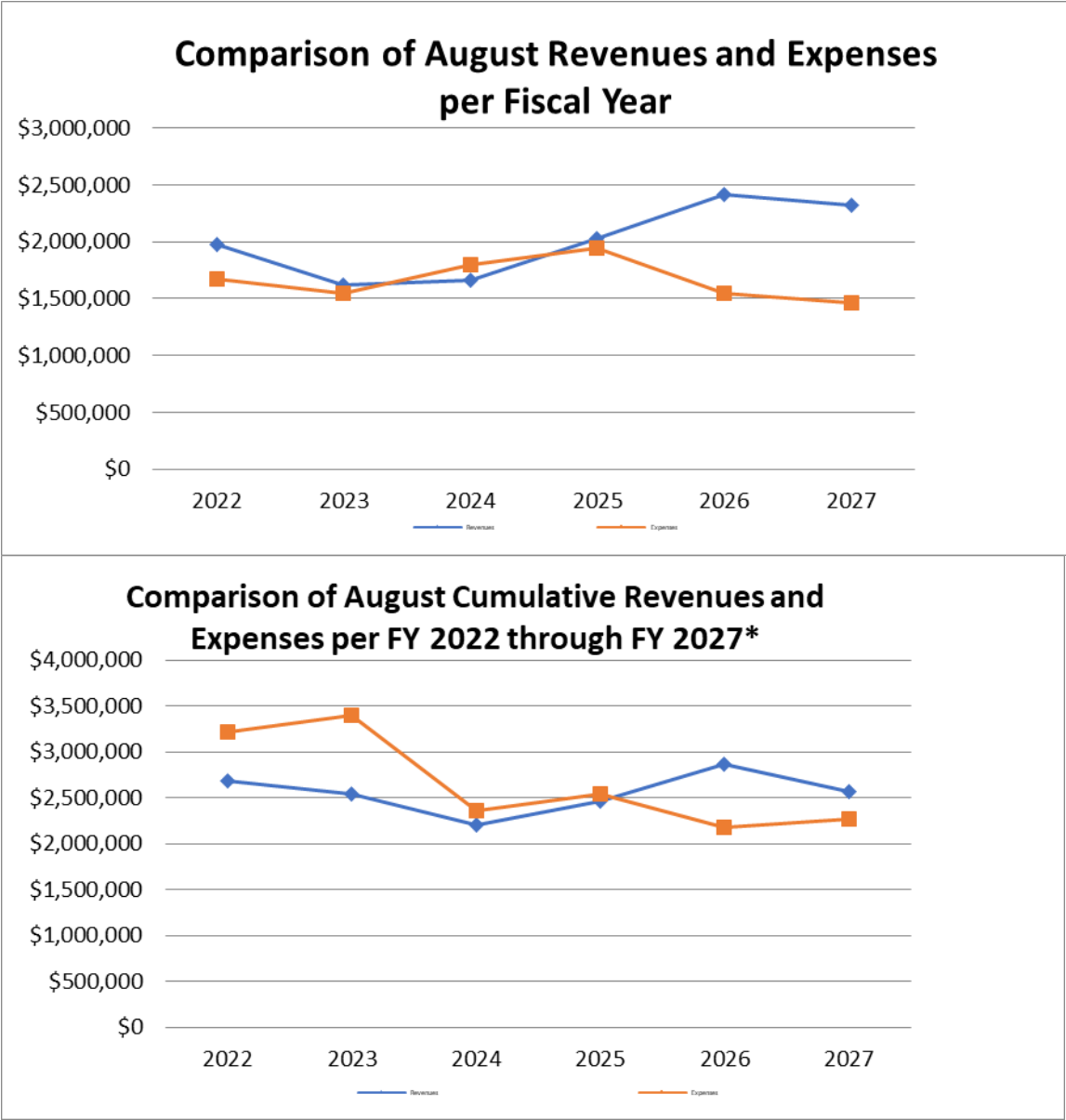
To date, the District rate payers have paid the Groundwater Authority \$20,791,956 in fees.

Staff presented the following spreadsheet, which compares August year-to-date actual to budgeted revenues and expenses by category:

Indian Wells Valley Water District Revenues vs. Expense Actuals & Budget through August 2026 (Preliminary)

	2027 Budget	YTD Budget	Actuals	Δ
Revenues				
Total Water Sales	16,464,300	2,024,871	1,771,218	-253,653
GSA Fees	2,962,200	452,471	576,353	123,882
Total Water Service Revenue	410,900	57,731	66,183	8,452
Total Non-Operating Income	591,000	83,036	27,108	-55,928
Capital Contributions	215,000	30,208	121,399	91,192
Total Revenues	20,643,400	2,648,316	2,562,261	-86,055
Expenses				
Water Supply	2,040,696	323,450	170,613	-152,837
Arsenic Treatment Plants	413,231	65,497	39,777	-25,720
Transmission & Distribution	1,929,167	305,773	156,322	-149,451
Engineering	615,404	97,542	91,131	-6,410
Customer Service	652,104	103,358	52,496	-50,863
Field Services	696,494	110,394	42,492	-67,902
General & Administration	3,750,556	594,463	358,588	-235,875
Legal	1,680,000	266,280	87,436	-178,844
Legislative	125,900	19,955	17,666	-2,289
Depreciation	3,300,000	550,000	550,000	0
Non-Operating, Interest	1,614,366	177,864	177,605	-259
Non-Operating, Miscellaneous	497,500	78,854	22,225	-56,629
GSA Fees	3,166,617	488,354	488,657	304
Non-Operating, Conservation	34,200	5,421	0	-5,421
Non-Operating, Alternate Water	47,000	7,450	13,000	5,551
Total Expenses	20,563,235	3,194,655	2,268,010	-926,645
Net Revenue Increase (Decrease)	80,165	-546,339	294,251	840,589
Capital Expenditures				
-Bond or Grant Funded			295,526	162,230

Debt Service Principle	168,992
Total GSA Extraction Fee Paid	4,008,303
Total GSA Replenishment Fee Paid	16,783,654
	20,791,956



**Actual Revenues and Expenses are Estimated*

8. Accounts Payable Disbursements

Description: Presentation to Committee of Accounts Payable Disbursements reports for Board approval.

The Committee reviewed the accounts payable disbursements totaling \$1,339,365.58 as follows:

Checks through	8/13/2026	8/27/2026
Prepaid	53,989.51	58,399.60
Current	449,089.57	777,886.90
Total	503,079.08	836,286.50

9. Future Agenda Items

Unanticipated Use Claim Program

10. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 3:35 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2026

3:00 PM

BOARDROOM OR [ZOOM ROOM](#)

500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

ATTENDEES: Ron Kicinski, Chuck Griffin, Renee Morquecho, Ty Staheli, John Svika, Justin Thompson
and Isabel Tejada

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM

2. Committee/Public Comments

The Committee heard comments from April Keigwin and Renee Westa-Lusk.

3. Outstanding Public Record Requests (PRR).

None.

4. Water Resources Development Act Funding Status

George Croll gave an update on WRDA funding and informed the committee he will have a more in-depth presentation ready for the Regular Board Meeting.

5. Stark Street Consolidation Resolution

Renee Morquecho explained to the Committee that the District's grant manager for the Stark Street Consolidation recommended the Board approve a resolution that authorizes the General Manager to request and apply for funding on behalf of the District for the construction phase of the project. Passing the resolution is the first step in the process. Dr. Morquecho explained that the resolution is the same resolution that was passed for the Dune 3 consolidation. The Committee recommends the Board approve the resolution as presented by staff.

6. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Renee Morquecho attended the IWVGA meeting and reported they reviewed their 2027 budget that will go back to the GA Board in October. There was also a discussion about the District and the IWVGA working together to re-establish a program that grants relief to customers who have had high bills as a result of a leak.

7. Draft Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of September 14, 2026

The Committee reviewed the Agenda and discussed minor updates with staff. The Committee approved the Agenda with the minor updates.

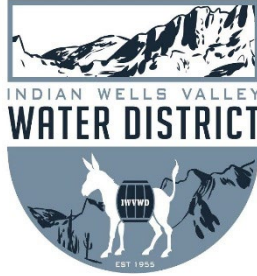
8. Future Agenda Items

Director Griffin would like to discuss District assistance to those who may have leaks on their

property and creating a policy that addresses what staff can and cannot do to assist customers. It was recommended Director Griffin express his concerns during the Board meeting comment section and ask it be placed on the Agenda.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:38 PM.



Approval of Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

August 10, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Kicinski at 4:30 p.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California.

CALL TO ORDER

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mallory Boyd.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Ronald R. Kicinski
Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Mallory J. Boyd
Director Stan G. Rajtora

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand

STAFF PRESENT: Renée Morquecho, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Justin Thompson, Chief Engineer
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
John Svika, Operations Manager
Isabel Tejeda, Recording Secretary

STAFF ATTENDING
REMOTE: George Croll, Special Projects Coordinator

AGENDA DECLARATION

**AGENDA
DECLARATION**

Recording Secretary, Isabel Tejeda, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, August 06, 2026.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

**CONFLICT OF
INTEREST**

None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

None.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Kicinski recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

**CLOSED
SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:34 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:05 p.m.

No action was taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Board heard public comment from Skip Gorman, Judie Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Griffin approving the Minutes of the July 13, 2026, Regular Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,957,152.56. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Kicinski, Rajtora, Griffin, Boyd. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

RB Inyokern Data Center

Renee Morquecho presented a draft letter to the California Energy Commission "CEC" that details the District's concerns regarding the RB Inyokern Data Center that include water demand, wastewater disposal, reliable local power etc., as well as concerns about the will-serve letter that Inyokern CSD provided. The District will be providing the CEC the letter they received from the State Water Resources Control Board about voluntary consolidation with Inyokern CSD.

**RB INYOKERN
DATA CENTER**

The Board heard public comment from Lindsey Stephens, Jennifer Slayton, Rene Westa-Lusk, Judie Decker, and Skip Gorman.

LETTER TO CEC

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Boyd approving the letter of concern to the CEC as presented by Staff. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Kicinski:	Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand:	Absent
Director Boyd:	Aye
Director Griffin :	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye

Dr. Morquecho gave a summary on AB 2469 and AB 2619 regarding water usage by Data Centers. One of them would require Data Centers provide an estimate water usage and the other that they report it; they would also have to supply a water assessment and pay for any improvements to water conveyance. Dr. Morquecho would work with George Croll and the District's consultant, Brenda Bass, to draft a letter of support if the Board is in agreement with supporting these bills.

**AB2469 AND AB
2619**

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Griffin authorizing District Staff to support AB 2469 and AB 2619. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Kicinski:	Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand:	Absent
Director Boyd:	Aye
Director Griffin :	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye

PROPOSITION 4 GRANT FUNDING PRESENTATION

Special Projects Coordinator, George Croll, gave a presentation on Proposition 4 Grant funding including the requirements, timeline, benefits, and deadlines.

**PROPOSITION 4
GRANT FUNDING**

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

ADMINISTRATION / EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Renee Morquecho presented a draft Dress Code Policy to the Board, and explained there was a need to provide a more formal policy for staff as well as combine other items from the Personal Manual so that there is a single point of reference.

**DRESS CODE
POLICY**

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Dress Code Policy as presented by Stagg. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Kicinski, Rajtora, Boyd. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand, Griffin.)

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

Jim Worth reported that the District is working with all the involved parties to select a Special Water Master that everyone is comfortable with. The Judge will use the Special Water Master's decision as an additional resource; the Judge will make his own independent ruling and will not be bound to any decision that the Special Water Master makes.

**COMPREHENSIVE
ADJUDICATION**

The Board heard public comment from Lindsey Stephens, Jennifer Slayton, and Renee Westa-Lusk.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

Director Boyd will be attending the upcoming IWWVGA meeting in place of Vice-President Saint-Amand. The packet for the meeting was received just before the start of tonight's meeting therefore he has no comments. President Kicinski requested that Director Boyd ask the General Manager of the IWVGA to make the financial audits more easily accessible for the public.

IWVGA

President Kicinski explained to the public that the District is obligated to collect GA fees which include the replenishment and extraction fees. The District does make the payment to the IWVGA under protest. President Kicinski explained the IWVGA fees and how they are structured for District customers depending on their usage. Staff is working on getting clear and educational information about IWVGA fees for District customers.

**REPLENISHMENT
FEE
DISCUSSION**

The Board heard public comment from Teresa Dampier, Jennifer Slayton, Lindsey Stephens, Edward Johnson, Renee Westa-Lusk, and Kathy Russell.

General Manager Update

Renee Morquecho reported there were three significant events since the last Board meeting that the Board will be updated on under the Operations Update. Dr. Morquecho informed the Board that staff continues to monitor legislation that may impact the District. A final ruling for the Clean Fleet Regulation was released; staff is expecting an informational webinar soon from CSDA to clarify the rules. There was nothing significant to report in regards to personal safety or injuries.

**GENERAL
MANAGER
UPDATE**

Engineering Update/Water Supply Update

Water Systems Consolidations:

- o Inyokern CSD: Nothing to report at this time.
- o Rademacher Way/Gordon St: The right-of-way specialist is still working on obtaining the final easements. Staff has a meeting with Stetson tomorrow to discuss obtaining the final easement so the District's Construction crew can perform this work.

**ENGINEERING
UPDATE**

- o Dune 3: The contract documents have been signed by the contractor and will be signed by General Manager Renee Morquecho. Staff will be meeting with the contractor to schedule the start of construction.
- o Stark Street: Staff submitted comments on the 95% drawings and is waiting on Krieger & Stewart for final design. The IWVGA and their consultant will be working on the needed easements.

Mr. Thompson gave an update on the Northwest Transmission Line replacement; Nicholas construction has completely removed the pipe from their property and disposed of it.

Justin Thompson reported that Arsenic Plant 1 is up and running Water Supply department is performing maintenance on Arsenic Plant 2 so it is ready to go in case it is needed. Water Supply department is still working on preparing sites for additional cameras.

**WATER SUPPLY
UPDATE**

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Ty Staheli reported total billed consumption for the month of July. Mr. Staheli reported year-to-date current revenues are \$2.1 million which is \$1.5 million above budget due to accruals not being completed. Mr. Staheli reported expenditures are at \$722,000 which is \$2 million below budget. Capital expenditures spent to date is \$21,806. The District has paid \$20,303,299 to the IWVGA in replenishment and extraction fees. Staff also provided an update on delinquent account turn offs and WaterSmart alerts.

**FINANCIAL
UPDATE**

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Operations Update

John Svika reported there were 54 valves exercised. There were 440 USA locates. Staff reported 51 after-hour calls. For the month there were 71 service lateral repairs, 17 lateral replacements, 54 valves were turned and 43 customer assists.

**OPERATIONS
UPDATE**

Mr. Svika showed some photos of the incidents that occurred in the last month, there were 2 instances where contractors hit water lines causing water loss. Staff did confirm the contractors will be billed for the water loss and labor. There was also an incident where a driver struck a fire hydrant, staff completed all repairs, and restored service.

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Director Boyd expressed gratitude towards staff for their hard work and their quick resolution to issues as they arise.

Director Rajtora thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication.

President Kicinski also thanked the staff and the Board for their transparency to the public.

DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**DATE OF NEXT
BOARD MEETING**

The date of the next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, September 14, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

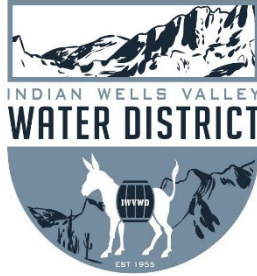
ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Isabel Tejeda
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: _____

DRAFT



9.C.1.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT, KERN AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD FOR CONSOLIDATION WITH STARK STREET MUTUAL WATER COMPANY.

WHEREAS, the Indian Wells Valley Water District ("District") was contacted by the State Water Resources Control Board ("Board") regarding potential consolidation with Stark Street Mutual Water Company ("Stark"); and

WHEREAS, District responded that it was interested in a potential consolidation with Stark provided that the consolidation with Stark was eligible for grant funding to cover all costs; and

WHEREAS, District was advised that it would need to submit an application for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund financing; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the District agrees to apply and, subject to General Manager and Legal approval, enter into an agreement with the Board for financial assistance for the planning, design and construction of the Stark Consolidation ("Project");

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District does hereby RESOLVE, DETERMINE AND ORDER, as follows:

Section 1. The General Manager or her designee is hereby authorized and directed to sign and file, on behalf of the District, a Financial Assistance Application for a financing agreement with the Board, as well as any supporting documentation and/or agreements required to request financial assistance for the planning, design and construction of the Project, subject to General Manager and Legal approval.

Section 2. The General Manager or her designee is hereby designated to provide the assurances, certifications, and commitments required for the financial assistance application, including executing a financial assistance agreement from the Board and any amendments or changes thereto.

Section 3. The General Manager, or her designee, is hereby designated to provide the information required for the request for financial assistance from the Board for the Project.

Section 4. The General Manager, or her designee, is hereby designated to represent the District in carrying out the District's responsibilities under the financing agreement, including disbursement requests on behalf of the District and compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

Section 5. The General Manager, or her designee, is authorized to do all things necessary to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

All the foregoing being on the motion of Director _____ and seconded by Director _____, and authorized by the following vote, namely:

AYES:

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of Indian Wells Valley Water District as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors at a legally convened meeting held on the 14th day of September, 2026.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of said Board of Directors this 14th day of September, 2026.

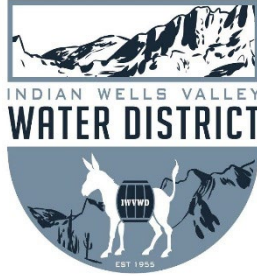
ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 14th day of September, 2026.

Ronald R. Kicinski
President, Board of Directors
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ATTEST:

Renee Morquecho
Secretary, Board of Directors
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

(SEAL)



9.D.1.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

AGENDA ITEM: Credit Card Fees

Committee: Finance Committee (September 8, 2026)

Background:

When customers use a credit/debit card to pay their water bill, the District is charged a processing fee. Currently, the District does not pass this fee on to customers. As a result, the District pays about \$110,000 per year in credit/debit card processing fees. The District has the option to pass these processing fees on to the customer through the processor's Neutral Revenue program. The District expects an individual customer would pay about \$3 per payment in credit or debit card processing fees if electing to use that payment method.

Current Consideration:

Payment processing fees have increased exponentially in the last 2 years as additional payment options have been implemented.

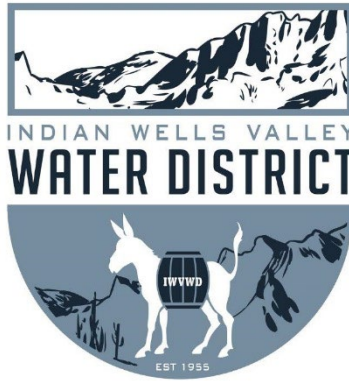
There are several options for customers to pay their bills; cash, check, e-check, ACH, bank BillPay, with a credit card in person, by phone, or online. Currently all payment methods are free to customers.

We have seen an industry-wide movement to push card fees to the customer.

The District received a proposal from our payment processing company that passes the card processing fee directly to the customer. If the proposal is accepted, the customer is charged 3.50% of each card transaction (with a minimum amount of \$3.00). Average District customer usage is 12 HCF resulting in a bill of \$93.22, therefore, the District assumes the average customer who pays their water bill with a card will pay \$3.26 per payment in processing fees.

Recommendation:

The Finance Committee recommended bringing the proposal to the Board. If the Board approves the change, the General Manager would accept the proposal from the processor, a notice would be sent to customers with credit/debit cards on file with sufficient time to change payment preferences and notices would be placed on Water Bills and displayed in the District lobby. The District would give customers two months' notice before changing the policy.



The Mission of the

Indian Wells Valley Water District

is to deliver the highest quality water at the best possible price while continuing to serve as respectful stewards of the environment.

The Vision of the

Indian Wells Valley Water District

is to provide for self-sustaining water resources now and for generations to come.

Board of Directors