

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

AUGUST 11, 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  
Director Mallory J. Boyd  
Director Ronald R. Kicinski  
Director Stan G. Rajtora **ROLL CALL**

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Vice President Charles D. Griffin

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

**AGENDA DECLARATION** **AGENDA DECLARATION**  
Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, August 8, 2025.

**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 Saint-Amand recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:31 p.m.

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

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.

**PRESENTATION**

Christopher Camp, IT Supervisor, provided a presentation on the trial security camera setup and remote site installation cost. Renee Morquecho provided an overview on estimated costs to install ClearVu fencing.

**TRIAL  
SECURITY  
CAMERAS**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENTS**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Vice President Griffin approving the Minutes of the July 14, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,285,234.18. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Griffin.)

**CONSENT  
CALENDAR**

**PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE**

The project has been completed and the adjusted contract amount is \$6,070,350.00. The District is withholding \$303,517.50 in retention. Staff was looking for direction from the Committee because some Board members had expressed concern over the failure to dispose of the old pipe properly and had discussed withholding retention. Nicholas Construction purchased an E20 RS zoned parcel south of Inyokern and has been storing the removed CMLC pipe there. Nicholas has indicated they will be disposing of the pipe, but has not yet begun to do so.

**P&E: NW  
TRANSMISSION  
PIPELINE**

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Boyd approves the NW pipeline project and authorizes staff to file a notice of completion and release the funds after 60-days pursuant to law, with the exception that the District notify the contractor that notwithstanding the release of the retention that we still consider them responsible to remove the pipe and that we will make a play at the performance bond. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Griffin.)

Renee Morquecho provided an overview on the triennial Public Health Goals Report. The Indian Wells Water District was in 100% compliance with all primary drinking water standards during 2022-2024. Staff recommends no action at this time. A Public Hearing will be held at the September Board Meeting.

**PUBLIC HEALTH  
GOALS REPORT**

**COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION**

Jim Worth reported the closing trial briefs for the Phase 1 trial to quantify the federal reserve water rights have been filed. Last week, the Court released a proposed statement of decision ruling the Federal Reserve Water Right was 2,000 AF. Any objections are due on Wednesday. District has no intention of filing an objection.

**COMPREHENSIVE  
ADJUDICATION**

Phase 2 trial for the determination of the Basin's Safe Yield - has a trial date of June 1, 2026. The IWVGA and District successfully exchanged their model files on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Expert reports and designations are due this Friday, and should be posted on the District website shortly after. Mediation should begin shortly with the IWVGA.

**INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)**

**IWVGA**

David Saint-Amand commented on the following actions taken at the July meeting:

- Creation of an official IWVGA Facebook page - item tabled
- Request for more detailed invoices
- The GA formally responded to the District's request for mediation and are in agreement to proceed

The next IWVGA Board meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2025.

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

**GENERAL  
MANAGER AND  
STAFF UPDATE**

George Croll reported on employee injuries, delinquent accounts, conservation efforts, and public outreach. Staff gave an update on AB 1413 and AB 1466.

George Croll commented on landlords that allow leaks to continue unabated. Numerous leaks were located in the La Mirage area and are on the customer side. Since last discussed, several leaks have been repaired, with quite a few still remaining, including homes with the meters across the street, and lines that run underneath the street. Staff to bring back a proposed Ordinance that would allow the District to assist homeowners in these situations with a repayment agreement for repairs.

Mr. Croll summarized the topics of discussion on the Committee agendas, including final numbers for FY '25, and the agreement between the City and IWVGA for recycled water to end in November, and potential action for the District moving forward.

**COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
UPDATES**

**Water Systems Consolidations:**

Hometown Water: The State continues to push Hometown to consolidate. Meanwhile, Staff has submitted costs to date for reimbursement.

**WATER  
CONSOLIDATION  
UPDATE**

Rademacher Way: Construction of Phase 1 has been completed. Staff is coordinating with the IWV Groundwater Authority and their contractor to connect the Sanchez residence to the new pipeline. Staff will be discussing the easements with legal counsel.

Dune 3: Staff sent the Right-of-Entry (ROE) agreement to all the property owners that are served by Dune 3. All property owners must sign the ROE agreement before the project can be bid. Nineteen have been returned, one is in foreclosure, and the owner of two other parcels has indicated she will return the agreements shortly.

Legal counsel has discussed the language of the agreement between the District and Dune 3 and will be incorporating the agreed upon language and sending it out for signature this week. The owner of Dune 3 needed clarification on a few items.

Inyokern CSD: The District has received numerous calls from unhappy customers of the CSD. The CSD sent letters to residents regarding an intent to collect back tax assessments that were not paid. Since the District has had no part in this decision, staff has been referring callers to the County Supervisor's office.

The District has not received a response to the State's letter of voluntary consolidation. The Board's Ad-Hoc Committee has reached out to the CSD to meet, but has not received a response.

Brady Transmission pipeline is back in service since last month. Staff is working on budget numbers for partial replacement this winter. The plan is Inyokern Road to Ward Avenue and use the pipe that has already been purchased.

BRADY TRANS.  
PIPELINE  
REPLACEMENT

Wade Major, of aquilogic, provided a presentation of the Study (available online) at last week's Administration/Executive Committee. A summary was provided to the Board and included in tonight's Board packet. Final quarterly reports and invoice have been submitted to Department of Water Resources (DWR), as well as the draft final report.

BRACKISH  
WATER  
TREATMENT  
UPDATE

The agreement for the City's Recycled Water with the IWVGA ends in November. The District aims to acquire the recycled water and include these efforts in the mediation with the IWVGA. Staff to provide another letter to the City explaining the District's interest in the recycled water.

RECYCLED  
WATER

Ty Staheli reported the estimated year-to-date revenues as of July 31, 2025, are \$2,084,251 and expenses are \$816,171. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$1,268,080, which is better than budget by \$1,791,885. To date, the District has paid \$17,882,501 in GA Fees to the Groundwater Authority.

FINANCIAL  
STATUS

John Svika reported both Plants are online. Plant 1 produced 3,862,000 gallons, and Plant 2 produced 46,893,000 gallons.

ARSENIC  
TREATMENT

For the month of July, there were 31 after-hours calls, 48 services were repaired and 18 were replaced, and one hydrant repair. The NO-DES truck made no runs in July. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,522,204 gallons. 126 valves were exercised.

OPERATIONS

**BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Board collectively thanked staff for their on-going hard work.

**BOARD  
COMMENTS**

**DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

The date of the next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, September 8, 2025.

**DATE OF NEXT  
BOARD MEETING**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith

Recording Secretary

**APPROVED: September 8, 2025**