

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

February 09, 2026

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. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mallory Boyd. **PLEDGE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Ronald R. Kicinski
Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Stan G. Rajtora
Director Mallory J. Boyd **ROLL CALL**

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand

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, February 5, 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 4:34 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:08 p.m.

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

Jim Worth announced that the District will be kicking off the recruitment for the new General Manager in the next 1-2 weeks.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Minutes of the January 12, 2026, Regular Board Meeting, January 20, 2026, Special Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$575,793.11. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Boyd. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

Jim Worth reported on the District's reverse validation motion, the court ruled that the District does not have the authority to pursue the reverse validation action that was originally filed by Searles Valley Minerals.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

For the adjudication, an Independent Discovery Conference was held on the issue of whether the District can take the deposition of Steve Johnson. The IWVGA objected on various grounds but the Judge agreed with the District and allowed the deposition without any additional restrictions on a future date to be determined. Trial is still set for June 1 and retained and non-retained expert depositions are ongoing. The mediation is set for February 18; all the primary pumpers will be involved as well as all other pumpers that have been actively involved in the process.

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

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

George Croll reported on a reimbursement agreement with the District that is listed on the upcoming IWVGA Agenda for the Stark Street Consolidation. Renée Morquecho explained the agreement was based off the one for Rademacher and will need to be updated slightly by staff and legal. Board and staff discussed the project timeline, reimbursement process, and total price of project. Jim Worth explained that staff would like Board approval on the agreement now so that there is no delay in the process and clarified if there are any significant changes staff would bring the agreement back to the Board at the next Board meeting.

IWVGA

MOTION: was made by Director Rajtora and seconded by Director Griffin for authorization to enter into a reimbursement agreement for Stark Street Consolidation subject to staff and legal approval. Motion was carried unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

President Kicinski: Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand: Absent

Director Boyd: Aye
Director Griffin : Aye
Director Rajtora: Aye

IWVGA

Director Rajtora turned to Jim Worth for a follow up on his previous assessment regarding the County being out of compliance. Jim Worth said he would prepare something to present to the Board regarding Director Rajtora's concerns. Ty Staheli presented information from the GA's 2024 Audit results, the Board expressed concerns and had a discussion about the information.

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

General Manager Update

GENERAL
MANAGER
UPDATE

George Croll reported he is tracking H.R.4553 in Washinton DC, this bill could potentially provide funding to the GA for the pipeline. Nothing significant to report for personal safety, and reported that the District will have a table at the Economic Outlook Conference. The Board discussed possible conference attendance.

Engineering Update

Water Systems Consolidations:

- o Inyokern CSD: There is no official update at this time, still waiting on direction from the State for the next step.
- o Rademacher Way: Still in Phase 2, Renée Morquecho reported the GA is hiring a right-of-way consultant to assist with getting the last easements, which may take a few months. Construction crew can not move forward until those final easements are complete.
- o Dune 3: Mrs. Morquecho has final plans and will be reviewing changes that were made to the contract documents. Request has been submitted to the state to move forward with the bidding process.
- o Stark Street: Update was provided under the IWVGA Agenda Item.
- o Hometown Water Association: State Water Resource Control Board has requested that the District revise the contract to move the start date sooner and extend the end date to 2029 so that the funding does not expire.

ENGINEERING
UPDATE

Renée Morquecho presented some photos of the work being done on Brady Street. As of today, the crew has installed almost 1,500 linear feet. Mrs. Morquecho anticipates the project being complete sometime in March as long as everything continues to go well.

BRADY STREET

Mrs. Morquecho reviewed the tank inspection reports. There are four tanks that were recommended for recoating.

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 January and year to date. Mr. Staheli gave an update on Solar Site security, all cameras except for one are up. Well 30 Solar Site repairs will be done sometime next week.

FINANCIAL
UPDATE

Mr. Staheli reported year-to-date revenue is just under \$10.9 million expenditures are just over \$10.4 million which is about \$600,000 better than budget. Capital expenditures are just over 1.1 million and about \$500,000 of that is funded by either bonds or grants. To date the

District has paid \$3.67 million in extraction fee and \$15,803,000 in replenishment fee to the GA.

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

Operations Update

**OPERATIONS
UPDATE**

John Svika reported the Water Supply Department has been performing maintenance on the well motors, they had to repair a coil on the Well 35 motor and continue to do State required water sampling.

For the last month there were 11 valves exercised which brings the total year to date 463. There were 293 USA North tickets which brings the total year to date to 2,126. There was no NO-DES flushing, 6 service lateral repairs, 12 service lateral replacements and 1 hydrant replacement. Staff also reported 17 after hour callouts which led to 3 service replacements. Mr.Svika announced the steel building that was previously approved will be arriving later this month.

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

President Kicinski thanked staff for their hard work.

DATE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**DATE OF NEXT
BOARD MEETING**

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

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Isabel Tejada

Recording Secretary

APPROVED: March 09, 2026