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. **PLEDGE**

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

CONSENT CALENDER

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.)

RB Inyokern Data Center

RB INYOKERN DATA CENTER

LETTER TO CEC

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.

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

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

AB2469 AND AB 2619

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.

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

PROPOSITION 4 GRANT FUNDING

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

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 ADJUSDICATION

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

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.

Engineering Update/Water Supply Update

ENGINEERING UPDATE

Water Systems Consolidations:

- Inyokern CSD: Nothing to report at this time.
- 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.

- 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.

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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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.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Operations Update

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.

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

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