

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
& PUBLIC HEARING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

The Special Meeting and Public Hearing 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 Don Zdeba. **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 tonight's Special Board Meeting and Public Hearing was posted on Friday, February 24, 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 5:58 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:04 p.m.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

None.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

PUBLIC HEARING

President Boyd opened the Public Hearing at 6:06 p.m.

**PUBLIC
HEARING**

Mark Hildebrand, of Hildebrand Consulting, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Rate Study. (Presentation available on website.)

PRESENTATION

The presentation provided Financial Plan Findings, Proposed Rate Design, and customer impacts. The Proposed Rate Design would replace the District's current 4-tiers with a 2-tier system, with tier 1 not incurring any of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority's Replenishment Fee. If approved, the rate changes would go into effect on March 1, 2023.

The Board heard public comment from Patrick Weaver, Mike Neel, Renee Westa-Lusk, Larry Mead, Brian Koenig, Susan Prazak, Jim Williams, and Robert.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

President Boyd closed the Public Hearing at 7:30 p.m.

The Board asked clarifying questions to better understand the proposed rate changes and recommended new tier system.

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Lauren Smith announced that there were nine written protests received.

ORDINANCE 106

MOTION: was made by Director Saint-Amand and seconded by Vice President Kicinski adopting Ordinance No. 106, rescinding Ordinance No. 104 in its entirety and providing for a reference document entitled Water Sales and Service Policy Manual effective March 1, 2023, as presented. Motion was carried, by the following roll call vote:

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

A redline and clean version of the Water Sales and Service Policy manual were included in the Board packet.

The Board opted to not review the Water Sales and Service Policy Manual page by page. It was made clear the Manual can be reviewed and changed in the future without the process of Proposition 218.

Changes to the Water Sales and Service Policy Manual, apart from the rate changes, will be reviewed by the Board and discussed at a future Finance Committee meeting.

**BOARD
COMMENTS/FUTU**

RE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

The Board thanked the public for their participation in tonight's Public Hearing and encouraged them to continue attending future IWVWD and IWVGA meetings.

Director Griffin encouraged public to sign up for the WaterSmart program through the District if they have not already done so.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith

Recording Secretary

APPROVED: March 13, 2023