

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.

**BOARD
WORKSHOP**

**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.

**CLOSED
SESSION**

ADJOURNMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,



Isabel Tejada
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: February 09, 2026