

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

JUNE 9, 2025

The Regular Meeting & Public Hearing 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 Mallory Boyd. **PLEDGE**

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

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None

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

**AGENDA DECLARATION** **AGENDA DECLARATION**  
Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting & Public Hearing was posted on Friday, June 6, 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 4:35 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

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

Staff was authorized to respond to the IWVGA's letter regarding

mediation. Letters will be made available on the IWVWD website.

MOTION: made by Vice President Griffin and seconded by Vice President Boyd to move up agenda item 10.I.: Comprehensive Adjudication. Motion was carried, unanimously.

**COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION**

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Jim Worth and the Board responded to public comments regarding the Comprehensive Adjudication.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker, Renee Westa-Lusk, Mike Neel, Skip Gorman, Mike Sinnott, and April Keigwin.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**PUBLIC HEARING: AB 2561**

President Saint-Amand opened the Public Hearing at 6:44 p.m.

Jim Worth 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.

Lauren Smith reported there is currently one vacancy, and explained the process of hiring at the District.

With no further questions or comments, President Saint-Amand Closed the Public Hearing at 6:46 p.m.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Minutes of the May 12, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, May 28, 2025, Special Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$850,672.47. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

**ORDINANCE No. 110: CONTROL OF BACKFLOW AND CROSS-CONNECTIONS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 110**

Legal announced staff recommends the item be tabled for a future Special Board meeting to accommodate publishing requirements.

Board unanimously agrees to table agenda item.

**QUITCLAIM KERN COUNTY APN 478-030-34**

**QUITCLAIM - APN 478-030-34**

Renee Morquecho commented the District has owned a parcel that runs through the middle of Saint-Ann's Catholic School since 1956. Somehow, the paperwork was not properly filed with the County. Staff recommends quitclaiming the parcel to the Diocese of Fresno Education Corporation to resolve the issue.

MOTION: was made by Vice President Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora to quitclaim APN 478-030-34.

Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

President Saint-Amand requested a follow up on the status at the next meeting.

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

**JPA REPS**

President Saint-Amand opened nominations for primary and alternate representatives for the Joint Powers Agreement related to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority for a two-year term.

Director Kicinski nominated President Saint-Amand as primary representative Joint Powers Agreement related to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority for a two-year term (remainder of 2025 and 2026).

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Vice President Griffin, appointing President Saint-Amand as primary representative for the Joint Powers Agreement related to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority for a two-year term as noted above. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Kicinski, Griffin, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None.)

The Board unanimously agreed for Director Boyd to remain the alternate IWVGA Representative for 2025 and 2026.

**2025-2026 GENERAL FUND AND CAPITAL PROJECTS BUDGETS**

**2025-2026  
BUDGETS**

Ty Staheli briefly reviewed the 2025-2026 General Fund and Capital Projects Budget with the Board.

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Boyd approving the 2025-2026 General Fund and Capital Projects Budgets as presented. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

**MCMURTREY, HARTSOCK, WORTH & ST. LAWRENCE LEGAL FEES**

**ATTORNEY FEES**

The Board of Directors reviewed the proposed fees (included in the Board Packet) as presented by McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth & St. Lawrence. Last increase took effect three years ago on July 1, 2022.

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Griffin to approve the McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth & St. Lawrence fees as presented in letter dated May 23, 2025 effective July 1, 2025. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

**ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**ADMIN/EXEC:  
TEMP MRC  
POSITION**

Staff requests Board to consider and approve additional temporary position for an MRC employee. Costs associated with the additional position for a six-month term have been included in the recently approved General Budget.

MOTION: was made by Director Rajtora and seconded by Director Kicinski approving an additional Temp MRC position to be created. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)

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

Director Griffin updated the Board on actions taken at the May 14<sup>th</sup> IWVGA meeting, including: discussion of potential mediation between the IWVGA and the IWVWD. The June IWVGA meeting was cancelled. **IWVGA**

The next IWVGA Board meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2025.

George Croll provided a IWVGA Imported Water Pipeline Cost refresher. (slides available on website.)

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

George Croll reported on monthly water data, including water produced and consumed, and conservation outreach. Staff gave an update on AB 1413 and AB 1466, and outreach efforts. **GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

Mr. Croll summarized the topics of discussion on the Committee agendas, including 2025-2026 Budgets, recent PRR received and responded, and a historical injury report. **COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATES**

George Croll provided a status update on the Inyokern CSD Consolidation. A letter from State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) was received by District staff (letter included in packet). The letter outlines the current and future operations of the Inyokern CSD and the six-month period for voluntary consolidation. **INYOKERN CSD UPDATE**

**MOTION:** was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Boyd ratifying to create an ad-hoc committee consisting of Vice President Griffin and Director Boyd to address the Inyokern CSD Consolidation process. Motion was carried unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

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

The Board unanimously agreed to schedule the mid-year Board Workshop on July 21, 2025; 9:00 a.m. Agenda item requests to be submitted to President Saint-Amand, George Croll, and Lauren Smith no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>. **MID-YEAR BOARD WORKSHOP**

Renee Morquecho reported staff met with the Contractor to review last corrective/outstanding items. There was a leak at a valve last week that was repaired on Friday. The Contractor has completed the work at Highway 178/Brady Street. They are restoring conditions for local businesses impacted by the work. **NW TRANSM. PIPELINE**

Brady Transmission pipeline is back in service as of Thursday of last week. **BRADY TRANSM. PIPELINE BREAK**

**Water Systems Consolidations:**

Dune 3: Staff is working on sending right of entry agreement to all property owners. Legal is working to arrive at an agreement with the Owner(s). **CONSOLIDATION PROJECTS**

Hometown: Plans are complete. Staff is waiting to hear from Department of Drinking Water (DDW) if project will move forward. Meanwhile, staff will submit costs to date to the State for reimbursement.

Rademacher: Construction crew finished the installation of Phase 1 last week. They will be filling the line, and pressure testing this week. Chlorinating/sampling is scheduled to take place next week.

Ty Staheli reported the estimated year-to-date revenues as of May 31, 2025, are \$15,567,885 and expenses are \$16,650,437. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$1,082,552, which is better than budget by \$915,627. To date, the District has paid \$17,255,799 in GA Fees to the Groundwater Authority. FINANCIAL STATUS

Jason Lillion reported Plant 1 is online, and Plant 2 is in standby pending completion of the Northwest Transmission Line. ARSENIC TREATMENT

For the month of May, 26 services were repaired and seven were replaced. The NO-DES truck made no runs in May. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,509,704 gallons. 85 valves were exercised. OPERATIONS

**BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

The Board collectively thanked Jason Lillion for his commitment to the District. Mr. Lillion has accepted a position as General Manager at another Water District.

President Saint-Amand asked for an item to be added to the next Plant & Equipment Committee meeting to discuss identifying lawns in the valley and converting them to Xeriscape.

**DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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The date of the next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, July 14, 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Lauren Smith  
Recording Secretary

**APPROVED: July 14, 2025**