

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

December 08, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Saint-Amand 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 Ron Kicinski. **PLEDGE**

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: George Croll, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
John Svika, Operations Manager
Isabel Tejada, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION
Recording Secretary, Isabel Tejada, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, December 4, 2025. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION
None. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION
None. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

With no further Board or Public comments, President Saint-Amand recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:31 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:35 p.m. **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:01 p.m.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

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

General Manager Compensation

**GENERAL
MANAGER
COMENSATION**

Due to recent announcement from George Croll that he will be leaving the district at the end of 2026 Jim Worth prepared a new contract rather than amending the current contract. New contract adjusts the severance package to be more in line of his one-year timeframe, there was no adjustment to the salary. Staff is requesting board approval to adopt new General Manager Contract.

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Kicinski approving the new contract for General Manager. Motion was carried unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

**CONSENT
CALENDER**

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Minutes of the November 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, Minutes of the November 06, 2025, Special Board Meeting and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$923,499.58. Motion was carried unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

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

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

**PLANT AND
EQUIPMENT
COMMITTEE**

Renée Morquecho presented bids for inspection and cleaning of water tanks. The service includes divers going into the tanks to do the inspection, they can vacuum any sediment at the bottom of the tank as well as complete minor repairs to the coating. The district will be given a video as well as reports following the inspection. The district received four different bids, the committee recommended awarding the contract to Catalyst Diving for \$30,400.00.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

MOTION: was made by Vice President Griffin and seconded by Director Boyd to approve awarding the contract to Catalyst Diving. Motion was carried unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

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

Administration/Executive Committee

**ADMINISTRATION
/EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Renée Morquecho presented the necessity for WaterView, a software that is used as apart of Making Conservation a California Way of Life program as well as to generate Urban Water Use Objectives report for the Department of Water Resource. Screenshots from the program were presented to the Board to provide examples of the type of data that is collected. The Board engaged in discussion regarding frustrations on legislation that requires the District to utilize WaterView. Staff requested Board approval for extension of WaterView for a 3-year contract at \$33,000 a year. Committee recommended Board approval.

The Board heard public comment from Judy Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Rajtora to approve extension of the agreement with WaterView. Motion was carried unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

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

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

**COMPREHENSIVE
ADJUDICATION**

Jim Worth reported the Phase 2 trial for the determination of the Basin's Safe Yield - has a trial date of June 1, 2026. Participating parties are in the middle of exchanging rebuttal expert reports which will be followed by expert depositions. Depositions will most likely occur at the end of January or beginning of February.

The first Mediation session is scheduled to take place either on February 13 or February 18, 2026.

The District filed a motion to define the scope and find out what can be done with the reverse validation that was filed by Searles Valley Mineral in light of their settlement. There was an initial hearing that occurred on November 21, 2025 regarding this matter. The Judge was not ready to make ruling; he ordered supplemental briefing. Jim Worth is currently working with IWVGA to come up with briefing schedule.

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

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

**INDIAN WELLS
VALLEY
GROUNDWATER
AUTHORITY**

David Saint-Amand reported on discussion that were had at the November 12 IWVGA meeting regarding the premature press release in the Daily Independent, that was later removed, regarding their agreement with Searles Valler Minerals.

Board discussed the items on the upcoming IWVGA Agenda.

George Croll commented on an unanticipated additional cost of \$50 million needed to enable the pipeline to work. The IWVGA does not know who will be responsible for the funding of the additional cost at the time of the last meeting. In addition, the GeoTech was completed after the pipeline design and revealed that the pipeline would have to be installed 15 feet deep along Garlock road which would dramatically increase cost of project.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk, Judy Decker Mike Sinnott and Dan Tolbert.

The next IWVGA meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2025

KP Public Affairs Contract Amendment/Extension

KP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

George Croll reported on the excellent job KP Public Affairs this past year, they were able to push for amendments to AB 1466 to make it a more favorable bill. They also contributed to shut down AB 1413 however due to the possibility of AB 1413 returning in the upcoming year George Croll is asking the Board to approve and extension to the current contract so that they may continue to work on legislation. Jim Worth noted that the cost to the District for these services is \$5,000 a month. Board discussed frustrations about the cost to the ratepayers to have to fight legislation and litigation however they agree that this fight is less expensive than the proposed IWVGA pipeline.

The Board heard public comment from Dan Tolbert Renee Westa-Lusk and Judy Decker.

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Griffin to approve extension of the contact with KP Public Affairs for another year. Motion was carried unanimously, Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand and Griffin. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of Officers

President Saint-Amand opened nominations for President, Vice President Griffin commented that due to his personal life he would not have the time to be president in the upcoming year and nominated Director Kicinski. With no other nominations for President the nomination was closed.

MOTION: was made by Vice President Griffin and seconded by Director Boyd, appointing Director Kicinski as Board President. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Boyd, and Saint Amand. Nays: Rajtora. Absent: None.)

President Saint-Amand opened nominations for Vice President. Director Boyd nominated President Saint-Amand, Jim Worth cautioned that there may have to be Committee adjustments to avoid Brown Act violations. With no other nominations for Vice President the nomination was closed.

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Rajtora, appointing President Saint-Amand as Board Vice President. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Boyd, Rajtora and Kicinski. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

General Manager Update

GENERAL
MANAGER

George Croll reported on employee promotions, new hires, public outreach and employee injuries. Staff gave an update on AB 1413 and mentioned AB 707 updates to Brown Act that will be reported on in more detail at a later time.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Engineering Update

ENGINEERING
UPDATE

Water Systems Consolidations:

- o Inyokern CSD: Director Boyd provided an update to the Board on the meetings he attended in Inyokern regarding the consolidation. He reported that there has not been an agendaized consolidation focused meeting. The 6 month voluntary consolidation period ends December 12, 2025 and by December 22, 2025 the District must submit report to the State Board as to the process to date. Jim worth will draft the letter for Director Boyd and Director Griffin to review. The State may want a public meeting to happen potentially in April.
- o Rademacher Way: Staff is working with legal counsel to obtain the last needed easements. Meanwhile, the project is on hold until the spring when the construction crew finishes with Brady Street.
- o Dune 3: Staff is moving forward with changes to the bidding package, may be completed by January. Also waiting for legal to finalize agreement between the District and Dune 3.

Renee Morquecho reported that an internal construction inspector that was hired. The Associate Engineer and construction inspector attended training last week with Krieger and Stewart. Construction to begin next week and then continue after the holidays.

BRADY STREET

The Board heard public comment from Judy Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

Financial Update

FINANCIAL
UPDATE

Ty Staheli reported on billable consumption through November of the fiscal year. Also gave an update to the solar site security, staff has installed the tower bases on sites and waiting on camera hardware to finish installation in mid-January.

Ty Staheli reported through November 2025 actual revenue is \$8.17 million which is slightly below budget due to reduction in consumption and some capital contributions. Expenditures to date is \$7.65 million, which brings the net to a positive \$519,000 which is better than anticipated. IWVGA fees paid to date are \$3.6 million to extraction fee and \$15 million to replenishment fees.

Staff also provided an update on meter installations; delinquent account turn offs and WaterSmart alerts.

Operations Update

OPERATIONS
UPDATE

John Svika reported staff finished pumping Arsenic Plant 2 which produced a little over 7 million gallons. All water samples have been finished and staff will now move forward with general maintenance on plant.

For the last month there were 55 valves exercised which brings the total to date 457. 174 USA North tickets which totals 1589 for the year, 8 tickets for USA South which brings total for the year to 45. There was no NO-DES flushing, 15 after hour callouts, 15 service

lateral repairs, 13 service lateral replacements and one hydrant repair which will be leading into a replacement. One mainline repair on 100 block or Yorktown.

John Svika gave an update on Inyo County property clean up; the project is mostly complete with just some tires on the property that are pending removal at this time.

Jesse Dhaliwal Retirement

Staff thanked Jesse Dhaliwal for service and drafted a letter to wish him well, board will be signing the letter.

**JESSE
DHALIWAL
RETIREMENT**

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board wished staff a Happy Holidays and thanked everyone for their hard work.

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The date of the next Special Board Meeting is Monday, January 12, 2026.

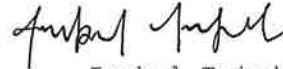
**DATE OF NEXT
BOARD MEETING**

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,



Isabel Tejada
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: January 12, 2026