

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

June 08, 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chuck Griffin.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

ROLL CALL

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

STAFF ATTENDING
REMOTELY:

George Croll, Special Projects Coordinator

AGENDA DECLARATION

Recording Secretary, Isabel Tejada, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting and Public Hearing was posted on Thursday, June 04, 2026.

**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 Kicinski recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:33 p.m.

**CLOSED
SESSION**

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

PUBLIC HEARING

President Kicinski opened the Public Hearing and introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 2561 which requires a public agency to present the status of vacancies, recruitment and retention efforts at a public hearing at least once per fiscal year, prior to adoption of a budget.

PUBLIC HEARING

Isabel Tejeda reported there are currently two vacancies, and explained the process of hiring at the District.

With no further questions or comments, President Kicinski Closed the Public Hearing.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Boyd approving the Minutes of the May 11, 2026, Regular Board Meeting, Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,102,361.06. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand, Griffin, Boyd. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

CONSENT CALENDAR

Data Center Presentation

Special Projects Coordinator, George Croll, gave a presentation on the history of Data Centers and the information available on how they operate. The full PowerPoint is available on the Districts website.

DATA CENTER PRESENTATION

The Board heard public comment from Lindsey Stephens, Nina Sunseri, Jennifer Slayton, Brita Reed, Mike Bady, Rana Daniels, Barbara Bane, Anthony Hanson, Sandra Van Scotter, Kelly Cutts, Mike Neel, Lorraine Horne, Judie Decker, Nicholas Hua, Tammy Pounds, Renee Westa-Lusk, Alissa Reed, Bon DeRosa, Tammy Bouyer, Mike Sinnott, and Emily Flack.

ADMINISTRATION/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ty Staheli presented the annual Salary Survey and explained this analysis is done to compare salary ranges to other water districts and adjust for cost of living. There are a few ranges that will see an increase due to cost-of-living factor not being adjusted for a few years, this will be done yearly going forward.

SALARY SURVEY

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

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

Jim Worth reported the Phase 2 trial began today. It is expected to last 10 - 15 days and will take place Monday to Wednesday each week. The trial will be available to view online; the link is on the District's website. Mr. Worth announced there will be members of the Board as well as executive staff attending the trial.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

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

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

Vice President Saint-Amand reported there were discussions about the Data Center at the last IWVGA meeting. There were also requests for a presentation on the approval process for Data Centers as well as requests to change the time of IWVGA meetings. Vice President Saint-Amand summarized some of the action items from the IWVGA meeting and reported the auditors are close to having the 2025 audit complete. The next meeting is June 10, 2026 and Director Boyd will be attending in place of Vice President Saint-Amand.

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

General Manager Update

GENERAL
MANAGER
UPDATE

Renee Morquecho reported there is no significant events to report on and all pertinent legislative updates were included with the Data Center presentation. There are no personnel safety or injury reports.

Engineering Update/Water Supply Update

ENGINEERING

Water Systems Consolidations:

- o Inyokern CSD: No official update at this time.
- o Rademacher Way/Gordon St: The right of way specialists for the IWVGA are still working on obtaining the final easements.
- o Dune 3: Bid opening was open June 3, the bids are currently being reviewed and will have results to staff before the Special Board Meeting on June 11.
- o Stark Street: Staff completed potholing and will be completing a final review before sending to Krieger and Stewart who will most likely have the 95% drawings back within the week. The IWVGA's consultant is still working on getting easements.

Justin Thompson reported staff has completed the paving on Brady and Ward, they also filled the old pipeline as required by Kern County. Mr. Thompson reported staff is still working with homeowners and Kern County to repair the private driveways.

BRADY STREET

The Board and staff had discussions on whether Dune 3 and Stark Street should be done by the District's construction crew or if they should go out to bid. Dr. Morquecho stated it is no longer an option to complete Dune 3 in house however it is a possibility for Stark Street. Staff will be collecting more data to determine the best option. Both projects are being funded by grants.

Mr. Thompson reported the Water Supply department is prepping Arsenic Plant 1 to be up and running as well as performing maintenance on Arsenic Plant 2 in case it is needed. Water Supply is also preparing to install additional security cameras at the District's well sites. Staff has continued to follow up with Kern County Sheriff regarding the recent theft and has still not received an update.

WATER SUPPLY

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Ty Staheli reported total billed consumption for the month of May was 444 acre feet which brings the total for the year to 4,701 acre feet. Mr. Staheli reported year-to-date actual revenue of \$16,929,000 which is about \$500,000 below budget. Mr. Staheli reported expenditures are just under \$16 million which is \$1,272,000 below budget. The District's net to date is \$1 million positive which is \$772,000 better than anticipated. Capital expenditures spent to date is \$2,354,000 of that \$1.7 million is funded by grant or bond funding. The District has paid \$19,742,841 to the IWVGA in replenishment and extraction fees. Staff also provided an update on meter installations; delinquent account turn offs and WaterSmart alerts.

**FINANCIAL
UPDATE**

Operations Update

John Svika reported there were 18 valves exercised which puts the year-to-date total to 528 valves. There was 457 USA North locates and 0 USA South. Mr. Svika reported there were 0 flushes therefore the total water saved by the NO-DES truck year-to-date remains just under 10 million gallons. Staff reported 33 after hour calls which resulted in 14 lateral repairs. For the month there were 27 service lateral repairs, 8 lateral replacements, 1 hydrant replacement, and 1 valve repair.

**OPERATIONS
UPDATE**

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Boyd thanked staff for all their hard work.

Director Rajtora thanked the public for their participation and for speaking up. Mr. Rajtora once again asked that an Agenda item be added so the Board may discuss sending a letter to Kern County regarding the JPA.

Director Griffin thanked the public for participating and encouraged everyone to continue showing up for meetings.

Vice President Saint-Amand thanked the public for showing up and congratulated Justin Thompson on his new role as Chief Engineer.

President Kicinski also thanked the public for their participation and congratulated Justin Thompson

**BOARD
COMMENTS/FUTU
RE AGENDA
ITEMS**

DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

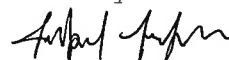
The date of the next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, July 13, 2026.

**DATE OF NEXT
BOARD MEETING**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,



Isabel Tejeda
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: July 13, 2026