

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Kicinski at 4:31 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 Lauren Smith. **PLEDGE**

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: George Croll, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION

Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, February 8, 2024. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION

None. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

With no further Board or Public comments, President Kicinski recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:33 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:35 p.m. **CLOSED SESSION**

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

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:07 p.m.

No action was taken that requires disclosure under the Brown Act.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

PRESENTATION

David Moore, of Clean Energy Capital (CEC), provided a presentation to the Board which included services and capabilities available. CEC is a Municipal Advisory firm with specialists in water project financing, multi-agency projects, and public/private partnerships.

**PRESENTATION:
CEC**

The proposed scope of service would involve an independent cost assessment of the Imported Pipeline Project of the IWVGA.

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

This item will be added to the March agenda for further discussion. Staff to research estimated costs and present to the Board.

No action was taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Boyd approving the Minutes of the January 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, January 12, 2024, Special Board Workshop, January 18, 2024, Special Board Meeting, and February 5, 2024, Special Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,025,798.82. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

**P&E CM:
AWARD OF
CONTRACT**

On January 18, 2024, the District received three bids for Bid Schedule 1 (regular PVC replacement) and four bids for Bid Schedule II (fusible PVC) for this project. The lowest single responsive bid was from Nicholas Construction, Inc. for Bid Schedule I in the amount of \$5,698,350.00. After correction of two minor irregularities in their bid, the bid documents were deemed complete and met the requirements of the Contract Documents. Committee recommends awarding the contract to Nicholas Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$5,698,350.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora to award the contract for the Northwest Transmission Mainline Replacement to Nicholas Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$5,698,350.00). (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**ADMIN/EXEC
CM:
PERSONNEL
MANUAL
CHANGES**

Staff presented a redline version of the manual (included in the Board Packet) of recommended changes to the Personnel Manual due to, but not limited to, adoption of the 4/10 work schedule and the previously approved Travel Policy.

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Rajtora to approve the changes made to the Personnel Manual as presented. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Rajtora,

Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

The Board discussed action items from the January 10th IWVGA Board meeting, and items on the February 14th agenda, including:

- Request for Bids for Utility Potholing Services
- Comments on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) due by the end of February
- Authorizing a reimbursement agreement with AVEK

Director Griffin commented he would like to see for the Shallow Well Mitigation Plan by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) to be presented and reviewed by the IWVGA Board.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

**COMPREHENSIVE
ADJUDICATION**

The next Hearing is scheduled for March 22, 2024, 1:30 p.m. to address any outstanding issues and try to get a Phase 1 Trial set.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

**GENERAL
MANAGER AND
STAFF UPDATE**

George Croll reported the monthly water data for January. Water produced: 113,590,000 gallons, water consumed: 93,401,000 gallons (11% commercial, 4% other, 85% residential), and estimated loss 600,000 gallons (which is water lost to leaks, flushing activities, blow-offs, etc.)

Mr. Croll also provided historical water use and population data for comparison.

Mr. Croll will be presenting at the Economic Outlook Conference on Thursday, February 22nd. The District will have a booth at the Home & Leisure Show on March 16th-17th. He also provided an update on social media outreach.

**PUBLIC
OUTREACH**

Slides were presented comparing Bakersfield, CA to Indian Wells Valley using the Water Use Objective Exploration Tool available through State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

**STATE REG.
UPDATES**

Ty Staheli provided an update on the requirements for the Eclectic Vehicle (EV) mandate which went into effect on January 1, 2024. The mandate applies to any state or local government agency in California that owns, leases, or operates one or more vehicles. Mr. Staheli provided details on the covered vehicles, excluded vehicles, and considerations going forward.

The following updates were given on items assigned at the January 12, 2024, Special Board Workshop:

**BOARD
WORKSHOP
UPDATES**

- **Updated Costs and plans for Wastewater Project**

Follow up to be had with Krieger & Stewart (K&S)

- **Follow up with LADWP on capturing water overflow**

No update available at this time

- **Project Priority List based on FY 24 Funding**

Staff is working on the list and will present to the Board at a future Board meeting

- **Deferred Maintenance List**

Staff is reviewing and updates will be given accordingly

Photos of the progress of the Booster Station were displayed. This project is in the final weeks of completion. Demolition of the old booster stations and appurtenances is scheduled to begin Tuesday the 13th. The final job walk is scheduled for the 14th. Once demolition is complete, the contractor will finish up any Punch List items. The project is expected to be completed by end of month, possibly the beginning of March.

BOOSTER STATIONS

The estimated year-to-date revenues as of January 31, 2024, are \$8,812,001 and expenses are \$9,768,463. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$956,463, which is over budget by \$58,660. To date, the District has paid \$13,645,852 in GA Fees to the Groundwater Authority.

FINANCIAL STATUS

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - there have been no water waste reports thus far in 2024. In 2023, there were a total of 64 water waste reports received with 64 contacts made. There were 24 formal Second Notices and seven penalties issued.

CONSERVATION

Item was addressed and approved earlier in the meeting. No further updates.

NW TRANSM. PIPELINE

Plants are off for the season. The 50% invoices were paid to order the media from Pureflow and Filtrionics. Staff is now waiting a scheduled delivery date to plan for installation before summer.

ARSENIC TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of January, five services were repaired and 31 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made three runs in January, filtering 15,780 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,265,764 gallons. Zero valves were exercised.

OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Boyd and President Kicinski thanked the staff and George Croll for their updated presentation and all their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Smith
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: March 11, 2024



Presentation to IWVWD Board of Directors

February 12, 2024



Clean Energy Capital

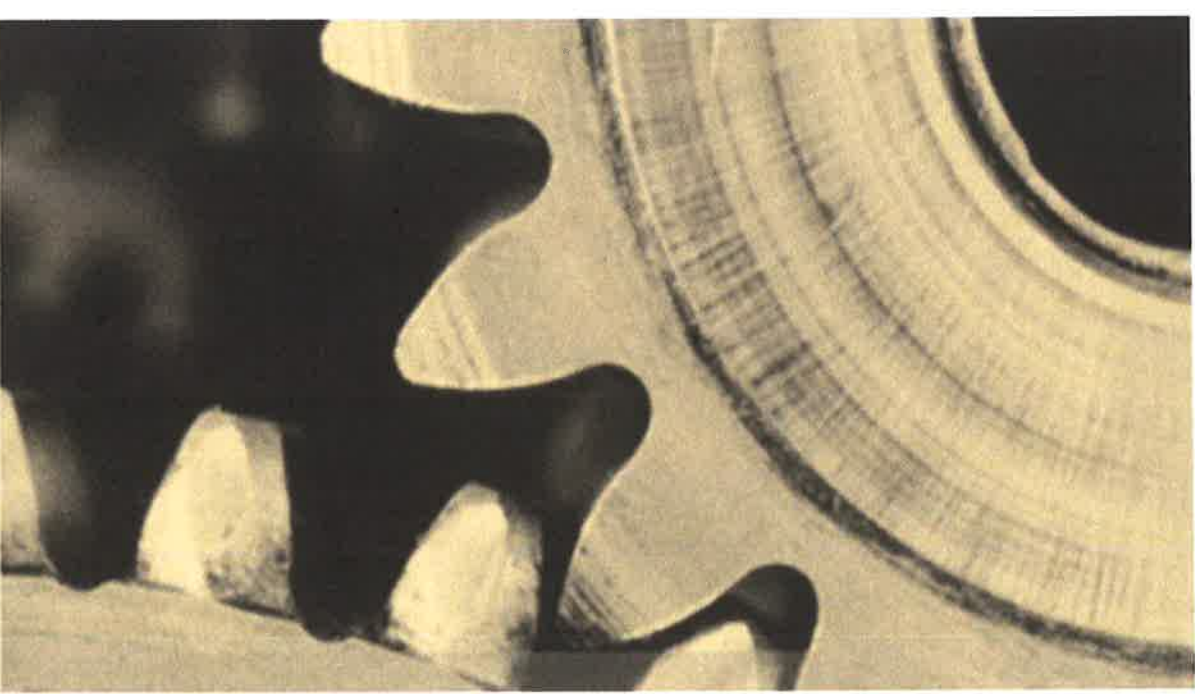
- Municipal Advisory firm headquartered in San Francisco
- Specialists in water project financing, multi-agency projects, and public/private partnerships

Representative Clients



Representative Services

- Financial feasibility assessment, cost-of-service, cost-benefit vs. alternatives
- Proforma financial modeling
- Capitalization plans and implementation strategies
- Drafting and negotiation of Water Supply Agreements and other partnering contracts and termsheets
- Support in JPA formation
- Public/private partnerships evaluation and implementation
- Obtainment of credit ratings
- Debt capital markets, WIFIA and SRF loan negotiation and procurement



Proposed Clean Energy Capital Scope of Service

1. Imported Pipeline Project

- Independent cost assessment
 - Develop proforma financial model
 - Draw inputs from GA studies
 - Supplement inputs with CEC estimates
 - Calculate annual and unit costs
 - Estimate ratepayer impact
- Share model with GA
- Incorporate comments from GA
- Present results to the District

Key Cost Sensitivities:

- Cost of imported water
- Throughput volumes
- Additional District costs
- Level of public benefits funding
- Cost allocation among GA JPA Members & Project beneficiaries

2. Assess and compare modifications or additions to the current GA project as proposed. Develop cost estimates for alternatives.