

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

OCTOBER 10, 2023

The Special 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 Tim Parker. **PLEDGE**

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: George Croll, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Justin Thompson, Associate Engineer
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary
Tim Parker, Consulting Hydrogeologist

AGENDA DECLARATION **AGENDA DECLARATION**
Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Special Board Meeting was posted on Friday, October 6, 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 4:35 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:10 p.m.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Vice President Kicinski and seconded by Director Saint-Amand approving the Minutes of the September 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,229,850.36. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following vote: (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

The Board reviewed the supporting documents submitted by the Sierra Sands Unified School District (SSUSD) appealing the capital facility, distribution, and plan review/inspection fees.

**P&E CM
SSUSD FEE
APPEAL**

The Board discussed the timeline and options available to SSUSD.

The Board heard public comment from April Moore (SSUSD's superintendent), and Judie Decker.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Saint-Amand waiving the Capital Facility Fee for the new Richmond School connection with any future distribution fees associated with the mainline extension remaining with the District. Motion was carried by the following vote: (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Saint-Amand. Nays: Rajtora. Absent: None.)

ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ADMIN/EXEC CM

The Board reviewed the letter of support for a Community Solar Project off US-395 and West Inyokern Road. In order for PowerMarket to start construction, Southern California Edison (SCE) requires they show "community interest" by getting letters of support signed. PowerMarket has already obtained letters of support from City of Ridgecrest, Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital, Sierra Sands Unified School District, and many others.

**LTR OF SUPP
SOLAR PROJ.**

After much deliberation, the Board unanimously agreed that due to the location being out of the District's jurisdiction, no action would be taken. It was strongly suggested the discussion be presented to the IWVGA, as it is more within their jurisdiction.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker.

No action taken.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

Director Griffin discussed action items of the September 13, 2023, IWVGA meeting, including:

IWVGA

- Next IWVGA meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2023
- Award of Contract for Audit Services to Nigro & Nigro for audit services CY 2022 through 2024
- Approval of funding path for imported water pipeline project

- Discussion of upcoming agenda items, including the Water Recycling Plant and the 2024 Budget.

Tim Parker, consulting hydrogeologist, reported that another airborne electromagnetic (AEM) survey will be conducted in the Indian Wells Valley the beginning of November.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

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Jim Worth reported that Judge Claster has been assigned for all purposes regarding the adjudication.

There is a Hearing scheduled for November 2, 2023, information to view the Hearing will be posted on the District's website once available.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE SAFETY

As of today, employees at the Water District have worked 290 days since the last recordable injury.

Additional information and District updates will be provided at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Croll commented on attending a recent Rotary meeting and upcoming events he is scheduled to attend, including the Republican's Women's Group.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The following updates were given on items assigned at the July 25, 2023, Special Board Workshop:

BOARD WORKSHOP UPDATES

- **Potential Strategic Planning Efforts**

The Committee plans to meet soon.

- **Variance for Evaporative Coolers**

Staff will continue to remain current on the requirements set forth by SWRCB. No definitive requirements, nor implementation dates have been set by the SWRCB.

- **Letter to the IWVGA regarding potential sites for monitoring wells in the El Paso area to be drafted by Tim Parker**

Once the letter is drafted it will be provided to the Board prior to distribution to the IWVGA.

Last week the pump testing and pre-startup were conducted at the Booster Station. Beginning next week staff will begin installing RTUs and the SCADA system. The contractor will also be performing a re-disinfection.

BOOSTER STATIONS & TNKS

The College tank and C-zone are both complete. Staff is waiting for the contractors to come and adjust some rubbers between the piping and the struts at the College tank.

The estimated year-to-date revenues as of September 30, 2023, are \$3,854,242 and expenses are \$3,826,232. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$28,010, which is better than budget by \$384,968.

FINANCIAL STATUS

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items:

CONSERVATION

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - Thus far in 2023, there have been a total of 61 water waste reports received

with 61 contacts made. There has been 23 formal Second Notices and seven penalties issued.

The District is currently looking at the most economical and efficient possible method to replace the Inyokern transmission pipeline. Staff is working with Cal-Muni Financial to try and procure funding through U.S.D.A. grants and low interest loans. Staff has determined that using fusible PVC and slip-lining the current 30" CMLC with 24" PVC will be the most efficient and economical course. Staff continues to determine we the District has enough current staffing to maintain the ability to respond to maintenance issues while undertaking a project of this scope. Projected costs of the overall project are \$5M.

INYOKERN RD
TRANSM. MAIN

For the month of September, Plant 2 treated 32,252,000 gallons. Staff continues to work on sifting the treatment media.

ARSENIC
TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of September, eight services were repaired and 35 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made nine runs in September, filtering 66,780 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,044,085 gallons.

OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Vice President Kicinski requested staff and the General Manager start sending the Monday morning updates to the Board again.

Director Saint-Amand made suggestions and revisions to the Monday morning report going forward.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith

Recording Secretary

APPROVED: November 13, 2023