

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

May 11, 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 G. Rajtora. **PLEDGE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Ronald R. Kicinski
Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand
Director Stan G. Rajtora **ROLL CALL**

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Mallory J. Boyd

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 **AGENDA DECLARATION**
Recording Secretary, Isabel Tejada, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, May 07, 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 4:33 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:52 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

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker.

President Kicinski requested Agenda Items E and F be moved on the Agenda to be right after the consent calendar, with no objections the Board moved these items.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Boyd approving the Minutes of the April 07,2026, Special Board Meeting, April 08,2026, Special Board Meeting, April 13,2026, Regular Board Meeting, April 21,2026, Special Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$891,572.56. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Griffin, Boyd.)

GENERAL MANAGER COMPENSATION

**GENERAL
MANAGER
COMPENSATION**

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Rajtora approving a 3-year contract with Renée Morquecho as General Manager for \$220,000 a year. Motion was carried unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

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

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR COMPENSATION

**SPECIAL
PROJECTS
COORDINATOR
COMPENSATION**

Jim Worth explained current General Manager George Croll is still under contract until the end of the year so the Board has decided to transition him into the role of Special Projects Coordinator. Mr. Croll is working on a number of projects at the moment and will continue to work on projects as they come up.

MOTION: was made by Director Rajtora and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand approving the contract with George Croll as the Special Projects Coordinator for \$232,000 per year through the end of the year. Motion was carried unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

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

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

ADMINISTRATION/ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**JOB
DESCRIPTIONS**

Isabel Tejada presented three job descriptions to be approved by the Board. The Board previously approved the title change for IT Supervisor and staff is updating the job description to match the title change. Staff also prepared a job description for IT Technician, there is not funding available to fill this position just yet however staff would like to have the job description ready. Mrs. Tejada also

presented the District/Chief Engineer job description, this description combines the District and Chief Engineer.

MOTION: was made by Director Rajtora and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand approving the job descriptions for IT Supervisor,, IT Technician and Chief/District Engineer. (Ayes: Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Griffin, Boyd.)

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

COMPREHENSIVE
ADJUDICATION

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

Jim Worth reported he is preparing for the Phase 2 Safe Yield trial that begins June 1. Mr. Worth stated the Board will not be commenting on the most recent GA workshop. The trial will be Monday - Wednesday and there will be a link to watch on the District's website, Mr. Worth encouraged the public to watch.

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

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

The last meeting of the IWVGA was cancelled so there is nothing new to report, the next meeting is May 13. Vice President Saint-Amand announced that he is still researching some of the Agenda items for the upcoming meeting so that he is prepared.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker and Mike Neel.

General Manager Update

GENERAL
MANAGER
UPDATE

George Croll gave some legislative updates, there has been no updates on AB 1413. Mr. Croll reviewed AB 1577 and AB 2469 which pertain to Data Centers, the Board does not have an opinion on the bills or on Data Centers at this time. Mr. Croll also reviewed AB 2026, which reduces permit requirements for groundwater recharge, as well as SB 1125 which would create a water rate assistance fund.

A minor injury was reported, there was nothing significant to report regarding public outreach. Mr. Croll reported some upcoming conferences and trainings that the Board or Staff may be interested in.

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 specialist are still working on obtaining the final easements.
- o Dune 3: This project is out to bid, there is a pre-bid job walk scheduled for Wednesday. Bid opening will be open June 3.
- o Stark Street: Stark Street: Staff reviewed the initial alignment with Krieger and Stewart. Staff met with the IWVGA and their consultants to discuss the needed easements.

Renée Morquecho reported the installation of the Brady line was completed, it was tied in on Ward Ave. The remaining line on Brady was flushed and sampled for coliform bacteria, the line is now back in service. There is still paving that needs to be completed on the intersection with Ward, as well as two private driveways that need to

BRADY STREET

be repaired, that paving will be scheduled soon. Mrs. Morquecho announced that Kern County is requiring the District to fill in the old pipeline, staff will be filling it with concrete to complete this phase of the project.

Mrs. Morquecho reported the Water Supply department is prepping Arsenic Plant 2 to be back online this week as well as bring coolers back online for the summer. Staff is obtaining quotes for weed abatement for our solar sites, as well as additional cameras to expand the coverage due to the recent theft that occurred. Staff continues to follow up with Kern County Sheriff regarding the theft, at this time the District has not received an update.

WATER SUPPLY

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

**FINANCIAL
UPDATE**

Ty Staheli reported the year-to-date water use, total billed consumption year to date is about 200 acre feet less than last year. Mr. Staheli reported year-to-date actual revenue of \$15,125,00 which is about \$500,000 below budget. Mr. Staheli reported expenditures are at \$14.5 million which is \$1.1 million below budget. The District's net to date is \$612,000 positive which is \$682,000 better than anticipated. Capital expenditures spent to date is \$2.1 million, of that \$1.6 million is funded by grant or bond funding. The District has paid \$3,780,000 in extraction fees and \$15,807,000 in replenishment fee. Staff also provided an update on meter installations; delinquent account turn offs and WaterSmart alerts.

Operations Update

**OPERATIONS
UPDATE**

John Svika reported there were no valves exercised which puts the year-to-date total to 510 valves. There was 423 USA North locates which brings the year-to-date total to 2,983 and 3 USA South which brings the year-to-date to 10. Mr. Svika reported there were 6 flushes which brings the total water saved by the NO-DES truck year-to-date to just under 10 million gallons. Staff reported 15 afterhours calls which resulted in 8 lateral repairs. For the month there were 19 service lateral repairs, 18 lateral replacements, 1 hydrant repair, 1 valve repair and 1 mainline repair.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS/FUTU
RE AGENDA
ITEMS**

Director Rajtora would like to have a discussion regarding Kern County not complying with the IWVGA bylaws, he would also like the District to sponsor an initiative to stop paying the IWVGA replenishment fee.

Vice-President Saint-Amanda congratulated Mrs. Morquecho on her promotion and thanked Mr. Croll for his service to the District.

President Kicinski congratulated Mrs. Morquecho and expressed his appreciation for her dedication to the District, he also thanked Mr. Croll for her service and wished him the best as he transitions into his new role.


DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**DATE OF NEXT
BOARD MEETING**

The date of the next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, June 08, 2026.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was **ADJOURNMENT**
adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Isabel Tejada
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: June 08, 2026