MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

October 15,2026

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 Stan Rajtora. **PLEDGE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT:	President Ronald R. Kicinski Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand Director Mallory J. Boyd Director Stan G. Rajtora	**ROLL CALL**
DIRECTORS ABSENT:	Director Charles D. Griffin	
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 REMOTELY:	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 Tuesday, October 13,2026.

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 4:31 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION **CLOSED SESSION**

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

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:03 p.m.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Boyd approving the Minutes of the September 14,2026, Regular Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling $1,348,979.23. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Kicinski, Saint-Amand, Rajtora, Boyd. Nays: None. Absent: Griffin.)

Administration / Executive Committee

Isabel Tejeda informed the Board that the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is updating their bylaws and is requiring Agencies to nominate an authorized voter by October 30,2026.

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Rajtora nominating Director Boyd as the authorized voter for ACWA. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

Plant and Equipment Committee

Justin Thompson introduced Caleb Richard and Johnathan Ratliff from AMAROK. The AMAROK team gave a presentation that covered how the system works, how liability is handled, maintenance and safety for humans and wildlife. The pricing for 5-6 sites would be $87,924 annually, this would include the solar field at Well 35. The pricing if the full permitter of Well 35 was covered would be $92,976 annually.

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

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand approving a 3 Year Contract with AMAROK. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Kicinski, Saint-Amand, Rajtora, Boyd. Nays: None. Absent: Griffin.)

Surplus Property Resolution

Renee Morquecho explained to the Board that the Resolution is required in order to officially declare the Grant Airport and Stine Ranch properties surplus as they were announced last month. Jim Worth informed the Board if the Resolution is approved he will be adding the written findings that would justify the Staff's decision to surplus the properties.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand approving Resolution 26-03. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Kicinski:	Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand:	Aye

Director Boyd:	Aye
Director Griffin :	Absent
Director Rajtora:	Aye

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

Jim Worth reported that the District has a hearing with the court on October 30, 2026 to give an update on the selection of the Special Master. There is currently 1 candidate recommended by the State and 3 others that the technical working group has recommended. The closing trial briefs will be due 5 days after the Special Master is selected.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUSDICATION

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk and Mike Sinnott.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

Vice President Saint-Amand reported that the IWVGA Board was in closed session for almost 2 hours and the District was only present for 2-3 minutes of that time. The IWVGA Board reported out of closed session that they would be filing litigation against an unnamed party. There was also a settlement with the Inyokern Community Services District for the full amount due for replenishment fees, pumping fees and late fees for a total of $62,968.92. Vice President Saint-Amand asked the IWVGA Board to move the closed session to the end of their meetings in order to foster public engagement. Vice President Saint-Amand summarized the discussion regarding the IWVGA Budget and reported that ultimately, he voted no to approving the budget.

IWVGA

President Kicinski would like to see invoices for RWG Law because at this time he has not seen any approved by the Board. Vice President Saint-Amand will be asking at the next IWVGA meeting.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk and Mike Sinnott.

General Manager Update

GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE

Renee Morquecho reported there was no significant events since the last Board meeting. There are also no legislative updates to report on. There was nothing significant to report in regards to personal safety or injuries. Dr. Morquecho informed the Board there was a minor incident with a District vehicle, no injuries and minor damage. The District was able to file a claim with insurance for the minor damage.

Justin Thompson shared photos of an Arsenic Plant tour that was given to students from Vieweg STEM Academy. The Water Supply department created educational posters and set up activities for the students to teach them about ground water and arsenic.

The Board heard public comment from Lindsey Stephens.

ENGINEERING UPDATE

Engineering Update/Water Supply Update

Water Systems Consolidations:

- o Inyokern CSD: Nothing to report at this time.
- o Rademacher Way/Gordon St: The surveying was completed and construction will be starting on October 26,2026.
- o Dune 3: Mobilization scheduled for October 26,2026.
- o Stark Street: Easement paperwork is being sent out to property owners.

Justin Thompson reported that Water Supply Department is waiting on a flow meter for Arsenic Treatment Plant 1. The Arsenic Treatment Plant 2 is also waiting on multiple parts. There was a site walk conducted on

October 14th for College Booster Upgrade. Mr. Thompson also gave an update that Water Supply department is preparing to hire a new operator. Well 35 was down briefly due to motor issues that have now been repaired and everything is back up and running.

FINANCIAL UPDATE — **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Ty Staheli reported total billed consumption for the month of September. Mr. Staheli reported year-to-date current revenues are $4.7 million which is about equal to budget. Mr. Staheli reported expenditures are at $4.3 million which is $900,000 below budget. Capital expenditures spent to date is $411,000. The District has paid $21,466,646 to the IWVGA in replenishment and extraction fees. Staff also provided an update on meter installations; delinquent account turn offs and WaterSmart alerts.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Operations Update — **OPERATIONS UPDATE**

John Svika reported there were 124 valves exercised. There were 397 USA locates. Staff reported 27 after-hour calls. Mr. Svika updated the Board that the Construction Crew is preparing for the second phase of the Brady line replacement.

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS — **BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Boyd expressed gratitude towards staff for their hard work and effort towards updating the public.

Vice President Saint-Amand praised the staff for their professionalism and hard work, he also thanked the public for participating and emphasized the importance of involvement.

President Kicinski made an announcement to the public that the fair is coming to town and encouraged everyone to attend. Mr. Kicinski clarified that the District has an A+ credit rating and is dedicated to transparency, he reminded everyone that the District had a public vote on AB 1413 in April of 2025.

DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING — **DATE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The date of the next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, November 9,2026.

ADJOURNMENT — **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Isabel Tejeda
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: November 09,2026