

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

JANUARY 13, 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 George Croll. **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  
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

**AGENDA DECLARATION**  
Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, January 9, 2025. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**  
None. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION**  
None. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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 4:34 p.m. **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

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

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

President Saint-Amand announced the Public Hearing regarding the Rate Increase will be held on February 10, 2025, Regular Board meeting.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC  
COMMENTS**

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Kicinski approving the Minutes of the December 9, 2024, Regular Board meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,098,170.44. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

**PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE**

**P&E: AWARD OF  
CONTRACT**

The Board reviewed a recommendation by staff to award a contract to J. Colon Coatings to recoat the shell of the 0.55MG Gateway reservoir. After completion of the new 1.0MG Gateway reservoir, the older tank was drained and staff noticed significant delamination on the interior. J. Colon performed a complete recoating of the interior in 2014 and recommended recoating just the shell after inspection. Staff attempted to obtain quotes from other companies to recoat just the shell, but was only provided prices for recoating the shell and floor and a significantly higher cost. The District has budgeted \$100,000 for this project.

MOTION: was made by Vice President Griffin and seconded by Director Boyd awarding contract to J. Colon Coatings to recoat the shell of the 0.55MG Gateway reservoir in the amount of \$84,000. 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 |

**2025 COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**2025  
COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS**

President Saint-Amand announced the new dates & times of the 2025 Committee Meetings as follows: each Committee meeting will meet the week prior to the Board meetings, which currently meet the second Monday of the month. Plant & Equipment (P&E) - Monday at 3:00 p.m.; Finance - Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.; and Administration/Executive (Admin/Exec) - Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. The Committee members for 2025 are as follows: P&E - Director Boyd and Director Kicinski; Finance - Director Kicinski and Director Rajtora; Admin/Exec - Vice President Griffin and President Saint-Amand. The Water Management Committee has been rolled into Admin/Exec and P&E.

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

**IWVGA**

The Board discussed items from the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, including:

- Upcoming Special IWVGA Board Meeting tentatively scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> for the Periodic Evaluation and Amendment of the

- Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The amended GSP has yet to be distributed to the public for review
- Agreement with Wulff Hansen for Municipal Advisor Services related to Potential Water Purchase and Interconnection Bonding
- An update was provided on the Rademacher Consolidation
- Second Transient Pool Adoption to be presented to the Board at the February IWVGA Meeting for consideration of approval

Vice President Griffin expressed his frustration on the District's role with the IWVGA.

The Board asked clarifying questions regarding the Water Resources Development Act WRDA Authorization. It is unsure if "Real Property" would also apply to water rights.

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

Board directed staff and legal to write a letter of intent to the City of Ridgecrest to memorialize the request for a commitment of the District using the wastewater for its Recycled Water Project.

**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. Staff awaits the decision by the Supreme Court.

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

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

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

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Mr. Croll reported on the District's previous and upcoming outreach efforts. He also mentioned the annual Economic Outlook Conference will not be discussing the topic of water at the 2025 event. Mr. Croll updated the Board on water consumption/production for the month of December.

Mr. Croll summarized the topics of discussion on the Committee agendas, including draft finance slides which will be presented at the upcoming Workshop, update on Rademacher and consolidations, and Public Records Requests. (Committee Reports included in Board packet.)

**COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATES**

The contractor is working on punch list items at this time and has removed the old water pipe off the right-of-way. Contractor was granted a time extension to February 28, 2025. Staff expects to send contract to Board for Acceptance of Work in March.

**NW TRANSM. PIPELINE**

The District has signed agreements with the State for both the Hometown Water and Dune 3 grants. State legal will soon approve the language

**CONSOLIDATION PROJECTS**

for the agreement between the District and each water system. District legal counsel sent draft of a right-of-entry agreement that can be used for the both projects. Krieger & Stewart continues working on design of Phase 2 for the Rademacher Way project. Potholing to complete design to be done this week. Easement requests to be sent to property owners. First invoice to Stetson and the IWVGA for reimbursement. No new information from the State regarding the Inyokern Community Services District.

Renee Morquecho provided the Board with a summary of the Conservation Way of Life report submitted to the State. The report also showed the projected annual usage every five years until 2040. CONSERVATION AS A WAY OF LIFE REPORT

According to the Finance CM report: the estimated year-to-date revenues as of December 31, 2024, are \$8,785,279 and expenses are \$9,718,471. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$933,192, which is better than budget by \$501,059. To date, the District has paid \$16,592,444 in GA Fees to the Groundwater Authority. FINANCIAL STATUS

According to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report included in the Board packet - there were 15 water waste reports received in 2024, with 15 contacts made. There were two formal Second Notice and one penalty issued. CONSERVATION

Both Plants are winterized. Plant 2 will have media addressed this offseason. ARSENIC TREATMENT

For the month of December, 19 services were repaired and 18 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made five runs in December. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,473,226 gallons. Zero valves were exercised. GIS system continues Water Supply Testing. OPERATIONS

#### **BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Kicinski commented on the Rate Study being presented at the February Board meeting and encouraged public to attend.

Vice President Griffin thanked staff for their hard work. He also sent his condolences to those effected by the LA fires.

Director Rajtora commented on the cost of the adjudication. He also encouraged public to attend the upcoming Workshop.

Director Kicinski commented on the Rate Study being presented at the February Board meeting and encouraged public to attend.

Vice President Griffin thanked staff for their hard work. He also sent his condolences to those effected by the LA fires.

Director Rajtora commented on the cost of the adjudication. He also encouraged public to attend the upcoming Workshop.

Director Boyd thanked the public for their participation.

President Saint-Amand commented on the importance of being prepared, especially for an earthquake. He also thanked staff for their professionalism and the public for their participation.

**DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

**DATE OF NEXT  
BOARD MEETING**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith

Recording Secretary

**APPROVED: February 10, 2025**