

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

MAY 8, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Boyd 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 Christopher Camp. **PLEDGE**

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Don Zdeba, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Ty Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION **AGENDA DECLARATION**
Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Friday, May 5, 2023.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
Director Saint-Amand stated his opinions shared during this meeting are his own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of his employer, nor the Board.

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

With no further Board or Public comments, President Boyd 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 6:14 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:18 p.m.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Vice President Kicinski and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Minutes of the April 12, 2023, Regular Board Meeting, May 2, 2023, Special Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,089,462.63. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

The Board reviewed the prepared Notice of Exemption for the Replacement of the 30-inch transmission pipeline along the north shoulder of Inyokern Road, from Victor Street to Brady Street (except the portion replaced in February). The existing pipe will be removed and replaced with 24-inch fusible PVC.

**P&E
NOE FOR NW
TRANSM.
PIPELINE**

Documents have been reviewed by legal counsel.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Saint-Amand authorizing staff to file a Notice of Exemption for Dune 3 Mutual Water Company Consolidation Project. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: none.)

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES CALL FOR CANDIDATES

ACWA Region 7 Nominating Committee is looking for ACWA members who are interested in leading the direction of Region 7 for the 2024-'25 term.

**ACWA CALL FOR
CANDIDATES**

No action taken.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

Director Griffin reported on actions taken at the April 12th IWVGA Regular Board meeting, including:

IWVGA

- Request for Proposals (RFPs) to conduct 2022 Financial Audit, and discussion on the 2021 audit with Brown Armstrong
- Grant of Easement with the US Navy for installation of telemetry equipment
- Resolution 5-23 CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Geotechnical Borings for the imported water pipeline design
- Approved reimbursement agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for assistance and permitting for the imported water pipeline

The Board discussed items on the upcoming meeting agenda and items they would like to see addressed, including:

- Developing a Shallow Well Mitigation Committee
- Cause of delay with the audit report from Brown Armstrong
- When will the Communication & Engagement (C&E) Plan be implemented/adopted?

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

Jim Worth reported the next Case Management Conference is scheduled for June 2nd. Judge Claster has still not been assigned by the judicial council. As a result, he is hesitant to make any ruling. The judicial council has acknowledged they received the letter and supporting documents and they are reviewing assignment to Judge Claster.

Staff was directed to respond to a recent interview included in The Daily Independent with Keith Lemieux, legal counsel for the City of Ridgecrest. Comments were made regarding the adjudication. Staff and legal will follow up and address appropriately.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE SAFETY, PRODUCTION & NEW SERVICES

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 125 consecutive days without a recordable injury.

Metered water production at the wells for the month of April was 129,300,000 gallons (396.8 acre-feet). The number the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is using for comparison is metered water through the distribution system, or consumptions, and non-revenue water which is water lost to leaks, flushing activities, blow-offs, etc. That number is 99,259,000 gallons (304.6acre-feet). The preliminary and full report were submitted to SWRCB on May 7th and May 8th, respectively. The conservation results for April show consumption down 38.5% compared to April of 2013, the baseline year established by the SWRCB. The 20% conservation target established by the District Board took effect in June 2016 for comparison. Through April, the cumulative result remains at 23.8%.

In response to Governor Newsom’s request for a voluntary 15% reduction to address current drought conditions, the SWRCB is also comparing current water consumption to the same month in 2020/2021. Comparing April 2023 to April 2021, there is a 19.7% reduction in consumption. Comparing April conservation results to recent years, consumption was 18.5% lower than the baseline year, 2021 was 6.5% lower, 2020 was 32.0% lower, and 2019 was 30.4% lower. The variability can be attributed to April being a transitional month with respect to local weather.

The Residential gallons per capita per day (R-gpcd) for the month was 82.2. This includes both indoor and outdoor usage. There were six new connections during the month of April. There have been 25 new connections during this fiscal year, contributing \$197,696 in Capital Facility Fees.

Mr. Zdeba was not able to attend the May 2nd Community Collaborative meeting at City Hall.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

District staff has been working with volunteers at the Maturango Museum on an exhibit entitled “Artistic Water-Wise Landscape”. The exhibit will display over 40 dryscape techniques and include photos of local front yards demonstrating the wide variety of dryscape. The exhibit will also give viewers tips and techniques on how to get started transitioning to dryscape, as well as promote the District’s WaterSmart program. The exhibit is scheduled to open May 15th and run through October 22nd.

Staff continues to work with Providence Strategic Consulting to promote WaterSmart. As of this morning, there are 1,580 active WaterSmart

accounts accounting for 12.0% of customers. The number of accounts signed up is significantly higher than last month, percentage is 0.2% lower. There were 746 customer alerts issued in April, and there have been 13,062 in the past 12-months.

On March 17th LADWP did declare an emergency concerned about flooding damage to Eastern Sierra communities and Owens Lake and started releasing water along the aqueduct, including five locations within the Indian Wells Valley. Freeman Sluice Gate was opened March 29th. Boulder Draw and Bird Springs sand traps were opened April 1st. Indian Wells sand trap was opened April 4th and Sage Canyon was opened April 1st, but did not register a flow until April 8th. The Boulder Draw point was shut down April 17th due to concerns about damage to the area and has remained closed. As of Saturday, an estimated 3,167.68 acre-feet have been released into the basin. LADWP is providing regular updates on release points and rates and the information is being passed on to Stetson staff. LADWP anticipates releases could continue as late as August.

STATUS ON
LADWP
RELEASES

During the May 2nd Special Board meeting, a Notice of Exemption was approved for a project involving placement of temporary sandbag dikes to be hand-placed within the banks of Little Dixie Wash to slow flows in an effort to help protect to facilities at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) on the China Lake playa from potential flooding and subsidence damage as well as encourage percolation into the groundwater basin.

Staff had previously reached out to Kern County for assistance in acquiring materials and possible labor to fill and place the sandbags. Understandably, resources are spread thin due to massive flooding occurring in the Central Valley. Staff is asking Board direction/approval to identify and reach out to other potential sources for assistance.

Director Griffin offered a donation of 500 pre-filled sandbags he has available. Staff and legal to discuss this option.

The Board asked Chuck Krieger questions regarding short-term and long-term plans to address this situation.

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

Layne has finished their work at Well 31 as of last week. Staff has been flushing the well and getting it ready for sampling.

WELL 31 REHAB

The construction for the College tank has been completed. Coating for the tank began this week. At the booster station, there have been significant delays from the manufacturers of the pumps and the motor control center (MCC). The contract completion has been pushed until October.

BOOSTER
STATIONS AND
TANKS PROJECT

Ty Staheli reported that the estimated year-to-date revenues as of April 30, 2023, are \$12,673,090 and expenses are \$14,288,674. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$1,615,584, which is more than budget by \$527,293.

FINANCIAL
STATUS

Mr. Staheli reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for July 2022 through April 2023 with the Board. For April, the actual savings was \$58,658.14 and the guaranteed savings \$49,984.27. The total savings

SOLAR
PRODUCTION

this fiscal year is \$462,714.78. At the Well 35 site (Phase 2), the actual savings for April was \$2,479.27 and guaranteed was \$2,033.40. The total savings since at the Well 35 site this calendar year is \$7,165.88.

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items:
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - Thus far in 2023, there have been a total of 39 water waste reports received with 39 contacts made. There has been 19 formal Second Notices and seven penalties issued.

CONSERVATION

The approved Notice of Exemption will be filed. District Engineering staff is currently working to assemble the bid documents in order to make the project shovel ready. The deadline to file for the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot (DCIP) Program grant is June 23rd.

INYOKERN RD
TRANSM. MAIN

Plant 2 was running into the system as of April 6th and produced 40,358,000 gallons for the month. At Plant 1, Pureflow completed installation of the new underdrain system on April 28th. New support media is on schedule to be shipped to the District next week. After receipt and placement of the support media, the filter media can begin to be added back into the vessels. Once the media is set, staff may begin to disinfect the system and prepare for production.

ARSENIC
TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of April, nine services were repaired and 37 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made 14 runs in April, filtering 102,840 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 8,849,265 gallons. 99 valve were exercised.

OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Director Rajtora suggested President Boyd contact state officials regarding the State Revolving Fund (SRF).

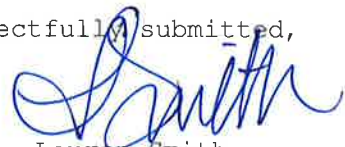
Director Saint-Amand urged the public to be prepared for an earthquake at any time, as the San Andreas Fault is past due for one.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith

Recording Secretary

APPROVED: June 12, 2023