

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Kicinski at 4:30 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 Chuck Griffin. **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, September 5, 2024. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**  
None. **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 4:32 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**  
The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:36 p.m. **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:00 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 April Moore of Sierra Sands Unified School District (SSUSD) regarding the IWVGA's Replenishment Fees. (Letter attached to minutes.)

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**CONSENT  
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Boyd approving the Minutes of the August 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, Minutes of the August 28, 2024, Special Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,454,173.42. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

**RADEMACHER  
MAINLINE EXT.**

Jim Worth commented the IWVGA has been allotted grant funds for consolidations, one of the projects being Rademacher Way. As opposed to bidding the project out, the District is able to complete it in-house. Board must approve the project subject to finalizing the reimbursement agreement. The final reimbursement agreement should be completed within the next couple of weeks. Draft Notice of Exemption included in Board packet.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand approving the project subject to legal and staff finalizing the reimbursement agreement, and authorizing staff to file a Notice of Exemption. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

**CLEAN ENERGY  
CAPITAL (CEC)  
REPORT**

George Croll commented a request was made to receive a written report of the Imported Pipeline Cost Analysis from Clean Energy Capital. Staff reviewed and made revisions, with the final report being included in the packet and available on the District's website.

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

Board agreed to receive and file report.

**RESO. 24-05  
OPPOSING AVEK  
PIPELINE**

Vice President Saint-Amand read Resolution No. 24-05 in its entirety. (Included in Board packet.)

The Board discussed at length the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and the AVEK Imported Water Pipeline.

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel and Eric Wilson.

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Griffin to adopt Resolution No. 24-05: Opposing the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority's proposed 50-mile Water pipeline from AVEK to Ridgecrest. Motion was carried, unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

President Kicinski:	Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand:	Aye
Director Boyd:	Aye
Director Griffin:	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye

**INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)**

**IWVGA**

The August IWVGA Board meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

The Board discussed items on the upcoming September 11<sup>th</sup> agenda, including:

- Recycled water presentation
- Potential modification of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to allow flexibility with appointment of alternates
- Update on Rademacher consolidation

**COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION**

**COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION**

Jim Worth commented the next Hearing is scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to hopefully have the Court set the trial date for the Phase 2 aspect, determination of the Safe Yield. In addition, generally the Court would sign a Case Management Order, which will set forth the deadline for various tasks leading up to the Trial.

The Technical Working Group (TWG) has released the Safe Yield White Paper, available on the District's website under the Basin Adjudication tab. The Judge will consider the TWG's work, as well as the IWVGA's estimated safe yield amount of 7650.

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

Mr. Croll reported the monthly water data for August. Water produced: 212,732,300 gallons, water consumed: 213,949,000 gallons (11% commercial, 4% other, 85% residential), and estimated loss 11,174,686 gallons (which is water lost to meter inaccuracy, flushing, and theft, etc.) Mr. Croll also reported on the amount of lock-offs in August.

Nicholas Construction is running two crews. Crew 1 is working on Victor Street connecting to Well 30. Crew 2 is slip-lining under Jack's Ranch Road. Discussions on how to proceed with the disinfection testing of the pipeline are continuing.

**NW TRANSM. PIPELINE**

The funding agreements for both Dune 3 and Hometown are being reviewed by the Department of Financial Assistance. The legal department must then review and approve the agreements before being sent for signature. Staff expects to receive the agreements from the State within the next few weeks. Staff is working on preparation of the Statement of Qualifications for the Drinking Water Administrator Program.

**CONSOLIDATION PROJECTS**

The estimated year-to-date revenues as of August 31, 2024, are \$2,502,811 and expenses are \$2,714,047. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$211,237, which is better than budget by \$685,148. To date, the District has paid \$15,184,092 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 15 water waste reports received with 15 contacts made. There has been two formal Second Notice and one penalty issued.

**CONSERVATION**

Plant 1 is now online and running at half capacity. Plant 2 experienced an error in the meter, it was reporting erroneous flows. Staff is investigating the source of the error.

**ARSENIC TREATMENT**

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of August, 11 services were repaired OPERATIONS  
and 21 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made zero runs in August. Since  
inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,428,891 gallons. Six valves  
were exercised. The District recently moved its GIS system to a new  
contract, Nobel Systems. Mr. Lillion provided a visual representation  
of the functions of the new system.

**BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**BOARD  
COMMENTS**

Director Boyd commented he will not be in attendance at the October  
meetings.

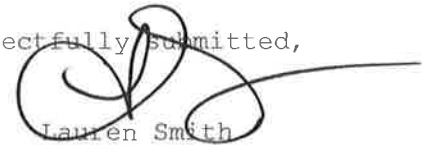
President Kicinski thanked staff for their hard work.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was  
adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith

Recording Secretary

**APPROVED: October 15, 2024**



## SIERRA SANDS Unified School District

113 W. Felspar, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 | Phone: 760-499-1600 | [ssusd.org](http://ssusd.org)

April Moore, Ed.D., Superintendent

September 9, 2024

IWV Water District Board  
Mr. George Croll, General Manager  
IWV Water District  
500 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Dear Members of the IWV Water District Board,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Sierra Sands Unified School District to request a waiver from the replenishment fee currently being charged to our district. As you may be aware, the fees associated with drifting into "Tier 2" service have resulted in costs exceeding \$28,000 per month for our district. This significant financial burden is impacting our ability to allocate resources effectively for the benefit of our students and staff.

We respectfully request that the IWV Water District consider granting a waiver for these fees. Additionally, we seek your advocacy in securing a special allocation for our school district in any future adjudication lawsuit settlements. There is precedent for such an allocation, as demonstrated by the Antelope Valley case, and we believe that a similar arrangement would greatly assist us in managing our water costs more sustainably.

Our school district is committed to responsible water usage and conservation efforts. However, the current financial strain posed by the replenishment fees is unsustainable and detracts from our primary mission of providing quality education to our students. We are hopeful that the IWV Water District will recognize the unique challenges faced by educational institutions and support our request for relief.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your favorable consideration and are available to discuss this request further at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

April M. Moore, Ed.D.  
Superintendent