

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

REPORT

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026 – 3:00PM
BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: David Saint-Amand, Stan Rajtora, John Svika, Ty Staheli, George Croll and Renee Morquecho.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Committee/Public Comments

None.

3. Stark Street Mutual Water Company Consolidation: Notice of Exemption

Staff presented the Notice of Exemption for the Stark Street Mutual Water Company Consolidation. The exemption is a Statutory Exemption Section 15282(k) for pipelines that do not exceed one mile in length and also under 14 Cal Code Reg §15269(s) for specific actions to prevent or mitigate an emergency. The District is working with the IWV Groundwater Authority to consolidate this system using grant funds the IWVGA has from the Department of Water Resources. The Committee recommended the Board approve filing the Notice of Exemption.

4. Vehicle Purchase: Two Vehicles

Recently the District purchased a skid steer and gooseneck trailer to haul the new equipment. Unfortunately, the engine failed on the truck designated to haul the trailer and needs to be replaced. Staff are requesting the use left over funds from the skid steer/trailer purchase, along with funds not being used at this time to purchase a vacuum truck and walk behind saw, to purchase two (2) class 3 vehicles (Ford F-350s). Class 3 vehicles are still exempt from replacement with an electric vehicle because there is no equivalent electric vehicle. With two vehicles, the District has what it needs to haul the skid steer/trailer and a new crew truck for the construction crew. After discussion, the Committee decided to defer this decision to the Board meeting and did not make a recommendation.

5. **Grant Funding: Permission to seek grant funding for priority projects**

Staff presented a list of six (6) high priority projects for which the District would like to seek grant funding. Staff is asking Board permission to seek funding for any of these projects that may qualify when future grant funding opportunities arise. The high priority projects (in no particular order) are:

- La Mirage area mainline replacements
- Cathodic Protection on CMCL transmission mains
- Old D-zone tank rehabilitation or replacement
- Second arterial from Northwest and/or Southwest into town
- Springer pipeline between Mahan and College Heights
- C-zone booster – boosts from C-zone tanks to College tanks

General Manager Croll mentioned that the State is now allocating funds from Proposition 4 and agencies are getting in line to qualify for funding. He would like to send this list to our consultant in Sacramento so that she may assist in advocating for funding on behalf of the District. The Committee recommended the Board approve seeking grant funding for the listed project.

6. **Solar Sites Security Upgrades and Solar System Repairs: Update**

Staff reported that all cameras have been installed and are operational. OPTERRA was at multiple sites the last few weeks performing repairs. They will be back on site the week of March 16th to complete repairs. Unfortunately, they found additional damage at Well 31. The District should have a cost for these additional repairs by the end of today. The leased security camera trailer at Well 30 will be removed this month.

7. **Water System Consolidations: Update**

- Inyokern CSD: Nothing new to report. The State may be planning the next public meeting in Inyokern for April.
- Dune 3: Legal counsel has finalized the agreement between Dune 3 and the District and sent it to Dune 3 for approval. The SWRCB expects approval to proceed with bidding in the next few weeks.

Stark Street: The District is working with the IWVGA on this project. The plan is to use the same contractor that is awarded the Dune 3 contract to also complete an extension to Stark Street via change order. The State has already given permission to continue with this plan. This project requires a new Notice of Exemption (CEQA) and permission from LAFCO. Legal counsel is working with LAFCO to obtain emergency connection permission.

- Rademacher Way (Phase 2): The IWVGA is moving forward with using a third-party company to obtain the last easements and also right-of-way for the Stark Street project. The SWRCB Division of Drinking Water sent official notice of plan approval.

- Hometown Water: The District has requested an extension of this project to February of 2029 that gives the SWRCB DDW time to determine if Hometown must consolidate with the District.

8. Brady Street: Mainline Replacement Project Status

The District's construction crew has installed 2520 L.F. of the 24-inch PVC transmission pipeline in Brady Street between Inyokern Rd and Ward Avenue. They will be working in the intersection of Ward and Brady over the next few days. The intersection will be closed during construction. Staff expects to complete this first phase of the project before the end of the month.

9. Future Agenda Items

- Future capital purchases

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 pm.