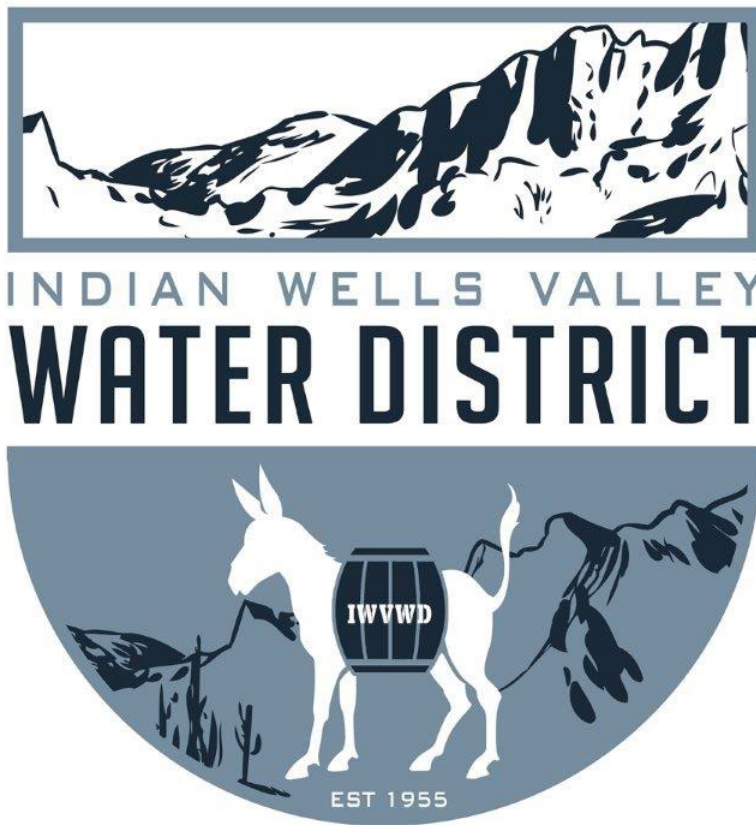


INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting



March 10, 2025



INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David C. H. Saint-Amand, President
Charles D. Griffin, Vice President
Mallory J. Boyd
Ronald R. Kicinski
Stanley G. Rajtora

George D. Croll
General Manager
Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated
Engineers
McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth & St. Lawrence
Attorneys-at-Law

2025 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (GRIFFIN/SAINT-AMAND)

Personnel, Legal Matters, General Plan, Community Relations, Board Meeting Agendas, Ordinances, Rules, Regulations, Policies, Procedures, Customer Service, Variances, Director's Manual. Groundwater Sustainability Act, Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, Water Management, Water Policy, Conservation, Alternative sources for water supply including Blending, Importation, Reuse, etc.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (KICINSKI/RAJTORA)

Rates, Cost-of-Service, Budget, Audits, Cost Allocation, Investments, Financial Services, Insurance, Loans/Grants, Water Sales & Service Policy Manual, Accounting, Assessment Districts, Billing, etc.

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE (BOYD/KICINSKI)

Transmission/Distribution System, Vehicles & Equipment, Wells, Reservoirs, Real Property Management, and Telemetry, Water Quality, Urban Water Management Plan, CalWEP, Title 22 Compliance, etc.

Committee Meetings are generally scheduled on a regular day and time.
Committee Meetings are subject to change.

Plant & Equipment
Finance
Administration/Executive

Monday before the Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday before the Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday before the Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025
CLOSED SESSION - 4:30 P.M.
OPEN SESSION - 6:00 P.M.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' HEARING ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

All District meetings are streamed live through Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting at:
<https://zoom.us/j/9649549487>
Meeting ID: 964 954 9487

One tap mobile:
669-900-9128, 9649549487# US (San Jose)
669-444-9171, 9649549487# US
Dial by your location:
669-900-9128 US (San Jose)
669-444-9171 US
253-215-8782 US (Tacoma)

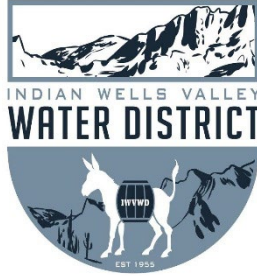
(In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Lauren Smith at (760) 384-5502. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting. Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, any materials relating to an open session item on this agenda, distributed to the Board of Directors after the distribution of the agenda packet, will be made available for public inspection at the time of distribution at the following location: Indian Wells Valley Water District, 500 W. Ridgecrest Blvd., Ridgecrest, CA.)

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Posting of Agenda Declaration
5. Conflict of Interest Declaration
6. Public Questions and Comments on Closed Session
7. Closed Session
 - A. Potential Litigation
Conference with Legal Counsel
1 Matter
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)(4))

- B. Existing Litigation
Conference with Legal Counsel
Mojave Pistachios, LLC v Indian Wells Valley Water District, et al.
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))
 - C. Existing Litigation
Conference with Legal Counsel
Mojave Pistachios, LLC v Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, et al.
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187589-CU-WM-CXC
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))
 - D. Existing Litigation
Conference with Legal Counsel
Searles Valley Minerals Inc., v Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, et al.
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01188089-CU-WM-CXC
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))
 - E. Conference with Labor Negotiators
District Representatives: George Croll and Jim Worth
Employee Organizations: Exempt and Non-Exempt
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6)
8. Public Questions and Comments
(This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons desiring to address the Board on any matter not on the agenda and over which the Board has jurisdiction. However, no action may be taken by the Board of Directors on any item not appearing on the agenda. Non-agenda speakers are asked to limit their presentation to five minutes. Public questions and comments on items listed on the agenda will be accepted at any time the item is brought forth for consideration by the Board. When you are recognized by the chairperson, please state your name for the record.)
9. Current Business/Committee Reports
- A. Consent Calendar
Description: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes and Accounts Payable Disbursements.
 - 1. Approval of Minutes:
 - i. February 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
 - 2. Approval of Accounts Payable Disbursements
 - B. Board of Directors Manual
Description: The Districts of Distinction application requires the District’s Board minute action adopting and/or having reviewed the policies and procedures manual within the past year.
 - C. Restructure of Organizational Chart
Description: Staff to request Board to consider restructuring the organizational chart and creation of a supervisor position to accommodate the formation of a construction crew.

- D. Finance Committee
1. Recycled Water Project Preliminary Engineering Analysis
Description: Board to discuss the funding of the Recycled Water Project Preliminary Engineering Analysis.
- E. Administration/Executive Committee
1. Draft Driver Policy
Description: Board to review the draft driver policy provided by SDRMA to reflect recent Senate Bill 1100 FEHA changes to Driver's License Requirements.
Committee Recommends the Following: Defer to Board.
 2. Resolution 25-01: Stale Dated Check Policy
Description: Board to review Resolution 25:01: Stale Dated Check Policy
Committee Recommends the Following: Board approve the policy as presented.
- F. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
- Description:** Report and discussion regarding the February meeting of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA). Including, Board discussion and consideration of issues of importance requiring action by the IWVGA. Next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2025.
1. Board to discuss the following items:
 - IWVGA's request to the District to work on the Pipeline tie-in
 - City of Ridgecrest posting on behalf on the IWVGA
- F. Comprehensive Adjudication
- Description:** Report and discussion regarding the status of the Comprehensive Adjudication.
- G. General Manager and Staff Update (The Board will consider and may act on the following items):
1. Water Production, New Services, and Personnel Safety Record
Description: Water produced from all District wells, report of the new services installed in the District, and personnel safety record for the preceding month.
 2. Committee Meeting Updates
Description: Updates from the monthly Committee Meetings that are not currently on the agenda.
 3. Public Outreach
Description: Public Outreach Report.

4. NW Transmission Pipeline
Description: Update on this Project.
5. Water System Consolidations Update
Description: Update on these Projects.
6. Financial Status
Description: Report on the District's current financial status.
7. Brady Street Transmission Pipeline Break
Description: Update on pipeline break.
8. Arsenic Treatment Facilities
Description: Update on maintenance issues and production.
9. Operations
Description: Report on operations.
10. Board Comments/Future Agenda Items
11. Date of next Regular Board meeting: **April 14, 2025.**
12. Adjournment



Committee Reports

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

REPORT

MONDAY MARCH 3, 2025 – 3:00PM
BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: Ron Kicinski, Mallory Boyd, George Croll, Jason Lillion, Ty Staheli, Justin Thompson and Renee Morquecho.

1. Call to Order

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

2. Committee/Public Comments

None.

3. Recycled Water Feasibility Study: Discussion

The District requested access to the City's wastewater effluent during the last City Council meeting. Since the City still has an agreement with the IWV Groundwater Authority until November, the Council directed the District to speak to the GA. Meanwhile, staff is looking for direction from the Board on whether to move ahead with a feasibility study and cost estimate by Krieger & Stewart or a study by Parker Groundwater on the best areas in the valley for injection and/or percolation of recycled water and other captured water. The Committee indicated they are not in a hurry to make a recommendation since the wastewater effluent is tied up with the GA until at least November. Staff indicated they would bring a proposal to the Committee next month.

4. NW Transmission Pipeline Replacement Project: Update

The contractor has completed the fence repairs and those repairs were witnessed by Navy security. The District has negotiated a plan to find the trash bag that was sucked into the pipe during a flushing event. The SWRCB Division of Drinking Water (DDW) has agreed to the plan which will involve accessing the pipe at two locations and placing a camera in the pipe to locate the bag. If it is not located, the DDW has agreed that the District has done its due diligence and can proceed with finishing the project.

5. **Brady Street Pipeline Break: Update**

Staff will be welding on flanges tomorrow in order to do the repair. The original break was approximately 2-ft in size, but it was necessary to remove over 45 feet of pipe in order to find steel in good condition that can be used to connect to the flanges. Once the flanges are installed, they will be connected to 24-inch PVC and the pipe pressure tested and disinfected. If all goes well, the entire pipeline on Brady will be put back in service. The District has purchased the 5000± L.F. of 24-inch PVC that was approved during the last Board meeting.

Staff has requested a cost from Nicholas Construction to put in new pipe under Highway 178 at Brady to prepare for future replacement of the entire line in Brady from Highway 178 to the tanks on Bowman Road.

6. **Water System Consolidations: Update**

Hometown Water: Potholing to finish the Hometown design was completed and the design should be done within 2 weeks for Division of Drinking Water approval as required by the grant.

Rademacher Way: Potholing has been completed for Phase 2 design of the Rademacher project and Krieger & Stewart sent a preliminary pipeline alignment for staff to review. Staff will be following up on the easement documents since only two of the five have been signed.

Dune 3: Legal is working on the language of the agreement between Dune 3 and the District. He expects to have a draft for State review by the end of this week. Meanwhile, staff will be meeting with GHD on Wednesday for a virtual kick-off meeting for the construction phase of the project. The State is also reviewing the right of entry agreement that will be needed for both Dune 3 and the Hometown projects.

7. **Arsenic Plants: Update**

The media has been removed from the vessels at Plant 2. Staff is expecting a lift truck to arrive this week to install the new media. Last month, staff gave a tour to a local charter homeschool group.

8. **Future Agenda Items**

- La Mirage Housing Area Grant Funding
- Transmission pipeline(s) inspection
- Springer Ave pipeline schedule
- Imported pipeline infrastructure upgrades

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

REPORT

TUESDAY MARCH 4, 2025 – 3:00 PM
BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

ATTENDEES: Ron Kicinski, Stan Rajtora, George Croll, Ty Staheli, Jason Lillion, and Renee Morquecho

1. Call to Order

The Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Committee/Public Comments

None.

3. Fraud Risk Discussion

Description: Discuss potential or actual fraud risks within the organization.

None to report.

4. GA Imported Water Costs

Description: Discuss imported water costs and potential impact to customers' bills.

The GA's Imported Water Project is at 60% design according to Provost and Prichard. Kreiger and Stewart are analyzing the design documents to identify any cost changes needed for the District's project cost analysis.

5. Recycled Water Project Preliminary Engineering Analysis

Description: Committee to discuss the funding and approval of the Recycled Water Project Preliminary Engineering Analysis.

The District requested access to the City's wastewater effluent during the last City Council meeting. Since the City still has an agreement with the IWV Groundwater Authority until November, the Council directed the District to speak to the GA.

Meanwhile, staff is looking for direction from the Board on whether to move ahead with a feasibility study and cost estimate by Krieger & Stewart or a study by Parker Groundwater on the best areas in the valley for injection and/or percolation of recycled water and other captured water. The Committee indicated they are not in a hurry to make a recommendation since the wastewater effluent is tied up with the GA until at least November.

The Committee would like this item to go to the full Board for discussion.

6. Financial Statements February 28, 2025 (preliminary)

Description: Presentation to Committee financial reports and graphs depicting current revenue and expense trends compared to budget and previous fiscal year actuals.

Estimated year-to-date revenues as of February 28, 2025, are \$11,409,117 and expenses are \$12,102,725, therefore expenditures exceeded revenues by \$693,608, which is better than budget by \$1,091,500.

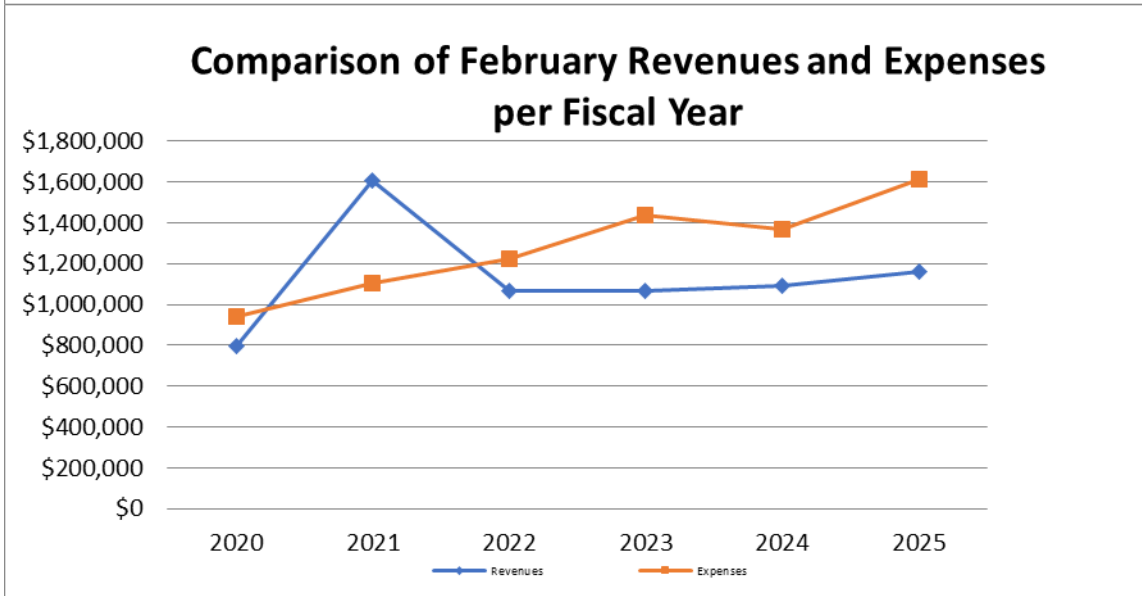
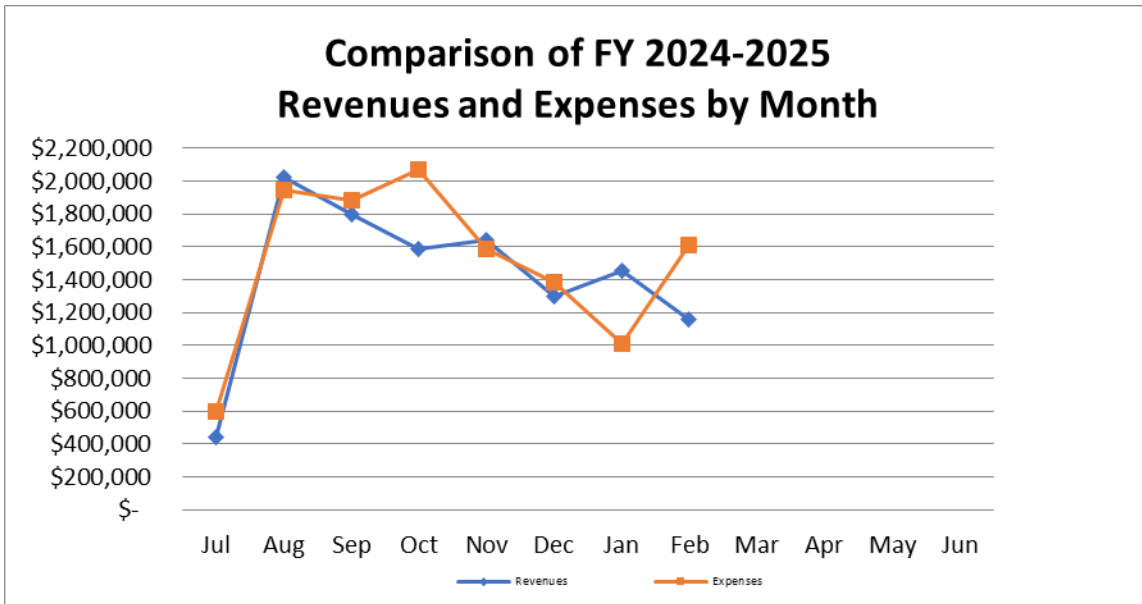
To date, the District rate payers have paid the Groundwater Authority \$16,934,621 in fees.

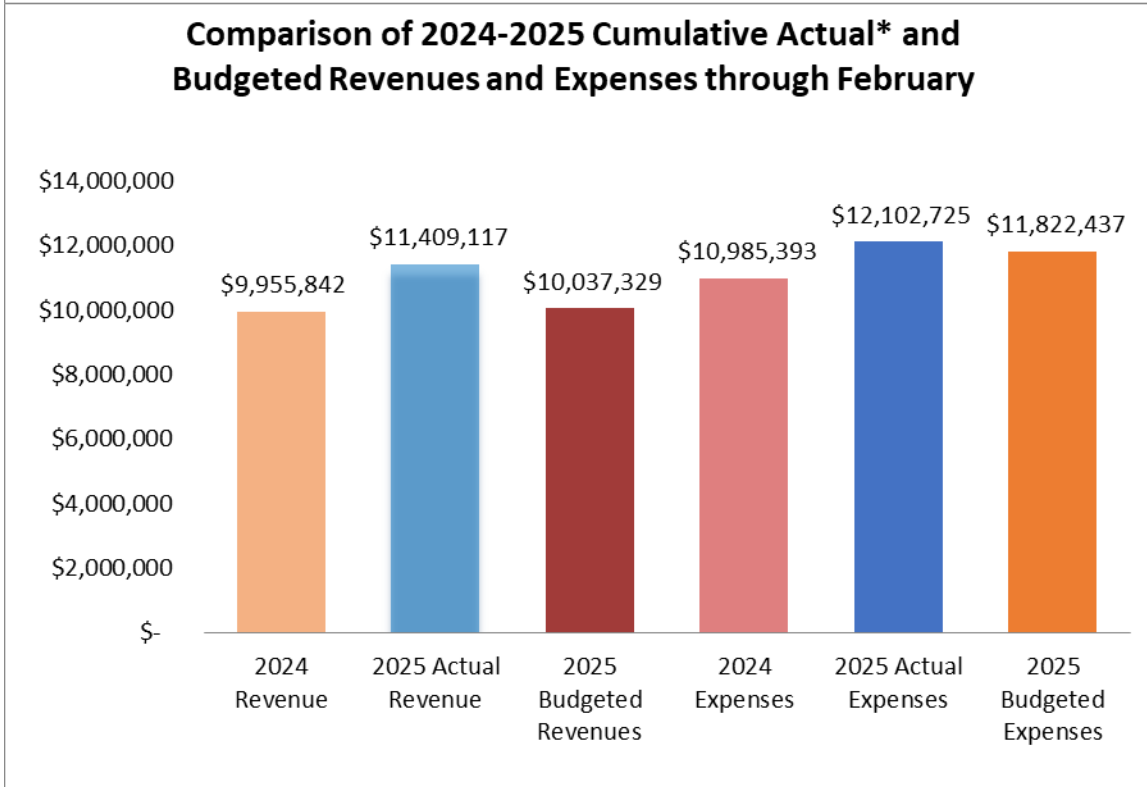
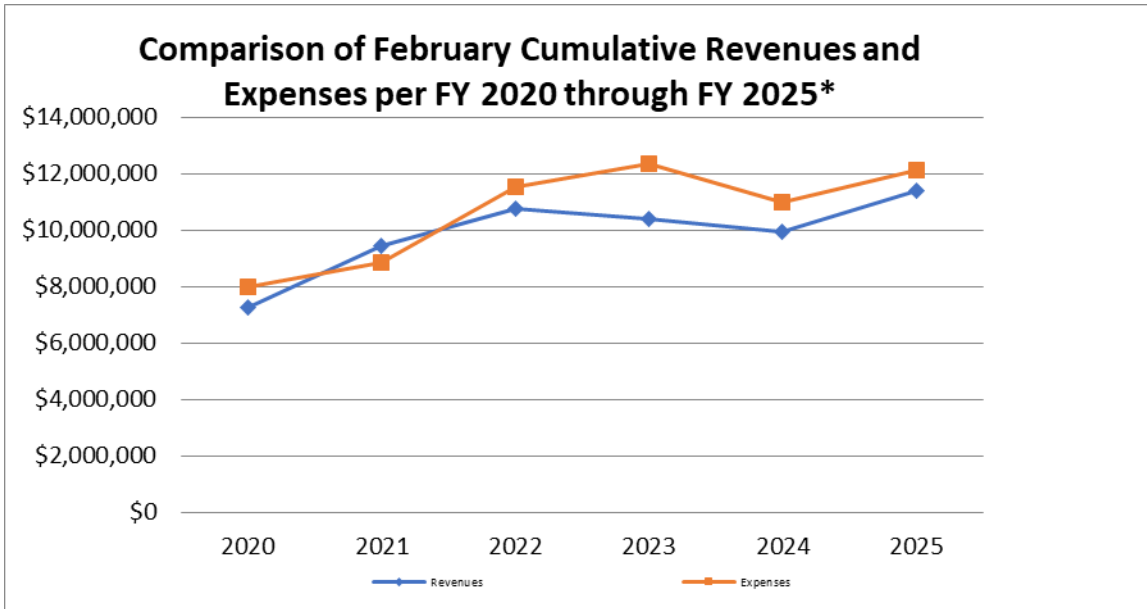
Staff presented the following spreadsheet, which compares February year-to-date actual to budgeted revenues and expenses by category:

Indian Wells Valley Water District
Revenues vs. Expense
Actuals & Budget through February 2025 (Preliminary)

	2025 Budget	YTD Budget	Actuals	Δ
Revenues				
Total Water Sales	13,064,552	7,643,192	8,169,338	526,147
GSA Fees	3,112,486	1,894,306	2,411,268	516,962
Total Water Service Revenue	375,900	267,340	311,631	44,291
Total Non-Operating Income	172,400	109,880	152,531	42,651
Capital Contributions	154,500	122,611	364,349	241,738
Total Revenues	16,879,838	10,037,329	11,409,117	1,371,788
Expenses				
Water Supply	1,622,677	1,082,650	1,051,867	-30,783
Arsenic Treatment Plants	456,719	304,723	157,129	-147,594
Transmission & Distribution	1,861,515	1,242,003	996,664	-245,339
Engineering	544,019	369,641	372,012	2,370
Customer Service	516,579	344,662	252,888	-91,773
Field Services	570,208	380,443	375,106	-5,337
General & Administration	2,758,794	1,840,667	1,744,982	-95,685
Legal	1,050,000	700,560	660,894	-39,666
Legislative	119,400	79,664	63,216	-16,447
Depreciation	3,300,000	2,200,000	2,200,000	0
Non-Operating, Interest	1,747,156	1,164,771	802,496	-362,274
Non-Operating, Miscellaneous	436,000	190,819	473,462	282,642
GSA Fees	3,111,310	1,837,634	2,899,777	1,062,143
Non-Operating, Conservation	34,200	22,818	9,014	-13,805
Non-Operating, Alternate Water	92,000	61,382	43,219	-18,164
Total Expenses	18,220,578	11,822,437	12,102,725	280,288
Net Revenue Increase (Decrease)	-1,340,740	-1,785,108	-693,608	1,091,500

Capital Expenditures	6,993,209
-\$3 mil grant, 555k AD, balance bond	6,028,195
Debt Service Principle	820,938
Total GSA Extraction Fee Paid	3,116,153
Total GSA Replenishment Fee Paid	13,818,468
	<hr/> 16,934,621





**Actual Revenues and Expenses are Estimated*

7. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Update

Description: Discuss updates to the FY 2026 Budget development

To avoid issues discovered after the FY 2025 Budget was adopted, namely inaccurate or insufficient information being communicated regarding outstanding consulting agreements, the Staff is working directly with the District’s consultants to establish costs and projects for the FY 2026 budget.

Staff will also evaluate the District’s CIP schedule and update accordingly.

8. Accounts Payable Disbursements

Description: Presentation to Committee of Accounts Payable Disbursements reports for Board approval.

The Committee reviewed the accounts payable disbursements totaling \$764,587.20 as follows:

Checks through:	<u>2/13/25</u>	<u>2/27/25</u>
Prepaid	\$ 54,329.35	\$ 51,402.67
Current	<u>553,226.74</u>	<u>105,628.44</u>
Total	<u>\$ 607,556.09</u>	<u>\$ 157,031.11</u>

9. Future Agenda Items

Grant writing assistance

10. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 4:14 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025 – 3:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: Chuck Griffin, Ron Kicinski, George Croll, Ty Staheli, Renee Morquecho, and Jason Lillion

- 1. Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

- 2. Committee/Public Comments**
Mike Neel made a comment regarding the City of Ridgecrest posting on behalf of the IWVGA.

- 3. Draft Driver Policy**
Legal is still reviewing the driver policy. Item deferred to Board meeting for discussion.

- 4. Draft Drug and Alcohol Policy for DOT Drivers**
Legal is still reviewing Drug and Alcohol Policy for DOT drivers. Item possibly deferred to April Committee and Board meetings.

- 5. Stale Dated Check Policy**
The Committee reviewed the Stale Dated Check Policy, Resolution No. 25-01. The presented policy includes suggestions made by the District’s auditors.

Committee recommends the Board approve the policy as presented.

- 6. Outstanding Public Record Requests (PRR)**
Staff and legal are currently working on a PRR previously received.

- 7. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**
Director Griffin commented on actions take at the February Board meeting. He commented that he did vote “nay” on any actions regarding the imported pipeline.

George Croll commented the IWVGA did send a request for the District’s cooperation with the tie-in. IWVWD Board to discuss at the upcoming Board meeting.

The next IWVGA Board meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2025.

8. Alternate Water Sources

George Croll commented the Navy recently reached out to him regarding an Environment Resiliency program that NAWs China Lake will be participating in. This would possibly provide the potential for development of natural capture bases for various runoffs.

9. Draft Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of March 10, 2025

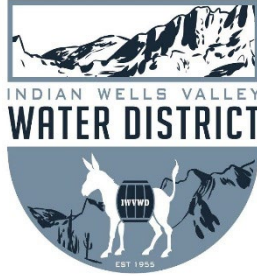
The Committee reviewed the agenda and made minor changes.

10. Future Agenda Items

None.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.



Approval of Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
& PUBLIC HEARING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

The Regular Meeting and 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 Ty Staheli. **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 Thursday, February 6, 2025.

Jim Worth announced a need arose to add an agenda item for approval this meeting.

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Kicinski adding an item to the agenda regarding the emergency purchasing of pipeline for Brady. 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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None.

**CONFLICT OF
INTEREST**

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 4:32 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:36 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

**CLOSED
SESSION**

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

No action was taken that requires disclosure under the Brown Act.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Judie Decker, Jill Ezell, Mike Neel, Shirley Kirkpatrick, and Arturo Ochoa.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

PRESENTATION BY C.J. BROWN & ASSOCIATES

A PowerPoint of the 2023-2024 Audit results was presented to the Board by Chris Brown of C.J. Brown & Associates. Mr. Brown reported on the financial highlights of the District such as current assets, current liabilities, total net assets, total revenues, total expenses, capital contributions, and total expenses vs. total revenues.

**2023-2024
AUDIT REPORT**

The Board heard public comment from Wayne Doucette and Renee Westa-Lusk.

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Boyd to receive and file the 2023-2024 Audit Report. Motion was carried, by the following roll call vote:

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

PUBLIC HEARING

President Saint-Amand opened the Public Hearing at 6:39 p.m.

**PUBLIC
HEARING**

Mark Hildebrand, of Hildebrand Consulting, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Rate Study. (Presentation available on website.)

PRESENTATION

The presentation provided Scope of Work and objectives, Financial Plan Findings, and Project Schedule. The proposed rate changes would go into effect on March 1, 2025, at 12.0% increase, 10% in 2026, and then 8% in 2027, 2028, and 2029.

The Board stressed that it is possible for the rate increase amount to lower, depending on the District's financial standing at that time.

The Board heard public comment from Jill Ezell, Wayne Doucette, Arturo Ochoa, Judie Decker, Katie N., Mike Weis, Renee Westa-Lusk, and Mike Neel (handout attached). PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Saint-Amand closed the Public Hearing at 8:24 p.m.

The Board asked clarifying questions to better understand the proposed rate increases. BOARD COMMENTS

Ty Staheli announced that there were 17 written protests received, and two verbal. ORDINANCE 109

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Boyd adopting Ordinance No. 109, rescinding Ordinance No. 106 and Ordinance No. 107 in its entirety and providing for a reference document entitled Water Sales and Service Policy Manual effective March 1, 2025, as presented. Motion was carried, by the following roll call vote:

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

The Board recessed the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:37 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Vice President Griffin and seconded by Director Kicinski approving the Minutes of the January 13, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, Minutes of the January 23, 2025, Special Board Workshop, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$713,299.83. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM

Staff assessed the damage to the pipeline on Brady that occurred on February 6th. The failure seems to be caused by a corrosion in the steel underneath the concrete. The plan is to dig back and try to weld flanges and make the repair. If this does not work, staff will go from valve to valve, from Drummond to Ridgecrest Blvd., which is a mile of pipe, and replace it with brand new pipe. Staff requests authorization to purchase the pipe not to exceed \$500,000 out of the COP funds. PURCHASE OF 24" PIPELINE ON BRADY

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

MOTION: was made by Vice President Griffin and seconded by Director Kicinski granting the emergency the purchase of 1-mile of 24" pipeline to not to exceed \$500,000. Motion was carried, by the following roll call vote:

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

K&S PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING ANALYSIS

Chuck Krieger, of Krieger & Stewart (K&S), provided an overview of Work Order 83A with the Board. (Included in packet.) The Engineering Analysis is for Recycled Water Treatment/Conveyance/Replenishment Project. WORK ORDER 83A

The Board unanimously agreed to table this agenda item and discussion until an agreement between the City of Ridgecrest and the District is in place for effluent rights from the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant.

George Croll presented a letter to the City of Ridgecrest at their City Council Meeting held on February 5th. The letter is a request for formal discussions regarding this topic.

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

The District received one bid for this project from Eric Onstott Construction (Onstott) for \$187,730.00. Onstott did not change their per ton price for asphalt since 2022. There was a slight increase in the mobilize/demobilize charge.

P&E CM:
AWARD OF
CONTRACT:
TRENCH
PAVEMENT
REPLACEMENT

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Boyd approving Award of Contract to Eric Onstott Construction in the amount of \$187,730.00. Motion was carried. (Ayes: Boyd, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Abstain: Griffin.)

On January 28, 2025, two water well contractors responded to the District's Request for Proposal for Maintenance, Repair and Rehabilitation of Water Wells and Booster Pumps. Each contractor submitted hourly rates for regular and emergency labor and hourly rates for equipment. Based on the rates submitted, staff is recommending the District sign contracts with both Layne Christensen (primary) and Best Drilling and Pump (secondary). When the primary contractor is not available, the secondary contractor will be contacted.

AWARD OF
CONTRACT:
MASTER
SERVICE
AGREEMENT
WELLS/BOOSTER

MOTION: was made by Vice President Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora Awarding Contracts to both Layne Christensen and Best Drilling and Pump. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)

GHD is an engineering consulting firm that will be handling the Dune 3 Mutual Water Company consolidation project. GHD has been working with the State to apply for the funding and complete the design. The agreement between the District and GHD will be for project and grant management as well as construction inspection, bidding, grant administration and construction administration. GHD will be paid by the grant funding. Their proposal also includes compaction testing which will be performed by a third party. The amount of their proposal is \$746,664.00. The projected is estimated to take a total of 8 months with 6 months of field work.

AWARD OF
CONTRACT: GHD
FOR DUNE 3

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Boyd to sign the agreement with GHD for the Dune 3 consolidation project. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Effective January 1, 2025, California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) included provisions that prohibit employers from requiring job applicants and existing employees to possess a driver's license when the job does not require them to drive. Staff is currently working on a driver policy to present to the Board at a future date. **ADMIN/EXEC CM: SB 1100 - FEHA**

MOTION: was made by Vice President Griffin and seconded by Director Kicinski approving revisions made to presented job descriptions in accordance with SB 1100. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)

Staff requests Board to consider and approve additional temporary position for an M/R/C employee in the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget. **ADDITION OF MRC TEMP POSITION**

The Committee recommended approving the additional position. After Board deliberation, the following motion was made:

MOTION: was made by Vice President Griffin and seconded by Director Boyd approving an additional Temp MRC position to be filled at staff's discretion and as needed. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Abstain: None.)

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

The Board discussed items on the February 12th IWVGA Board meeting agenda. The meeting for the Periodic Evaluation and Amendment of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was postponed until further notice.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

The Court granted the motion for Searles Valley Minerals for a Safe Yield Trial, which is set for March 30, 2026. The IWVGA filed a petition with the Appellate Court for writ of mandate, asking for the trial court's decision to be overturned and authority for determination of safe yield, independent of the GSP. The Court denied the IWVGA's petition for writ of mandate. The IWVGA then filed a petition with the Supreme Court to hear it, or at least direct the Appellate Court to. The request submitted to the Supreme Court was denied.

Phase 1 trial is to quantify the federal reserve water rights and is scheduled for April 28, 2025. Discovery is ongoing.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

**GENERAL
MANAGER AND
STAFF UPDATE**

Mr. Croll reported on the District's previous and upcoming outreach efforts. He also mentioned the annual Economic Outlook Conference scheduled for February 27th, at which the District will have a table. Mr. Croll updated the Board on water consumption/production for the month of January.

Mr. Croll summarized the topics of discussion on the Committee agendas, including Investment Reports, Rademacher update, Solar Sites Security, and Public Records Request updates. (Committee Reports included in Board packet.)

COMMITTEE
MEETING
UPDATES

The contractor is currently coordinating fencing repairs with their subcontractor and Navy security. The District is negotiating the final items needed to finish the project, including removal of a trash bag that was sucked into the pipeline during a flushing event. Staff met with the contractor and came up with a plan that will be presented to State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

NW TRANSM.
PIPELINE

The District has signed agreements with the State for both the Hometown Water and Dune 3 grants. Staff and legal are reviewing the language for the agreements between the District and each water system. Krieger & Stewart continues working on design of Phase 2 for the Rademacher Way project. Potholing was completed. Staff will soon be scheduling pipe installation for Phase 1. The plan is to get everything installed except for the connection to Springer Ave which can occur when the NW Transmission line is available. Staff spoke with Stetson and Self-Help Enterprises about another small water system (Stark Street) and the possibility of consolidation. They are located southwest of Dune 3 and the IWVGA is considering funding their consolidation due to the well going dry.

CONSOLIDATION
PROJECTS

Ty Staheli reported the estimated year-to-date revenues as of January 31, 2025, are \$10,204,137 and expenses are \$11,049,901. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$845,764, which is better than budget by \$738,146. To date, the District has paid \$16,691,540 in GA Fees to the Groundwater Authority.

FINANCIAL
STATUS

Both Plants are winterized. Plant 2 media removal is in process.

ARSENIC
TREATMENT

For the month of January, 26 services were repaired and 20 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made two runs in January. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,501,562 gallons. 13 valves were exercised. GIS system continues Water Supply Testing.

OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

The Board collectively thanked staff for their hard work and response to the recent pipeline break on Brady, as well as thanked the public for their participation in tonight's meeting.

DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**DATE OF NEXT
BOARD MEETING**

The date of the next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, March 10, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

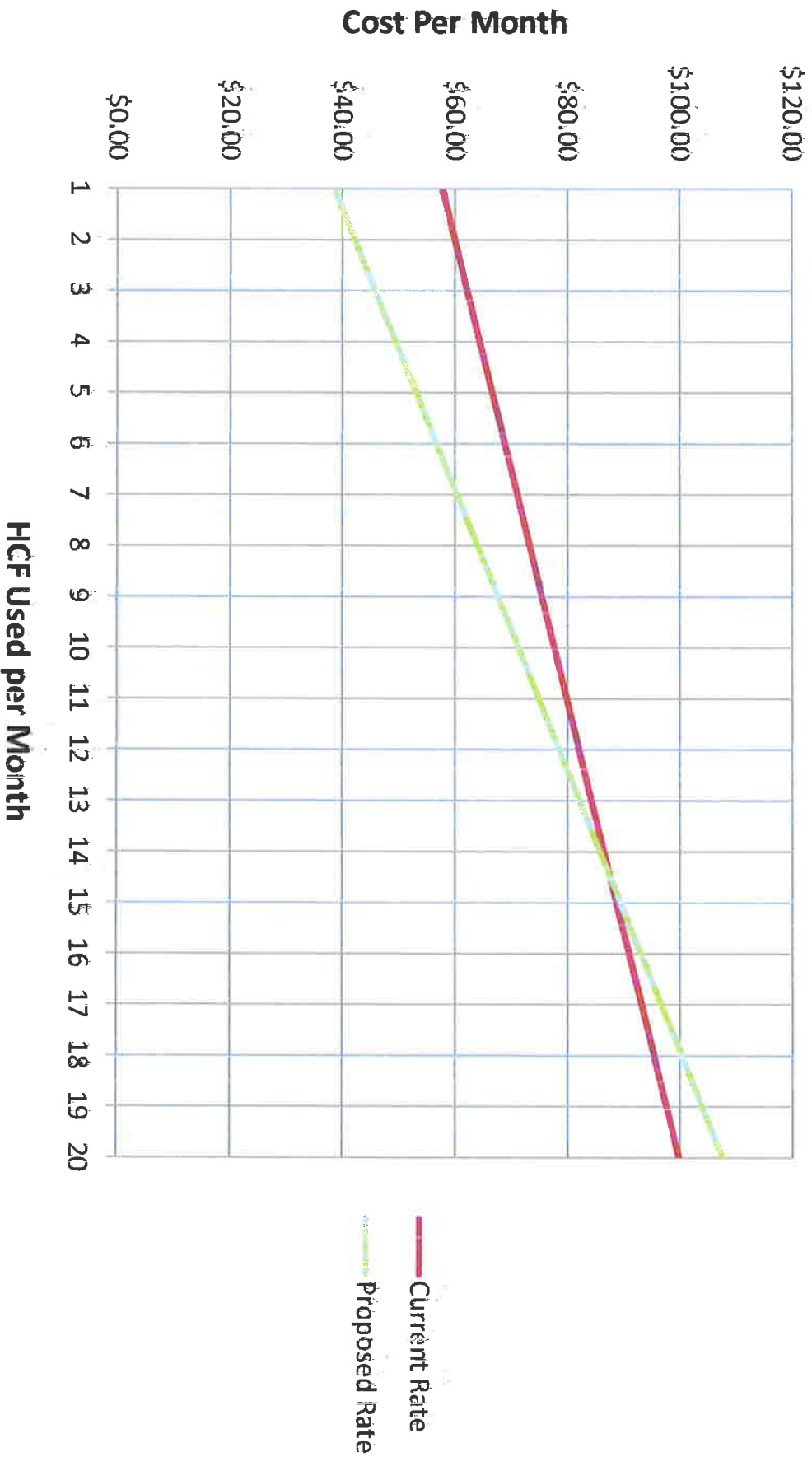
With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

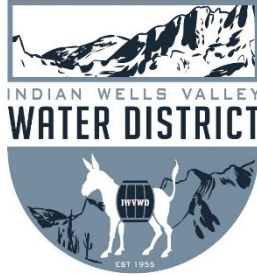
Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Smith
Recording Secretary

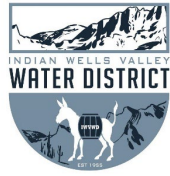
APPROVED: _____

Lowered Fixed Meter Charge User Monthly Cost

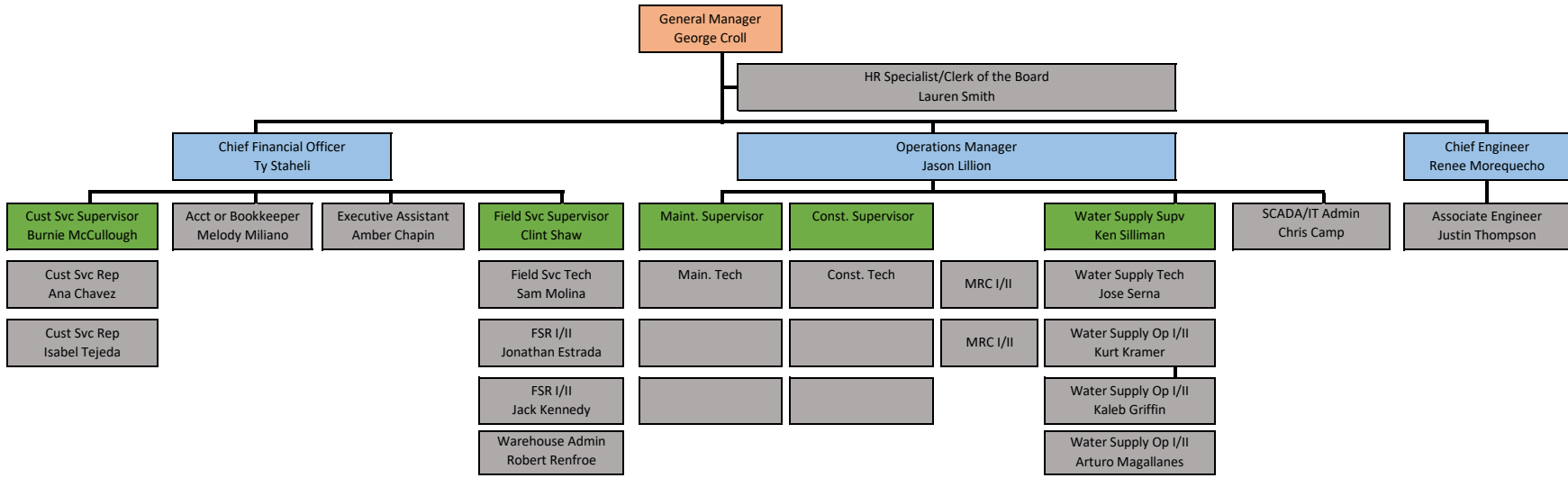




9.B.



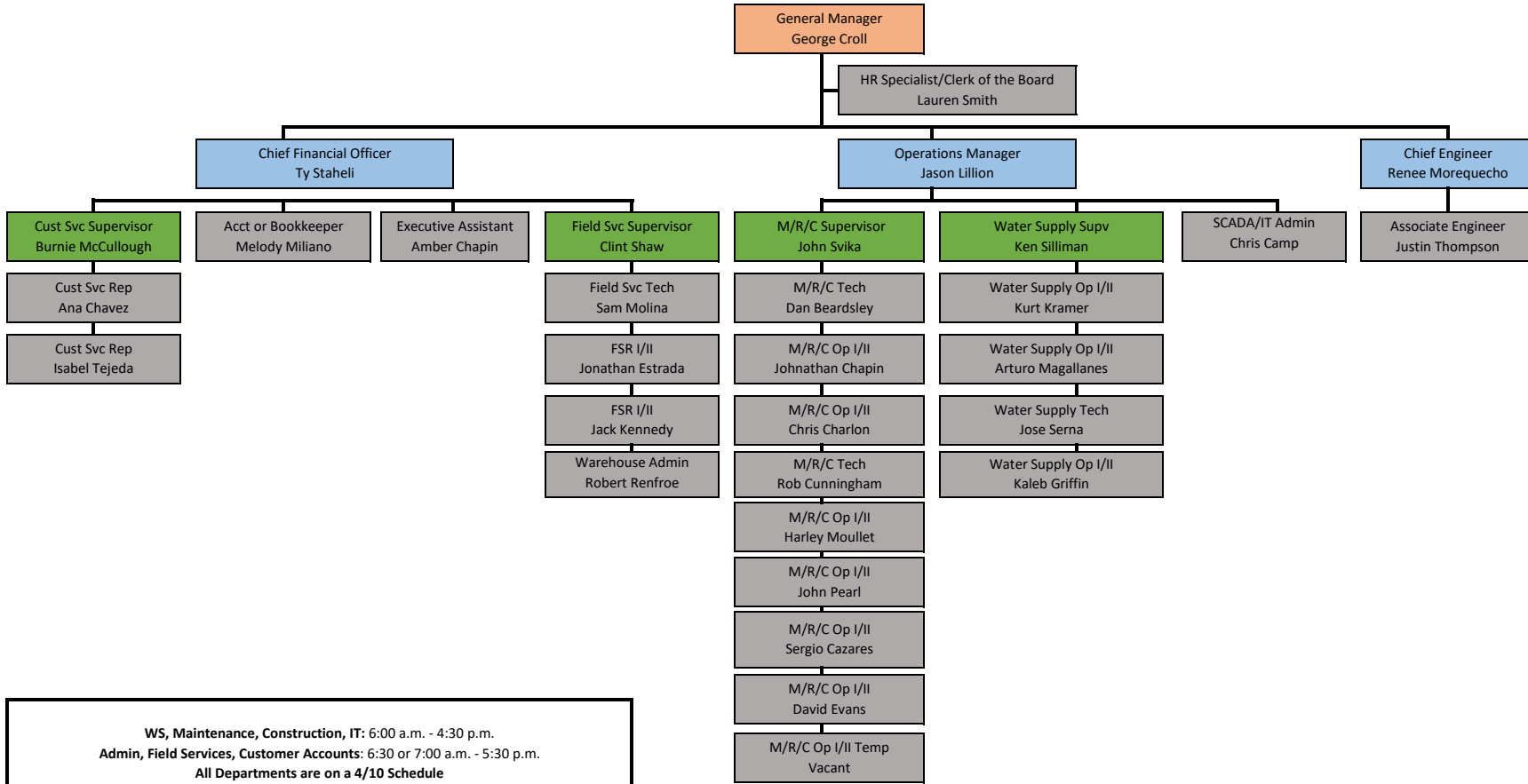
Organizational Chart



WS, Maintenance, Construction, IT: 6:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Admin, Field Services, Customer Accounts: 6:30 or 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
All Departments are on a 4/10 Schedule

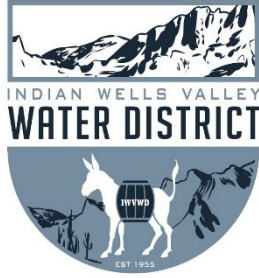


Organizational Chart



WS, Maintenance, Construction, IT: 6:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Admin, Field Services, Customer Accounts: 6:30 or 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
All Departments are on a 4/10 Schedule

Approved 01/14/25



9.C.1.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT,
KERN AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING
THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT ESCHEATMENT
POLICY FOR UNCLAIMED MONEY**

WHEREAS, from time-to-time checks issued by the Indian Wells Valley Water District (District) will remain uncashed despite efforts made by District staff to make contacts with the payees and reissue the checks; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Sections 50050-50056 provide procedures for escheating uncashed checks to a local agency if the uncashed checks are over one year old and less than \$15 and if the uncashed checks are over three years old and more than \$15 following publication once a week for two successive weeks in newspaper of general circulation published in the City of Ridgecrest; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Directors desires to adopt a policy for the handling of uncashed checks in accordance with California Government Code Sections 50050-50056.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District, that the Indian Wells Valley Water District's Escheatment Policy for Unclaimed Money incorporated herein as Exhibit A is hereby adopted.

All the foregoing being on the motion of Director and seconded by Director, and authorized by the following vote, namely:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of Indian Wells Valley Water District as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors at a legally convened meeting held on the 10th day of March, 2025.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of said Board of Directors this 10th day of March, 2025.

=

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 10th day of March, 2025.

David C.H. Saint-Amand
President, Board of Directors
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ATTEST:

George D. Croll
Secretary, Board of Directors
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

(SEAL)

EXHIBIT A

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT ESCHEATMENT POLICY FOR UNCLAIMED MONEY

This policy is established to provide for the escheatment of unclaimed money, including unclaimed checks, from the Indian Wells Valley Water District (District), consistent with the provisions of California Government Code Sections 50050 through 50057. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of the Government Code and the provisions of this Policy, the provisions of the Government Code shall prevail.

- A. Any individual item of less than fifteen (\$15.00) dollars, or any amount if the depositor's name is unknown, which remains unclaimed for a period of one (1) year may become the property of the District without the necessity of public notification in a newspaper or District website (Cal. Gov't Code §50055).
- B. Money that is not the property of the District that remains unclaimed for a period of more than three (3) years shall become the property of the District not less than forty-five (45) days and not more than sixty (60) days after the first publication of the notice described in Paragraph D below (Cal. Gov't Code §§ 50050-50051).
- C. Annually, the District will publish a list on its website of checks that are one to three years old, have never been cashed, and that have not yet been transferred back to the District as provided for in Paragraph D below.
- D. At any time following the expiration of the three (3) year period described in Paragraph B above, the General Manager or the Chief Financial Officer of the District may cause a notice to be published once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in the local area of the City of Ridgecrest (Cal. Gov't Code §50050).
- E. The notice shall include the following information: 1) the individual or business name as shown on the issued check; 2) The check date, number, and amount of money on the issued check; and 3) a statement announcing that the money shall become the property of the District on the date that is not less than forty-five (45) days and not more than sixty (60) days after the first publication of the notice. (Cal. Gov't Code §50051). A model template for the notice is attached as Exhibit I.

- F. A party of interest may file a claim at any time until the date on which the money becomes the property of the District as provided in Paragraph B above. The claim form must include the following information: 1) the claimant's name, address, and telephone number; 2) proof of identity such as a copy of a driver's license, social security card or birth certificate; 3) amount of the claim; and 4) the grounds on which the claim is founded. (Cal. Gov't Code §50052.) A model template for the claim form is attached as Exhibit II.
- G. Upon receipt of the information and documents described in Paragraph E above, prior to the date the unclaimed money becomes the property of the District, the General Manager or Chief Financial Officer may release the money (by issuance of a new check, for example) to the depositor, or heir, beneficiary, or duly appointed representative. (Cal. Gov¹t Code §50052.5). Any claims paid under this policy shall be without interest.
- H. Upon rejection of a claim by the General Manager or Chief Financial Officer, a claimant may file a verified complaint seeking to recover all, or a designated part, of the money in a court of competent jurisdiction. (Cal. Gov¹t Code §50052.)
- I. Unless otherwise required by law (e.g., where the claimant has served the General Manager or Chief Financial Officer with a timely complaint as described in Paragraph H above), upon unclaimed money becoming the property of the District, it shall be removed from the Unclaimed Checks liability account and recognized as miscellaneous revenue.

Exhibit I

Public Notice

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE

The following disbursements are unclaimed by the listed payees and held by the Indian Wells Valley Water District. If you have a claim against these funds, please contact the Indian Wells Valley Water District, 500 W Ridgecrest Blvd, Ridgecrest, CA 93555, phone (760) 375-5086. Proper proof of claim and current identification must be provided before funds will be released. Funds not claimed by _____*[INSERT DATE NOT LESS THAN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS AND NOT MORE THAN SIXTY (60) DAYS AFTER THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE]* become the property of the Indian Wells Valley Water District. This notice and its contents are in accordance with California Government Code Section 50050.

Payee (individual or business name as shown on the issued check)	Check Date	Check Number	Amount
Doe, Jane	5/23/2018	11030	\$ 33.40
Smith, John	10/25/2018	11175	\$ 58.44

General Manager or Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT II

Claim Form

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT UNCLAIMED MONEY – CLAIM FORM

Return completed form to:

Indian Wells Valley Water District
500 West Ridgecrest Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 50052, I wish to file a claim for a previously unclaimed check in the amount of \$ _____. The grounds on which I file this claim are:

Vendor or Individual Name (printed)

Vendor or Individual Name (signature)

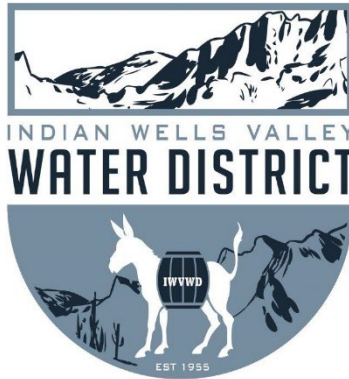
Telephone Number

Address

City / State / Zip Code

For Indian Wells Valley Water District Use Only:

Proof of Identity Verified: Driver's License / Passport / ID Card / Other _____



The Mission of the

Indian Wells Valley Water District

is to deliver the highest quality water at the best possible price while continuing to serve as respectful stewards of the environment.

The Vision of the

Indian Wells Valley Water District

is to provide for self-sustaining water resources now and for generations to come.

Board of Directors