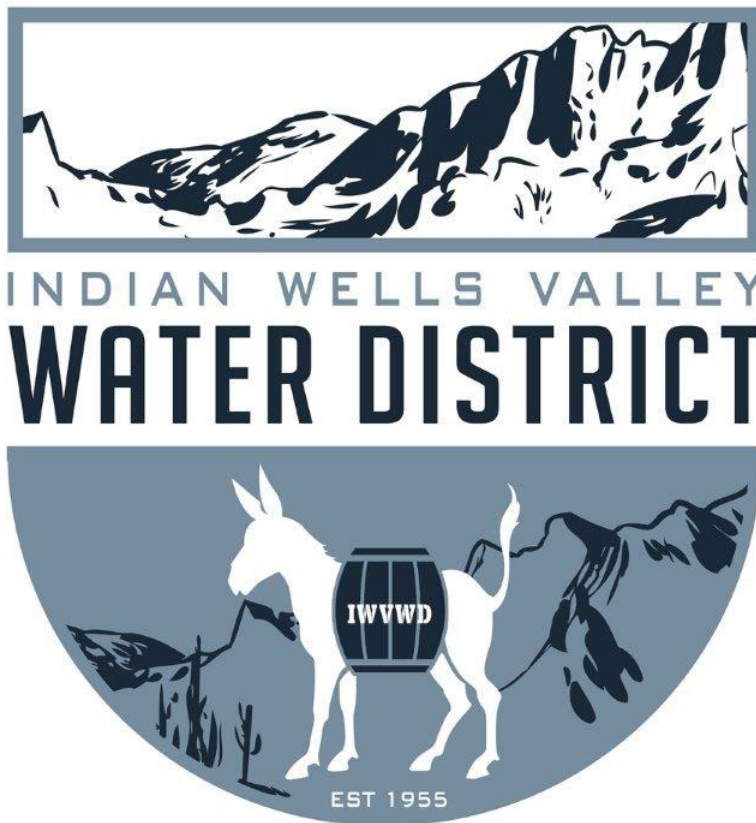


# INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting



**February 09, 2026**



# INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

## 2026 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
 (GRIFFIN/KICINSKI)

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/BOYD)

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  
 (RAJTORA/ SAINT-AMAND)

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

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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

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2026  
**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)

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*(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 Isabel Tejada 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  
2 Matters  
(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  
*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))
  
- D. Real Property Negotiations  
District Negotiators: George Croll and Jim Worth  
Landowner Negotiator: Gary Arnold, Esq.  
Property Description: Little Lake Ranch, Inc.  
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)
  
- E. Real Property Negotiations  
District Negotiators: George Croll and Jim Worth  
Landowner Negotiator: John Summers.  
Property Description: Butterworth Ranch.  
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)
  
- F. Personnel Matter  
One Position: General Manager  
Consider the appointment of the General Manager.  
(Pursuant to Governments Code Section 54957)
  
- 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. January 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting.
      - ii. January 20, 2026, Special Board Meeting
    - 2. Approval of Accounts Payable Disbursements.

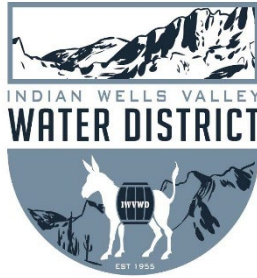
- B. Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication  
**Description:** Report and discussion regarding the status of the Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication.
- C. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
**Description:** Report and discussion regarding meetings of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA). Including, Board discussion and consideration of issues of importance requiring action by the IWVGA. Next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026.
- D. General Manager Update (The Board will consider and may act on the following items):  
**Description:** Water District Business
1. Significant WD events, service outages, emergencies etc.
  2. Pertinent Legislative Updates
  3. Personnel safety and injury reports
  4. Updates on Committee meeting topics not covered elsewhere
  5. Public Outreach and Meeting/Conference attendance requests
- E. Engineering Update (The Board will consider and may act on the following items):  
**Description:** Engineering updates
1. Update on District consolidations
    - i. Inyokern CSD
    - ii. Rademacher Way/Gordon St.
    - iii. Dune 3 Mutual Water Company
    - iv. Stark Street Water System
    - v. Hometown Water Association
  2. Brady Street Transmission Pipeline Replacement
  3. Inspection and Cleaning of Water Storage Tanks
- F. Financial Update (The Board will consider and may act on the following items):  
**Description:** Report on the District's current financial status
1. Year to date water use
  2. Solar Site Security Update
  3. Financial Reports and status
  4. Water Smart notifications
  5. Turn-off/Turn on monthly data
- G. Operations Update (The Board will consider and may act on the following items):  
**Description:** Update on Operations

1. Work performed heat map
2. Valve exercising
3. Utility marking data (USA North and South)
4. NO-DES Flushing
5. After Hours Calls
6. Service Lateral Repairs
7. Lateral Replacements
8. Hydrants Repairs / Replacements
9. Mainline Repairs
10. Water Supply

10. Board Comments/Future Agenda Items.

11. Date of next Regular Board meeting: **March 9, 2026.**

12. Adjournment.



# Committee Reports

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING

REPORT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 – 3:00PM  
BOARD ROOM  
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: David Saint-Amand, Stan Rajtora, John Svika, Ty Staheli, George Croll and Renee Morquecho.

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Committee/Public Comments**

None.

**3. Water Storage Tanks – Cleaning/Inspections Report Summary**

Approximately every 5 years, the District brings in a contractor to remove sediment and inspect water storage tanks using certified divers. The District just completed cleaning/inspection of 9 water storage tanks by Catalyst Diving. Catalyst recommended re-coating the interior of the C-zone #1, D-zone, Ridgecrest Heights, and Springer tanks. Re-coating is recommended when repairs to the coating are too extensive to handle under water. Staff will continue reviewing the videos and reports provided and work on budgeting repair work recommended.

**4. Solar Sites Security Upgrades and Solar System Repairs: Update**

Staff reported that there was one camera installation to complete and that the solar contractor Opterra had been given the go-ahead to complete repairs as of this week.

**5. Water System Consolidations: Update**

- Inyokern CSD: Nothing new to report. The District waits for communication from the State.
- Dune 3: Legal counsel has finalized the agreement between Dune 3 and the District and sent it to Dune 3 for approval. Plans are complete and staff is reviewing the revised bid package.

Stark Street: The District is working with the IWVGA on this project. The plan is to use the same contractor that is awarded the Dune 3 contract to also complete an extension to Stark

Street via change order. The State has already given permission to continue with this plan. This project will need a new or revised CEQA and permission from LAFCO.

- Rademacher Way (Phase 2): The IWVGA is moving forward with using a third-party company to obtain the last easements and also right-of-way for the Stark Street project.

## **6. Brady Street: Mainline Replacement Project Status**

The District's construction crew has installed close to 1000 L.F. of the 24-inch PVC transmission pipeline in Brady Street between Inyokern Rd and Ward Avenue. The crew is working closely with the County on compaction testing and has had no issues meeting compaction to date.

## **7. Future Agenda Items**

- Electric vehicle mandates
- Future capital purchases
- La Mirage Housing Area Grant Funding
- Transmission pipeline(s) inspection and/or corrosion control installation.

## **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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FINANCE COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING

REPORT

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2026 – 3:00 PM  
BOARD ROOM  
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

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ATTENDEES: Ron Kicinski, Malory Boyd, George Croll, Ty Staheli, John Svika, 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.

Nothing to report.

**4. GA Imported Water Costs**

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

Nothing new to report. Grass-roots group looking at total spent by Groundwater Authority.

**5. Financial Statements January 31, 2026 (preliminary)**

Description: Presentation to Committee financial report depicting preliminary revenue and expense of the previous fiscal year.

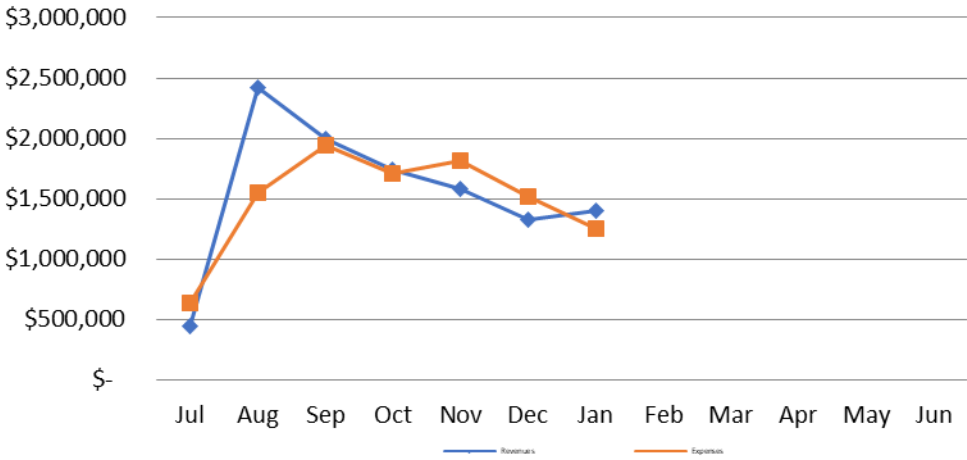
Estimated year-to-date revenues as of January 31, 2026, are \$10,893,935 and expenses are \$10,421,586, therefore revenues exceeded expenditures by \$472,348, which is better than budget by \$942,945.

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

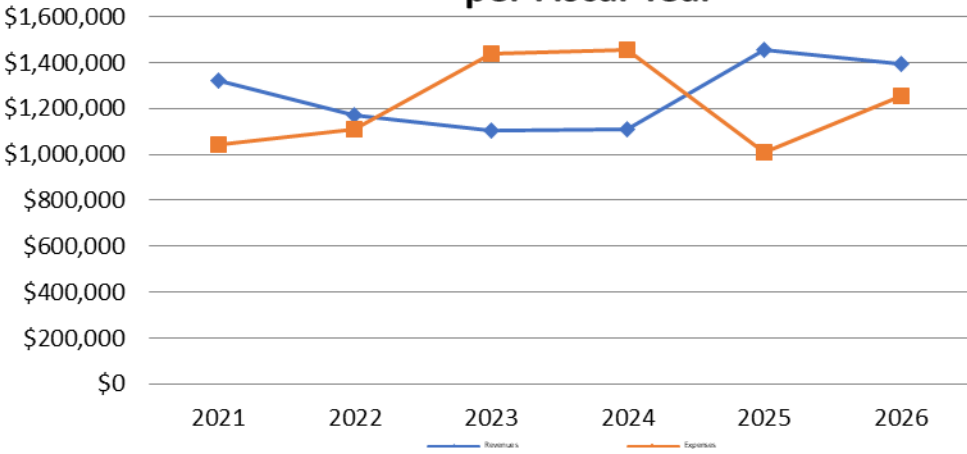
**Indian Wells Valley Water District**  
**Revenues vs. Expense**  
**Actuals & Budget through January 2026 (Preliminary)**

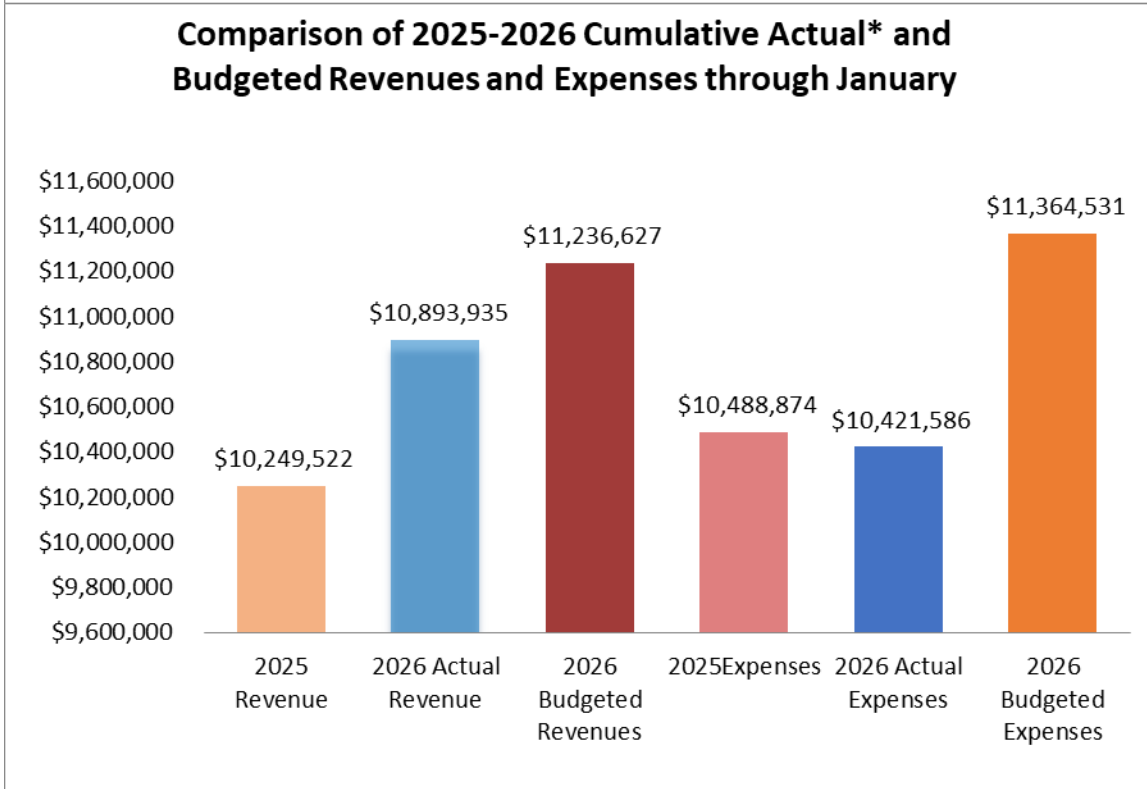
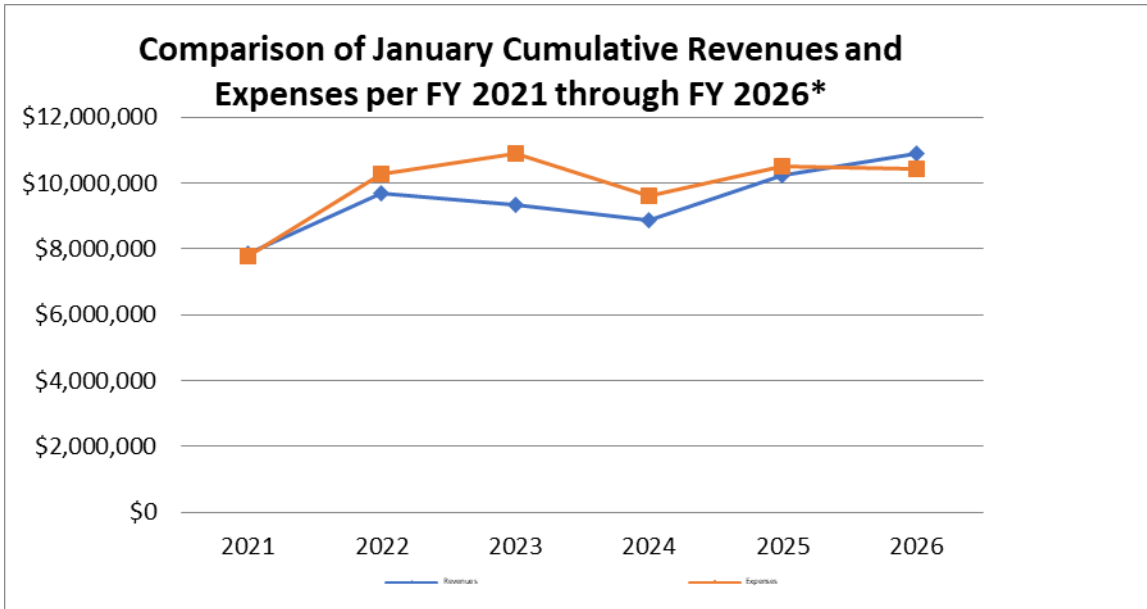
	2026 Budget	YTD Budget	Actuals	Δ
<b>Revenues</b>				
Total Water Sales	14,939,300	8,008,828	7,816,112	-192,715
GSA Fees	3,377,580	2,051,901	2,145,903	94,003
Total Water Service Revenue	375,900	206,294	262,941	56,647
Total Non-Operating Income	172,400	94,613	92,292	-2,321
Capital Contributions	1,594,372	874,991	576,686	-298,306
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>20,459,552</b>	<b>11,236,627</b>	<b>10,893,935</b>	<b>-342,692</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Water Supply	1,907,557	1,119,354	925,359	-193,995
Arsenic Treatment Plants	462,519	271,406	110,178	-161,229
Transmission & Distribution	1,898,115	1,113,814	858,840	-254,974
Engineering	696,189	408,524	370,012	-38,512
Customer Service	566,939	332,680	233,005	-99,675
Field Services	600,408	352,319	299,039	-53,280
General & Administration	3,169,078	1,859,615	1,565,291	-294,324
Legal	1,500,000	880,200	761,583	-118,617
Legislative	107,100	62,846	62,665	-181
Depreciation	3,300,000	1,925,000	1,925,000	0
Non-Operating, Interest	1,674,379	864,365	863,845	-521
Non-Operating, Miscellaneous	437,500	256,725	409,657	152,932
GSA Fees	3,420,830	1,843,628	1,983,570	139,941
Non-Operating, Conservation	34,200	20,069	12,085	-7,983
Non-Operating, Alternate Water	92,000	53,986	41,459	-12,527
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>19,866,814</b>	<b>11,364,531</b>	<b>10,421,586</b>	<b>-942,945</b>
<b>Net Revenue Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>592,738</b>	<b>-127,904</b>	<b>472,348</b>	<b>600,253</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>			<b>1,135,101</b>	
-Bond or Grant Funded			494,475	
<b>Debt Service Principle</b>			<b>656,506</b>	
<b>Total GSA Extraction Fee Paid</b>			3,677,591	
<b>Total GSA Replenishment Fee Paid</b>			15,803,170	
			<b>19,480,761</b>	

### Comparison of FY 2025-2026 Revenues and Expenses by Month



### Comparison of January Revenues and Expenses per Fiscal Year





*\*Actual Revenues and Expenses are Estimated*

**6. Accounts Payable Disbursements**

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

The Committee reviewed the accounts payable disbursements totaling \$1,322,701.36 as follows:

Checks through:	<u>1/06/26</u>	<u>1/15/26</u>	<u>1/29/26</u>
Prepaid	\$ 50 395.03	\$ 67,196.68	\$ 175.45
Current	<u>525 398.08</u>	<u>544,114.14</u>	<u>135,421.98</u>
Total	<u>\$ 575,793.11</u>	<u>\$ 611,310.82</u>	<u>\$ 135,597.43</u>

**7. Future Agenda Items**

-Brady street budget to actual

**8. Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 3:20 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

**ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

3:00 PM

BOARDROOM OR [ZOOM ROOM](#)  
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

ATTENDEES: Ron Kicinski, George Croll, Renee Morquecho, Ty Staheli, and John Svika

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm

**2. Committee/Public Comments**

None.

**3. Outstanding Public Record Requests (PRR)**

No new public Records Request. District's legal council is still working on one outstanding PRR requesting information on the Adjudication.

**4. Conference and Training Travel**

Potential conferences were discussed; Justin is scheduled to attend the Pipeline Condition Assessment Seminar later this month.

**5. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

Director Kicinski stated that he is putting together a chart to show how much Replenishment and Pumping Fees have been collected by the IWVGA and how much of that money has been spent/saved. Committee discussed that the IWVGA is setting up a new website but will not be transferring any information prior to 2020. Staff was asked to see if there is a way to download and save the information for any future review or research. It was also discussed that there is recently formed local group in the valley (Citizens Unfairly Affected by IWVGA's Replenishment Fee) and the fact that they may need access to some of those public documents. Committee also discussed the discrepancies in the IWVGA's 2024 Semi-Annual Pumping Report. The next IWVGA meeting is February 11, 2026 however the agenda is not yet available.

**6. Draft Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of February 9, 2026**

The committee reviewed Agenda and made no changes.

**7. Future Agenda Items**

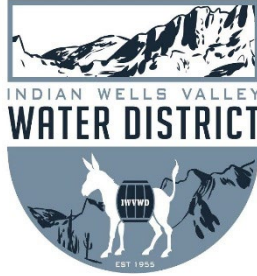
George Croll would like to add two items to next month's committee agenda:

- The District's revised organizational chart
- Potential Impact of the Searles Valley Minerals recent layoffs to the District.

Member of the public, Mike Neel, asked that the Committee look at stopping future payments to the GA and removing the District from the GA.

8. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:33 PM



# Approval of Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

January 12,2026

**CALL TO ORDER**

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.

**PLEDGE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by David Saint-Amand.

**ROLL CALL**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Ronald R. Kicinski  
Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand  
Director Charles D. Griffin  
Director Stan G. Rajtora

DIRECTORS ABSENT: 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, January 8,2026.

**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 4:35 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:05 p.m.

No action was taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**CONSENT  
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Griffin approving the Minutes of the December 08, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$309,100.28. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Boyd.)

**KP Public Affairs Contract Amendment/Extension**

**KP PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS**

Staff presented the revised contract from KP Public Affairs that was approved at the previous Regular Board Meeting. The contract includes pricing for legislative work as well as additional services such as finding project funding for The District, total price for these services would be \$7,500 monthly. This new price is \$2,500 more than the previous contract due to the additional services. The Board discussed the benefits of these services. There was no objection to the updated pricing from the Board. Ty Staheli discussed offsetting the increase in price by postponing a connection fee study that was previously budgeted for this year to next year.

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

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora to approve KP Public Affairs Contract Amendment/Extension. Motion was carried unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

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

**Approval of Murphy & Evertz Legal Fees**

**MURPHY &  
EVERTZ LEGAL  
FEES**

Staff presented a rate increase summary from Murphy & Evertz legal team. Murphy & Evertz has represented the District in the comprehensive adjudication, this will be their first rate increase request since the beginning of the adjudication. The Board discussed how reasonable the rate increase is in comparison to similar services.

Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk and Dan Tolbert

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand to approve Murphy & Evertz rate increase. Motion was carried unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

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

**COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION**

**COMPREHENSIVE  
ADJUDICATION**

Jim Worth reported the Phase 2 trial for the determination of the Basin’s Safe Yield is still set for June 1, 2026. Both expert and rebuttal reports have been exchanged. Expert deposition for retained and non-retained experts is in the process of being finalized. First deposition should be starting at the end of January and go until early March.

The first Mediation session is scheduled to take place February 18, 2026. Currently the process of finalizing mediators and the structure of the mediation is being worked on.

The District filed a supplemental brief on January 12,2026 giving further argument on why the District would like to continue the reverse validation originally filed by Searles Valley, which challenges the GSP. Opposition briefs will most likely be filed later in January. The hearing is set for February 6,2026.

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

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

**IWVGA**

David Saint-Amand reported on the Agenda for the upcoming meeting of the IWVGA, he noted there are two approved expenditures that are still under review. The 2024 Audit will be reviewed; a copy will be retained for Mr. Staheli to review.

Director Rajtora expressed concerns about bylaws being violated due to Kern County not serving as president as well as not providing General Council for the IWVGA. Mr. Rajtora would like to see Kern County be held accountable for not adhering to bylaws and would like to see them fulfill their commitment or step away from their position on the IWVGA Board. Jim Worth will be looking further into the verbiage of the bylaws and report back to staff.

George Croll presented a summary of the Pipeline Cost Estimate report that was done in 2024 as a refresher for the Board and the public.

The Board heard public comment from Judy Decker.

**2026 Annual Board Workshop Agenda**

**2026 ANNUAL  
BOARD  
WORKSHOP**

George Croll presented the current Workshop Agenda items. The Board discussed additional items that they would like to add to the Agenda.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

**General Manager Update**

**GENERAL  
MANAGER  
UPDATE**

George Croll reported on issues with the software that is used for the District’s bulk water station. The staff worked diligently to come up with a temporary solution while the software issue was corrected so no customer went without water. There was nothing significant to report in regards to personal safety and injury reports. No update on AB 1413, Isabel Tejada reported on SB 707 updates that are pertinent to the District. Board was presented with a list of potential conferences that either Board or staff should consider attending.

The Board heard public comment from Judy Decker.

### Engineering Update

Water Systems Consolidations:

- o Inyokern CSD: Renée Morquecho gave a summary of the consolidation process since June when the orders from the state were received to December 29, 2025 when the District provided a written response to the state regarding the status of the consolidation. No further update, at this time everything is on hold until the State responds.
- o Rademacher Way: Renée Morquecho presented a map of the phase 2 area, and reported there is still ongoing efforts with legal to get final easements needed. IWVGA has mentioned the possibility of getting a third party to get the right of ways, the District is open to getting help for this final step.
- o Dune 3: State has approved the plans and specs, now staff is waiting on approval of bid solicitation. Plans were signed by President Kicinski and are now awaiting signatures from Mrs. Morquecho and Mr. Croll so they can send back to the consultant. Once State grants authorization to go to bid the District will proceed.
- o Stark Street: Located outside of the District's boundaries, they have 10 connections and are regulated by the county. Currently the State has been paying for water hauling for 2 years now and they are very interested in getting them a long-term solution. There are discussions ongoing in regards to funding for this consolidation coming from grant money the IWVGA already has or emergency funding from the State Water Resource Control Board. There will be further discussion from the IWVGA at their next meeting. Staff expressed concerns with finishing the process before the grant funding expiration.

**ENGINEERING  
UPDATE**

The work has begun on Brady Street, Renée Morquecho reported that the county will be handling the compaction testing.

**BRADY STREET**

Inspection and cleaning of water storage tanks is in process and should be completed by Thursday January 15, 2025.

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

### Financial Update

Ty Staheli reported on billable consumption for the fiscal year through December and year to date. Also gave an update on Solar Site security, Well 33 is online and Well 34 will be installed this week. Staff is still awaiting solar power units, which should be arriving later this week. George Croll commented that most of the work was done in house, from cementing the poles to getting the cameras online.

**FINANCIAL  
UPDATE**

Mr. Staheli reported year-to-date actual revenue is \$9.5 million which is below budget. Expenditures are \$9.16 million which is almost one million below budget. Currently the net revenue is \$330,000 which is better than budget. To date the District has paid \$19,441,368 to the IWVGA of that \$15,796,316 is in replenishment fee payments.

Staff also provided an update on meter installations; delinquent account turn offs and WaterSmart alerts.

### Operations Update

John Svika reported that Arsenic plants are still offline due to the time of year so no new production to report on at this time. Mr. Svika presented heat map that highlights areas where work was done throughout town.

**OPERATIONS  
UPDATE**

For the last month there were 25 valves exercised which brings the total year to date 452. There were 244 USA North tickets which totals 1833 for the year. There was no NO-DES flushing, 10 service lateral repairs and 20 service lateral replacements. Staff also reported 14 after hour callouts which led to 4 service replacements and 3 service repairs. John Svika announced that the property in Inyo County is in the clear with code enforcement, the District will be monitoring the property periodically going forward.

**BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Rajtora would like to send a letter to Kern County regarding the JPA and bylaws. Director Griffin thanked Renee Westa-Lusk for her active participation in community conversations. Director Saint-Amand welcomed the new Customer service representative.

**BOARD  
COMMENTS**

**DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

The date of the next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, February 09, 2026.

**DATE OF NEXT  
BOARD MEETING**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Isabel Tejada  
Recording Secretary

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

JANUARY 20, 2026

The Special Board Meeting Workshop of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by Vice President Saint-Amand at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tyrell Staheli. **PLEDGE**

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

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Director Mallory J. Boyd

**STAFF PRESENT:** George Croll, General Manager  
Jim Worth, Attorney  
Chuck Krieger, Consulting Engineer  
John Svika, Operations Manager  
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer  
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer  
Isabel Tejada, Recording Secretary

**AGENDA DECLARATION**

Recording Secretary, Isabel Tejada, reported that the agenda for today's Special Board Meeting Workshop was posted on Thursday January 15, 2026. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

None. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

None. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**BOARD WORKSHOP**

Ty Staheli provided a graph on the last 12 months of usage for ¾ inch residential meters. The graph shows total active accounts versus the accounts that go into tier 2 usage which would be anything over 20 HCF. Discussion was had on the pattern of water usage throughout the year. Director Rajtora commented that he would like to see more information represented on a histogram sometime in the future. **¾ RESIDENTIAL METER USAGE**

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Renée Morquecho reported on the Urban Water Use Objectives Report, this is the second year the district is reporting on these objectives. There are still objectives that will be required in the future that are not **Urban Water Use Objectives Report**

yet required so the report is very similar to last year. The new requirements are being rolled out gradually. Next year the District will have to categorize all commercial and industrial users by type. Staff gave summary of information that WaterView gathers. Based on the summary of information the District is at 82% of our target and by 2035 we will be at 100%. The Board discussed whether the information gathered includes evaporative cooler variance, which it does not, and whether the variance will dramatically change the information.

Mrs. Morquecho presented water loss data for the last fiscal year. Water loss was reported at 591-acre feet, the target is 360 acre feet. The District's water loss should be reduced by the next report based on the most recent meter testing. The Board discussed where the District falls in regards to compliance compared to other water districts and praised the community for their conservation efforts. Renée Morquecho explained the Water Loss Audit Report and all the variables, such as meter inaccuracies, that get calculated into each category. The report takes all the water loss information and calculates potential revenue loss. The Board discussed whether or not the District is covering the GA Replenishment fee on the water loss, Mr. Staheli clarified that water loss was taken into count when developing the rates. President Kicinski expressed appreciation for the data that is being presented so that District can address any areas that need improvement. The District is working on meter replacements to address the meter inaccuracy water loss. On top of the meter replacements there are also plans to update water lines throughout the system and structure upgrades that will reduce the water loss. The Board discussed obstacles the District faces when it comes to getting grant funding from the state.

**WATER LOSS  
AUDIT REPORT**

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Vice President Saint Amand expressed transmission line replacements are an important priority that he would like to be addressed before other projects. Director Rajtora expressed concerns about the replenishment fee and he would like the District to be done paying those fees. President Kicinski expressed one of his main priorities is the La Mirage area, he would also like to see more public outreach and education to encourage public participation. President Kicinski reiterated Director Rajtora's concerns about when the District will be done paying the replenishment fee. Jim Worth will be looking into the verbiage in the original replenishment fee proposal. Directors expressed concerns on The District paying the entirety of the IWVGA replenishment fee goal.

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTOR  
GOALS**

Mr. Croll expressed the potential consolidations and boundary adjustments that may be happening for the District and asked the Board what is their vision for the future. Director Griffin proposed a question for Mr. Worth on the possibility of the District expanding its boundary now to include potential future consolidations. Mr. Worth reported that staff has been actively discussing and working towards expanding the District's boundary. The Board reiterated that the District does plan on taking on any consolidations unless we are requested to do so.

**REVIEW OF  
OUTSTANDING  
ISSUES**

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

President Kicinski would like to see the staff present any issues or concerns that they would like to discuss with the Board in future workshops.

**Board  
Comments/  
Future Agenda  
Items**

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 10:39 a.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 11:26 a.m.

No action was taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

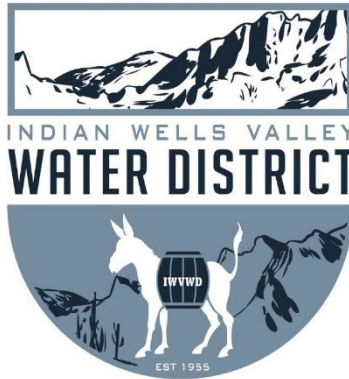
**CLOSED  
SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Isabel Tejada  
Recording Secretary

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_



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**