

**AGENDA  
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING**

August 11, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER** 5:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL** Directors LaMar, Ferons, Swan, Withers, and President Reinhart

**PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE**

This meeting will be held in-person at the District's headquarters located at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California. The meeting will also be broadcasted via Webex for those wanting to observe the meeting virtually.

To observe this meeting virtually, please join online using the link and information below:

Via Web: <https://irwd.webex.com/irwd/j.php?MTID=mdf87c047fc4c39e59773d21f3c94b4d6>

Meeting Number (Access Code): 2488 589 3785

Meeting Password: NRmQaTMK328

PLEASE NOTE: Webex observers of the meeting will be placed into the Webex lobby when the Board enters closed session. Participants who remain in the "lobby" will automatically be returned to the open session of the Board once the closed session has concluded. Observers joining the meeting while the Board is in closed session will receive a notice that the meeting has been locked. They will be able to observe the meeting once the closed session has concluded.

Public comments are limited to three minutes per speaker on each subject. If you wish to address the Board of Directors on any item, you may attend the meeting in person and submit a "speaker slip" to the Secretary. Forms are provided outside of IRWD's Board Room. If attending via Webex, please submit your request to speak, or your comment, via the "chat" feature and your remarks will be read into the record at the meeting. You may also submit a public comment in advance of the meeting by emailing [comments@irwd.com](mailto:comments@irwd.com) before 12:00 p.m. on Monday, August 11, 2025.

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**COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD**

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1. Written:
2. Oral:
3. ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

Recommendation: Determine the need to discuss and/or take immediate action on item(s).

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## **PUBLIC HEARING**

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4. REPORT ON WATER QUALITY RELATIVE TO PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS

Recommendation:

- a. Open the hearing.
- b. Inquire of the Secretary how the hearing was noticed.
- c. Receive and file the affidavit of posting and proof of publication.
- d. Inquire of the Secretary if there have been any written communication.
- e. Request legal counsel to describe the nature of the proceedings.
- f. Inquire of the staff to provide a report.
- g. Inquire whether there are any individuals who wish to speak regarding the report on water quality relative to public health goals.
- h. Inquire of the Board if it has any comments or questions.
- i. Close the hearing and receive and file the report.

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## **CONSENT CALENDAR, Items 5 through 7**

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5. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation: That the minutes of the July 28, 2025 Regular Board meeting be approved as presented.

6. RENEWAL OF GROUP MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION, AND ANCILLARY PLAN SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

Recommendation: That the Board authorize the continuation of IRWD's health insurance coverage with CalPERS with changes in District and employee contribution rates as outlined in Exhibit "A", authorize the continuation of the District's dental insurance coverage with Delta Dental, authorize the continuation of the District's vision insurance coverage with EyeMed, authorize the renewal of the District's Employee Assistance Program with REACH, authorize the Term Life, Accidental Death and Dismemberment, Long-term Disability and Employee Assistance Program coverage with Reliance Standard, and authorize the continuation of the Flexible Spending Account, Lifestyle Savings Account, Health Reimbursement Arrangement, COBRA and Commuter Benefits administrator, Inspira Financial.

7. NETWORK REDESIGN AND UPGRADE PROJECT

Recommendation: That the Board authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Logicalis, Inc. in the amount of \$850,000 for the Network Redesign and Upgrade Project.

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## ACTION CALENDAR

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8. MICHELSON WATER RECYCLING PLANT BIOSOLIDS LIFT STATION  
AND SEWER PIPELINE BUDGET INCREASE & CONSTRUCTION AWARD

Recommendation: That the Board authorize a budget increase in the amount of \$966,000, from \$4,911,000 to \$5,877,000 for Project 12541, and authorize the General Manager to execute a construction contract with Paulus Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$4,186,573 for the Michelson Water Recycling Plant Biosolids Lift Station and Sewer Pipeline, Project 12541.

9. RADIO TOWER IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET INCREASE AND  
CONSTRUCTION AWARD

Recommendation: That the Board authorize budget increases in the amount of \$268,000, from \$807,000 to \$1,075,000 for Project 11154, in the amount of \$490,000, from \$585,000 to \$1,075,000 for Project 11156, and in the amount of \$520,000, from \$555,000 to \$1,075,000 for Project 11157; and authorize the General Manager to execute a construction contract with Southern Contracting Company in the amount of \$1,806,600 for the Radio Tower Improvements, Projects 11154, 11156, and 11157.

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## OTHER BUSINESS

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Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2, members of the Board of Directors or staff may ask questions for clarification, make brief announcements, and make brief reports on his/her own activities. The Board or a Board member may provide a reference to staff or other resources for information, request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. Such matters may be brought up under the General Manager's Report or Directors' Comments. Pursuant to AB 1234 and Government Code Section 53232.3(d), a written draft report of the meetings that any Board member attended on behalf of IRWD since the last Board Meeting will be available at the table near the Board Room entrance, and will be amended verbally, if necessary, during Directors' Comments.

10. General Manager's Report
11. Receive oral update(s) from District liaison(s) regarding communities within IRWD's service area and interests.
12. Directors' Comments and Meeting Reports
13. Adjournment

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Availability of agenda materials: Agenda exhibits and other writings that are disclosable public records distributed to all or a majority of the members of the above-named Board in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at an open meeting of the Board are available for public inspection in the District's office, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California ("District Office"). If such writings are distributed to members of the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, they will be available from the District Secretary of the District Office at the same time as they are distributed to Board Members, except that if such writings are distributed one hour prior to, or during, the meeting, they will be available electronically via the Webex meeting noted. Upon request, the District will provide for written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, and reasonable disability-related modification or accommodation to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in and provide comments at public meetings. Please submit a request, including your name, phone number and/or email address, and a description of the modification, accommodation, or alternative format requested at least two days before the meeting. Requests should be emailed to comments@irwd.com. Requests made by mail must be received at least two days before the meeting. Requests will be granted whenever possible and resolved in favor of accessibility.

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August 11, 2025  
Prepared by: L. Rigby  
Submitted by: J. Colston / K. Burton  
Approved by: Paul A. Cook 

## PUBLIC HEARING

### REPORT ON WATER QUALITY RELATIVE TO PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS

#### SUMMARY:

The 2025 Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals is a triennial report required by the California Health and Safety Code summarizing constituents detected in the District's water supply at levels exceeding applicable Public Health Goals or Maximum Contaminant Level Goals during calendar years 2022, 2023 and 2024. A Public Hearing regarding the report will be held at this Board meeting to accept any public comments that may be provided regarding the report.

#### BACKGROUND:

The California Health and Safety Code, Section 116470, requires public water systems with more than 10,000 service connections to prepare a brief written report that provides information regarding the detection of any contaminants above the Public Health Goals adopted by the State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment or the Maximum Contaminant Level Goals set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. These reports are intended to provide information to the public in addition to the Consumer Confidence Report that is mailed annually to each customer. The California Department of Public Health does not require public water systems to take any action to reduce or eliminate any exceedance of a public health goal.

A public water system that is required to prepare a Public Health Goal Report is also required to hold a public hearing for the purpose of accepting and responding to public comments regarding the report. The public hearing may be part of any regularly scheduled meeting. Due to the detection of contaminants in the potable water system above the Public Health Goals, the District is required to prepare a Public Health Goal Report and hold a Public Hearing at which time public comments may be provided regarding the report. Attached as Exhibit "A" is the 2025 Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals.

### **OUTLINE OF PROCEEDINGS**

President: Declare this to be the time and place for the Hearing on the Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals and declare the Hearing open.  
Request the Secretary to report the manner by which the Notice of Hearing was given.

Secretary: The Notice of the Hearing was published in the Orange County Register on July 27 and August 3, 2025. A Notice was also posted in the District office and on the District website on July 22, 2025.  
The Secretary presents an Affidavit of Posting and the Proof of Publication for the Board to receive and file.

Board: RECOMMENDATION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING AND THE PROOF OF PUBLICATION PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY.

President: Is there a motion for receiving and filing the Affidavit of posting? Is there a second? All in favor, say aye, opposing, or abstaining. *State if the motion carries, and with the vote.*

President: Inquire of the Secretary whether there have been any written communications.

Secretary: Respond.

President: Request legal counsel to describe the nature of the proceeding.

Counsel: This Public Hearing is required under Health and Safety Code Section 116470(c) for the purpose of the Board accepting and responding to any public comment on the 2025 Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals, including exceedance of and steps to treat any contaminant to meet any State Public Health Goal or any National Maximum Contaminant Level Goal.

President: Inquire if staff would like to give a report.

Staff: Respond.

President: Inquire whether there is anyone present who wishes to address the Board concerning the Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals.

President: Inquire whether there are any comments or questions from members of the Board of Directors. State that the Hearing will be closed and the Board is to receive and file the report.

Board: RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE HEARING BE CLOSED AND THAT THE 2025 REPORT ON WATER QUALITY RELATIVE TO PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS BE RECEIVED AND FILED.

President: Is there a motion for closing the Hearing and filing the 2025 Report on Water Quality relative to Public Health Goals? Is there a second? All in favor, say aye, opposing, or abstaining. *State if the motion carries, and with the vote.*

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

The 2025 Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals was reviewed by the Engineering and Operations Committee on July 15, 2025.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit “A” – 2025 Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals PWS #3010092

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## Exhibit "A"

# IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT REPORT ON WATER QUALITY RELATIVE TO PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS JULY 1, 2025 PWS #3010092

## BACKGROUND:

Provisions of the California Health and Safety Code<sup>1</sup> specify that larger (>10,000 service connections) water utilities prepare a special report by July 1, 2025, if the utilities' water quality measurements have exceeded any Public Health Goals (PHGs). PHGs are non-enforceable goals established by the California Environmental Protection Agency's (Cal- EPA's) Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). The law also requires that where OEHHA has not adopted a PHG for a constituent, the water suppliers are to use the Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) adopted by United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Only constituents that have a primary drinking water standard and for which either a PHG or MCLG has been set are to be addressed.<sup>2</sup>

The law specifies what information is to be provided in the report.<sup>3</sup>

If a constituent was detected in IRWD's water supply in 2022, 2023 or 2024 at a level exceeding an applicable PHG or MCLG, this report provides the information required by law. Included is the numerical public health risk associated with the MCL and the PHG or MCLG, the category or type of risk to health that could be associated with each constituent, the best treatment technology available that could be used to reduce the constituent level, and an estimate of the cost to install that treatment if it is appropriate and feasible.

## What Are PHGs?

PHGs are set by OEHHA and are based solely on public health risk considerations. None of the practical risk-management factors that are considered by the USEPA or the California State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) in setting drinking water standards (MCLs) are considered in setting the PHGs. These factors include analytical detection capability, treatment technology available, and benefits and costs. The PHGs are not enforceable and are not required to be met by any public water system. MCLGs are the federal equivalent to PHGs.

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<sup>1</sup> California Health and Safety Code Section 116470

<sup>2</sup> Table of Regulated Constituents with MCLs, PHGs or MCLGs

<sup>3</sup> See footnote 1 above

### Water Quality Data Considered:

All water quality data collected by the IRWD system from 2022 to 2024 for purposes of determining compliance with drinking water standards was considered. Additional data was collected by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) on behalf of IRWD for groundwater wells within the jurisdiction of the OCWD. This data was summarized in the Annual Consumer Confidence Reports which were distributed to all customers in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

### Guidelines Followed:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) formed a workgroup that prepares guidelines for water utilities to use in preparing these required reports, and these guidelines were used in the preparation of this report including the cost estimates. No guidance is available from state regulatory agencies.

### Best Available Treatment Technology and Cost Estimates:

Both the USEPA and DDW adopt what are known as Best Available Technologies (BATs) which are the best-known methods of reducing contaminant levels to the MCL. Costs can be estimated for such technologies. However, since many PHGs and all MCLGs are set much lower than the MCL, it is not always feasible or even possible to determine what treatment is needed to further reduce a constituent to the PHG or MCLG, many of which are set at zero. Estimating the costs to reduce a constituent to zero is difficult because it is not possible to verify by analytical means that the level has been lowered to zero. In some cases, installing treatment to try and further reduce very low levels of one constituent may have adverse effects on other aspects of water quality.

### CONSTITUENTS DETECTED THAT EXCEED A PHG OR A MCLG:

The following is a discussion of constituents that were detected in one or more of the IRWD's drinking water sources at levels above the PHG, or above the MCLG. Note that while a constituent may be detected above the PHG or MCLG, that does not mean that it was served to the public at that concentration or level. All of IRWD's wells are either treated or blended with other wells or sources of water (imported and local). Perchlorate, nitrate/nitrite nitrogen, and nitrate nitrogen were detected in one or more source wells above the PHG. However, the existing treatment processes in place reduced the concentration of these constituents to nondetectable levels or to levels less than the PHG. No further assessment of these constituents is needed.

### Arsenic:

The PHG for arsenic is 0.004 parts per billion (ppb). The MCL, or drinking water standard, for arsenic is 10 ppb. There were nine detections in Dyer Road Wellfield (DRWF) wells at the following levels: 3ppb in DRWF Well 1, 2 ppb in DRWF Well 2, 3 ppb in DRWF Well 4, 10.6 ppb in DRWF Well 5, 2.1 ppb in DRWF Well 10, 2.2 ppb in DRWF Well 11, 2 ppb in DRWF Well 12, 2.3 ppb in DRWF Well 17, and 5.7 ppb in DRWF Well 18. The water from all DRWF wells in operation is blended prior to entering the drinking water distribution system. The highest concentration of arsenic measured at the entry point to the distribution system was 3.38 ppb (below the drinking water MCL).

There was arsenic detected in five Irvine Desalter Project (IDP) wells at the following levels: 5.7 ppb in IDP Well 76, 4.3 ppb in IDP Well 77, 4.9 ppb in IDP Well 107, 6.6 ppb in IDP Well 110 and 5.6 ppb in IDP Well 115. The highest concentration of arsenic detected in product water from the IDP Potable Treatment Plant (IDP/PTP) was 2.49 ppb. These levels were below the MCL.

Arsenic was detected in imported water treated at the Baker Water Treatment Plant (BWTP); the highest level detected was 4.89 ppb.

### *Best Available Technology*

The category of health risk associated with arsenic, and the reason that a drinking water standard was adopted for it, is that some people who drink water containing arsenic above the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems and may have an increased risk of cancer. The numerical health risk for cancer at a PHG of 0.004 ppb is  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  (1 in 1,000,000). The numerical health risk for cancer at an MCL of 10 ppb is  $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  (2.5 in 1,000).

The BATs for arsenic to lower the level below the PHG are Reverse Osmosis (RO), Ion Exchange (IE), activated alumina, lime softening, electrodialysis reversal, oxidation/filtration or coagulation/filtration. RO or IE would be required to attempt to lower the arsenic levels to below the PHG. The IDP Potable Treatment Plant (PTP) is an RO facility which reduces arsenic levels in water from the IDP wells, though the plant would need to be operated with 0% bypass to achieve a concentration closer to the PHG. The estimated cost to install and operate such a treatment system on DRWF Wells 4, 5, 6 and 18 that would reliably reduce the arsenic levels to below the PHG would be approximately \$20,960,000 per year including annualized capital and O&M costs. The estimated cost to install and operate such a treatment system at the BWTP that would reliably reduce the arsenic level to the PHG would be approximately \$9,396,000 per

year including annualized capital and O&M costs. This would result in an assumed increased cost for each customer of \$253 per year.

#### Coliform Bacteria:

Drinking water samples collected from the potable distribution system were positive for total coliform bacteria in the months of May 2022, September 2022, July 2023, October 2023, April 2024, and August 2024; the percent positives were 0.7%, 0.4%, 0.8%, 0.3%, 0.3%, 0.4%, and 0.4%, respectively. All total coliform positive samples were negative for E. coli bacteria. The MCL for coliform is 5% positive samples of all samples per month, and the MCLG is zero percent positive samples. The reason for the coliform drinking water standard is to minimize the possibility of the water containing pathogens (organisms that cause waterborne disease). Because coliform is only a surrogate indicator of the potential presence of pathogens, it is not possible to state a specific numerical health risk. While the USEPA normally sets MCLGs “at a level where no known or anticipated adverse effects on persons would occur”, they indicate that they cannot do so with coliforms.

Coliform bacteria are an indicator organism that are ubiquitous in nature and are not generally considered harmful. They are used because of ease in monitoring and analysis. If a positive sample is found, it indicates a potential problem that needs to be investigated and follow up sampling done. It is not at all unusual for a system to have an occasional positive sample. It is difficult, if not impossible, to ensure that a system will never get a positive sample, or that inadvertent contamination of a sample will not occur.

Chlorine is added as a disinfectant at sources to ensure that the water served is microbiologically safe. The chlorine residual levels are carefully controlled to provide the best health protection without causing the water to have undesirable taste and odor or increasing the concentration of Disinfection Byproducts (DBP). The one single action that would most likely decrease the possibility of a system having positive coliform results would be to significantly increase the disinfectant residual. This would likely result in increased DBPs that have adverse health consequences. The limits to the amount of disinfectant residual allowed in the distribution system are the maximum residual disinfectant levels (MRDLs) as established by the Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (D/DBPR). This careful balance of treatment processes is essential to continue supplying our customers with safe drinking water.

Other equally important measures that have been implemented include: an effective cross-connection control program, maintenance of a disinfectant residual throughout our system, an effective monitoring and surveillance program, and maintaining positive pressures in our distribution system. Our system has already taken all of the steps described by DDW as “best



available technology” for coliform bacteria in Section 64447, Title 22, California Code of Regulations.

#### Fluoride:

The PHG for fluoride is 1 ppm (part per million). The MCL, or drinking water standard, for fluoride is 2 ppm. We have detected fluoride above the PHG in two of IRWD’s 27 wells at the following levels: 1.15 ppm in DRWF Well C8 and 1.59 ppm in DRWF Well C9. The level detected was below the MCL. The category of health risk associated with fluoride, and the reason that a drinking water standard was adopted for it, is that people who drink water containing fluoride above the MCL throughout their lifetime could experience an increased risk of musculoskeletal disease and tooth mottling. The numerical health risk for cancer at a PHG of 1 ppm is not applicable. The numerical health risk for cancer at a MCL of 2 ppm is not applicable. The water is blended with water pumped from up to sixteen other wells located in the DRWF prior to delivery to the drinking water distribution system. The highest level of fluoride detected in the blended DRWF water was 0.83 ppm and the average level of fluoride in the blended DRWF was 0.59 ppm. Since the fluoride level in the blended DRWF water consistently does not exceed the PHG and the optimal level of fluoride in drinking water to prevent dental caries (or cavities) is 0.7 ppm no further treatment is necessary, so no cost estimate has been prepared.

#### Gross Alpha (excluding Uranium):

OEHHA has not established a PHG for gross alpha activity. The MCLG for gross alpha activity is 0 picocuries per liter (pCi/l). The MCL, or drinking water standard, for gross alpha activity is 15 pCi/l. Gross alpha activity was detected in five wells throughout the system at the following levels: 3.46 pCi/l in DRWF Well 1, 3.12 pCi/l in IDP Well 13, 3.33 pCi/l in IDP Well 76, 3.09 pCi/l in IDP Well 77, and 3.26 pCi/l in IDP Well 110. All levels were below the MCL.

Gross alpha activity was detected in imported water purchased from the MWD, and the highest level was 3 pCi/l. Gross alpha activity was detected in Well 21/22 Desalter product water and the highest level was 4.6 pCi/l. All levels were below the MCL.

The category of health risk associated with gross alpha activity, and the reason that a drinking water standard was adopted for it, is that people who drink water containing gross alpha activity above the MCL throughout their lifetime could experience an increased risk of cancer. The numerical health risk for an MCLG of 0 pCi/l is 0. Since gross alpha activity is not a specific chemical contaminant, but rather a group of radioactive elements, the numeric health risk at the

MCL of 15 pCi/l depends on the specific alpha emitting radionuclides present and is estimated to range from  $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  (1 in 1,000) to  $1.9 \times 10^{-4}$  (1.9 in 10,000).

The BATs for gross alpha activity to lower the level below the MCL are RO, IX, lime softening or coagulation/filtration. RO or IX would be required to attempt to lower the gross alpha activity level to the MCLG. The IDP/PTP is an RO facility that reduces gross alpha activity levels in water from the IDP wells. The estimated cost to install and operate such a treatment system at the BWTP that would reliably reduce the gross alpha activity level to as close to the MCLG as possible would be approximately \$9,396,000 per year including annualized capital and O&M costs. The estimated cost to install and operate such a treatment system at each MWD turnout that would reliably reduce the gross alpha activity level approaching the MCLG would be approximately \$248,541,000 per year including annualized capital and O&M costs. This would result in an assumed increased cost for each customer of \$2,149 per year.

#### Gross Beta Activity:

OEHHA has not established a PHG for gross beta activity. The MCLG for gross beta activity is 0 pCi/l. The MCL or drinking water standard for gross beta activity is 50 pCi/l. Gross beta activity was detected in imported water purchased from the MWD and the highest level detected was 7 pCi/l and 13.9 pCi/l at Well OPA 1. All levels were below the MCL.

The category of health risk associated with gross beta activity, and the reason that a drinking water standard was adopted for it, is that people who drink water containing gross beta activity above the MCL throughout their lifetime could experience an increased risk of cancer. The numerical health risk for an MCLG of 0 pCi/l is 0. Since gross beta activity is not a specific chemical contaminant, but rather a group of radioactive elements, the numeric health risk at the MCL of 50 pCi/l depends on the specific beta emitting radionuclides present and is estimated to range from  $2.3 \times 10^{-3}$  (2.3 in 1,000) to  $4.5 \times 10^{-4}$  (4.5 in 10,000).

The BATs for gross beta activity to lower the level below the MCL are RO, IX, lime softening or coagulation/filtration. RO or IX would be required to attempt to lower the gross beta activity level closer to the MCLG. The estimated cost to install and operate such a treatment system at each MWD turnout that would reliably reduce the gross beta activity level closer to the MCLG would be approximately \$248,541,000 per year including annualized capital and O&M costs. This would result in an assumed increased cost for each customer of \$2,071 per year.

#### Hexavalent Chromium:

The PHG for hexavalent chromium is 0.02 ppb. The MCL for hexavalent chromium is 10 ppb. Hexavalent chromium was detected in fourteen Dyer Road Wellfield wells at the following

concentrations: 1.05 ppb in DRWF Well 1, 0.5 ppb in DRWF Well 2, 0.39 ppb in DRWF Well 4, 0.43 ppb in DRWF Well 7, 0.49 ppb in DRWF Well 10, 0.92 ppb in DRWF Well 11, 0.84 ppb in DRWF Well 12, 0.154 ppb in DRWF Well 13, 1.3 ppb in DRWF Well 14, 0.75 ppb in DRWF Well 15, 0.43 ppb in DRWF Well 16, 0.86 ppb in DRWF Well 17, 0.48 ppb in DRWF Well 18, and 0.1 ppb in DRWF Well C8. The water from all DRWF wells in operation is blended prior to entering the IRWD's drinking water distribution system. Hexavalent chromium was detected in three IDP wells at the following levels: 1.05 ppb in IDP Well 76, 0.32 ppb in IDP Well 107, and 0.21 ppb in IDP Well 110. The highest concentration of hexavalent chromium detected in product water from the IDP/PTP was 0.05 ppb. Hexavalent chromium was detected at 0.75 ppb in Well 21, 0.24 ppb in Well 22, and 0.3 ppb in OPA Well 1. Hexavalent chromium was detected in treated imported water produced at the BWTP; the highest level detected was 0.02 ppb, equivalent to the PHG.

The category of health risk associated with hexavalent chromium, and the reason a drinking water standard was adopted for it, is that people who consume water containing hexavalent chromium above the regulatory limit throughout their lifetime could experience an increased risk of cancer, primarily stomach cancer. The California OEHHA has established a PHG of 0.02 ppb, which corresponds to a one-in-a-million ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ) lifetime cancer risk. The estimated numerical health risks for hexavalent chromium at higher concentrations range from approximately  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  (1 in 1,000) to  $1.9 \times 10^{-4}$  (about 2 in 10,000), depending on the level of exposure. The BATs for hexavalent chromium to lower the level below the PHG are Ion Exchange (IX) – weak base anion resin, RO, and coagulation/filtration. IX or RO would be required to attempt to lower the hexavalent chromium level below the PHG. The estimated cost to install and operate an IX – weak base anion resin treatment would be approximately \$142,946,478.00 per year including annualized capital and O&M costs. This would result in an assumed increased cost for each customer of \$1,145 per year.

#### Uranium:

The PHG for uranium is 0.43 pCi/l. The MCL, or drinking water standard, for uranium is 20 pCi/l. Uranium was detected in nine wells at the following levels: 1.28 pCi/l in DRWF Well 13, 1.63 pCi/l in DRWF Well 16, 1.01 pCi/l in DRWF Well 17, 1.2 pCi/l in OPA Well 1, 5.78 pCi/l in IDP Well 76, 5.71 pCi/l in IDP Well 77, 5.89 pCi/l in IDP Well 107, 5.96 pCi/l in IDP Well 110, 5.01 pCi/l in IDP Well 115, 1.03 pCi/l in Well 21, and 0.91 pCi/l in Well 22. The IDP/PTP is an RO facility which reduces uranium levels in water from the IDP wells.

Uranium was detected in the IDP/PTP product water at a level of 3.4 pCi/l. Uranium was detected in product water from the BWTP, the highest level detected was 2.2 pCi/l. Uranium was detected in imported water purchased from the MWD, the highest level detected was 3 pCi/l. These levels were below the MCL.

The category of health risk associated with uranium, and the reason that a drinking water standard was adopted for it, is that people who drink water containing uranium above the MCL throughout their lifetime could experience kidney problems or an increased risk of cancer. The numerical health risk for cancer at a PHG of 0.43 pCi/l is  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  (1 in 1,000,000). The numerical health risk for cancer at a MCL of 20 pCi/l is  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  (5 in 100,000). The BATs for uranium to lower the level below the MCL are RO, IX, lime softening or coagulation/filtration. RO or IX would be required to attempt to lower the uranium level to below the PHG. The IDP/PTP and the Well 21/22 Desalter are RO facilities which reduce uranium levels in water from the IDP wells and Well 22, though the plants would probably need to be operated with 0% bypass to meet the PHG. The estimated cost to install and operate such a treatment system at the BWTP that would reliably reduce the uranium level to the MCLG would be approximately \$9,396,000 per year including annualized capital and O&M costs. The estimated cost to install and operate such a treatment system at each MWD turnout that would reliably reduce the uranium level to the MCLG would be approximately \$248,541,000 per year including annualized capital and O&M costs. This would result in an assumed increased cost for each customer of \$2,149 per year.

#### Combined Treatment Cost:

Since the same technology is utilized to treat all of the constituents included in this report each of the locations above would only require a single treatment facility to reduce levels of all of these constituents to below the PHG or MCLG. The estimated cost to install and operate such a treatment system on DRWF Wells 4, 5 6 and 18 that would reliably reduce the levels of arsenic to levels below the PHG or MCLG would be approximately \$20,960,000 per year including annualized capital and O&M costs. The estimated cost to install and operate such a treatment system at the BWTP that would reliably reduce the gross alpha activity and uranium levels (and chlorite levels, also) to the PHG or MCLG would be approximately \$9,396,000 per year including annualized capital and O&M costs. The estimated cost to install and operate such a treatment system at each MWD turnout that would reliably reduce the gross alpha activity, gross beta activity and uranium levels to the PHG or MCLG would be approximately \$248,541,000 per year including annualized capital and O&M costs. This would result in an assumed increased cost for each customer of \$2,324 per year to lower the levels of Arsenic, gross alpha activity, gross beta activity and uranium to levels below the PHG or MCLG.

#### SUMMARY OF PHG EXCEEDENCES:

CONTAMINANT	UNITS	PHG [MCLG]	MCL	Level of Detection
Arsenic	ppb	0.004	10	ND – 10.6
Coliform Bacteria	% Present	0	5	0 – 0.8
Fluoride	ppm	1	2	ND – 1.59
Gross Alpha Activity	pCi/L	[0]	15	ND – 4.6
Gross Beta Activity	pCi/L	[0]	50	ND – 13.9
Hexavalent Chromium	ppb	0.02	10	ND – 1.54
Uranium	pCi/L	0.42	20	ND – 5.96

As noted above, perchlorate, nitrate/nitrite nitrogen, and nitrate nitrogen were detected in one or more source wells above the PHG. However, the existing treatment processes in place reduced the concentration of these constituents to nondetectable levels or to levels less than the PHG. No further assessment of these constituents is needed for this report.


#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION:

The drinking water quality of the Irvine Ranch Water District meets all DDW and USEPA drinking water standards set to protect public health. To further reduce the levels of the constituents identified in this report that are already significantly below the health based MCLs established to provide “safe drinking water”, additional costly treatment processes would be required. The effectiveness of the treatment processes to provide any significant reductions in constituent levels at these already low values is uncertain. The health protection benefits of these further hypothetical reductions are not at all clear and may not be quantifiable. Therefore, no action is proposed.

#### REFERENCE:

1. California Health & Safety Code: Section 116470 (b)
2. Table of Regulated Constituents with MCLs, PHGs or MCLGs
3. Health Risk Information for Public Health Goal Report, February 2025

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August 11, 2025  
Prepared and  
submitted by: K. Swan  
Approved by: Paul A. Cook 

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

#### SUMMARY:

Provided are the minutes of the July 28, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

#### COMMITTEE STATUS:

Not applicable.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 28, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING BE  
APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

#### LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – July 28, 2025 Minutes

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## Exhibit “A”

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – JULY 28, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was called to order by President Reinhart at 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2025 at the District offices, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

Secretary Swan announced that pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953, Director Withers will participate in the meeting remotely via teleconference. He will be participating from the Tokoriki Island Resort, Nadi, Fiji. The agenda was posted in the resort’s lobby 72-hours in advance for any member of the public to review and participate remotely if desired per the Affidavit of Posting from Director Withers. Secretary Swan said that all votes this evening will be taken by a roll call vote.

Directors Present: Withers (via teleconference), Feron, Swan, LaMar, and President Reinhart.

Directors Absent: None.

Oral and Written Communications: None.

Items too late to be agendaized: None.

Also Present: General Manager Cook, Executive Director of Technical Services Burton, Executive Director of Water Policy Weghorst, Executive Director of Finance and Administration Adly, Executive Director of Operations Chambers, Director of Financial Planning and Data Analytics Smithson, Director of Human Resources Mitcham, Director of Recycling Operations Zepeda, Director of Information Technology Kaneshiro, Director of Safety and Security Choi, Director of Maintenance Operations Manning, Director of Water Quality and Regulatory Compliance Colston, Director of Accounting and Treasury Lin, Director of Water Resources Nye, General Counsel Collins, Secretary Swan, members of the staff, and public.

### CONSENT CALENDAR

On MOTION by LaMar, seconded by Feron and carried by a roll call vote, LaMar, Feron, Withers, and Reinhart voting aye, zero noes, and Swan abstaining for voting on item four, CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS FOUR THROUGH SIX WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:

#### 4. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation: That the minutes of the July 14, 2025 Regular Board meeting be approved as presented.

#### 5. FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 IRWD GUIDING PRINCIPLES SCORECARD

Recommendation: Receive and file.

#### 6. IRVINE DESALTER PROJECT PRINCIPAL AQUIFER PLANT AND SHALLOW GROUNDWATER UNIT OPTIMIZATION FOR PFAS TREATMENT FINAL ACCEPTANCE

Recommendation: That the Board accept construction of the Irvine Desalter Project Principal Aquifer Plant and Shallow Groundwater Unit Optimization for PFAS

## CONSENT CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

Treatment; authorize the General Manager to file a Notice of Completion; authorize the payment of the retention 35 days after the date of recording the Notice of Completion for Projects 11171 and 11834.

## ACTION CALENDAR

### 7. SYPHON RESERVOIR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT CONSULTANT SELECTION FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AND INSPECTION SERVICES

General Manager Cook reported that Engineering Manager Moeder would provide an overall update on the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project, where the project is headed, and staff's recommendation to retain a consultant for construction management and inspection services.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Engineering Manager Moeder shared highlights of the project to date, including the recent construction of a four-way intersection and an access road to the reservoir. He further introduced the layout of the project to orient the audience on the location of the various elements of the project and the project timeline.

Director Swan questioned if grout injection was included in the project; Mr. Moeder said yes, and that there are known joints underneath the dam. Once the bedrock is exposed, these will be filled in.

President Reinhart questioned if there was enough room at the staging site. Mr. Moeder stated that a constructability review had been conducted and that staging on site is feasible, but it will ultimately be up to the contractor to determine how best to utilize the site – within the stipulated site limitations.

Director Swan asked where the project materials would be stored. Mr. Moeder explained that materials would be stored in the area that is currently the “bottom” of the existing Syphon Reservoir.

Mr. Moeder reported on the current schedule of the project. The Division of Safety of Dams is currently on their last review of the project and have started to work on the approval letter for authorization to the construct the dam. He added that if all goes well with the Environmental Impact Reports, IRWD's solicitation for construction bids could begin in January 2026.

Vice President LaMar questioned mitigation for Crotch's bumblebee and the impacts to the project. Director of Water Resources Nye reported that this mitigation is being addressed utilizing the District's recently-acquired Irvine Lake North property.

Mr. Moeder detailed the construction management team procurement process, the proposed project team, and the key differences that impacted the cost proposals.

Director Swan questioned if Crean Lutheran's use of the athletic fields would be negatively impacted with traffic, exhaust, and dust. Mr. Moeder explained that dust control and cleaning the tennis courts have been included in the project scope. Staff also plans to maintain close coordination with Crean Lutheran to ensure its concerns are addressed. Director Swan emphasized that it's very important that the project does not create unacceptable offsite impacts.

Mr. Moeder provided a detailed summary of the proposed Construction Management Team. Following questions from the Board regarding the different companies that will be working

## ACTION CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

together on the recommended Construction Management Team, Director Ferons reported that this item was reviewed extensively by the Engineering and Operations Committee on July 15 and on July 17. The Committee was able to develop a thorough understanding of the COWI / Gannett Fleming team's previous experience, emphasis on safety, and project management; the Committee expressed its full support of the staff recommendation. Director Swan relayed that he does not support this project, and while he's not against the concept of having a construction management team on the project, he will vote against it.

Following discussion with the Board, on MOTION by Ferons, seconded by Withers and carried by a roll call vote (4-1) LaMar, Ferons, Withers, and Reinhart voting aye, and Swan voting nay, **THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COWI AND GANNETT FLEMING JOINT VENTURE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,402,073 FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AND INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE SYPHON RESERVOIR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

## OTHER BUSINESS

### 8. General Manager's Report

General Manager Cook reported that Community Liaison Newell was unable to attend the evening's meeting, but that all is well in the canyons.

### 9. Receive oral update(s) from District liaison(s) regarding communities within IRWD's service area and interests.

As reported by General Manager Cook.

### 10. Directors' Comments and Meeting Reports

Director Withers reported on his attendance at the OCWA Monthly Industry Insight Meeting and Luncheon in Irvine, and the Southern California Water Coalition Quarterly Meeting and Luncheon in Simi Valley.

Director Ferons reported on his attendance at the OC SAN Board of Directors' Meeting.

Director Swan reported on his attendance at the ACWA Spring Conference in Monterey; the May 19, Groundwater Banking JPA Special Board Meeting; the May 20, WACO Planning Committee Meeting via teleconference; the May 21, MWDOC Board Meeting: IRWD Member Agency Spotlight; the May 28, Southern California Water Dialogue Meeting: The Next Chapter for Southern California Water Storage via teleconference; and the July 23, Quarterly MWDOC / OCWD Joint Planning Committee Meeting.

Director LaMar reported on his attendance at the CCEEB Summer Issues Seminar in the Olympic Valley; the OCBC Business Connections – Emergency Response System Program Discussion in Silverado; and the NCC Executive Committee Meeting.

President Reinhart reported on his participation in the MWDOC Planning & Operations Committee meeting via teleconference; MWDOC Board of Directors Meeting via teleconference; OCWD Board of Directors Meeting via teleconference; the Quarterly MWDOC /

OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

OCWD Joint Planning Committee Meeting; and the Southern Orange County Agencies' Group Meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:08 p.m., President Reinhart adjourned the Board meeting.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.

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President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

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District Secretary,  
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


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Claire H. Collins, General Counsel  
Hanson Bridgett LLP

August 11, 2025

Prepared by: B. Inzunza

Submitted by: T. Mitcham

Approved by: Paul A. Cook 

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### RENEWAL OF GROUP MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION, AND ANCILLARY PLAN SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

#### SUMMARY:

IRWD contracts with the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and a brokerage service to market, negotiate, and implement its employee benefit programs. IRWD's employee benefits plan includes medical and dental benefits and ancillary benefits such as flexible spending accounts, employee assistance programs, long-term disability, life insurance, and accidental death and dismemberment. Staff recommends the Board approve the following:

- Continue IRWD's health insurance coverage with the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) with changes in District and employee contribution rates as outlined in Exhibit "A";
- Continue the District's dental insurance coverage with Delta Dental;
- Continue the District's vision insurance coverage with EyeMed;
- Renew the District's term life, accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D), long-term disability (LTD), and Employee Assistance Program coverage with Reliance Standard;
- Renew the District's Flexible Spending Account (FSA), Lifestyle Savings Account (LSA), Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA), COBRA, and Commuter Benefits administrator, Inspira Financial; and
- Continue the District's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) through REACH.

#### BACKGROUND:

Below is a description of the medical, dental, vision, and other insurance coverage and related employee benefits:

#### CalPERS Medical Insurance Renewal Information:

IRWD contracts with the CalPERS medical insurance program to provide medical insurance coverage for District employees. Each year, in advance of the annual insurance benefit open enrollment period, the District receives the premium rates for each health insurance plan for the upcoming calendar year. The health care rate and plan changes for 2026 include an overall premium increase of 7.76%, of which the average premium increase for the CalPERS Basic Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans is 6.48%, and 12.08% for the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Basic plans. CalPERS attributed the overall 2026 premium increases to the higher cost of providing services and the increased use of high-cost specialty and brand-name drugs. For the 2026 calendar year, CalPERS has notified the District of premium rate changes for each of the specific plans from which IRWD employees may choose. CalPERS also notified

the District that, effective January 1, 2026, CVS Caremark (CVS) will replace OptumRx as the new Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) for all CalPERS health plans.

*Employer Health Insurance Contribution Rates:*

IRWD has a long-standing practice of calculating the employer and employee contribution rates for health insurance premiums based on rates of the PPO plan which had the highest enrollment in the prior renewal year. The rates for this plan are then used to calculate the maximum District contribution rates for all plans offered. In 2025, the PPO plan with the highest enrollment was the PERS Gold PPO plan (Region 2). Applying the final approved 2026 CalPERS premium rates to IRWD's current enrollment by tier, plan, and region results in a premium decrease of approximately 8%.

Dental Coverage:

Delta Dental Plan of California provides IRWD's current employee dental insurance coverage. The 2026 monthly premium rates for the PPO plan with child and adult orthodontics will remain the same as in the 2025 plan year due to a negotiated rate guarantee through December 31, 2027. The calendar year maximum is \$1,750, and the premiums are \$41.32 for "employee only" coverage, \$82.94 for "employee + 1" coverage, and \$158.98 for "employee + family" coverage.

Vision Coverage:

EyeMed provides IRWD's current employee vision insurance coverage. The District's 2026 monthly premium rates for vision insurance will be \$9.27 for "employee only" coverage, \$17.63 for "employee + 1" coverage, and \$25.85 for "employee + family" coverage. These are the same rates from the 2023 plan year and are guaranteed through December 31, 2027.

Term Life, AD&D, LTD Insurance Coverage, and Employee Assistance Program:

IRWD's current employee Term Life, AD&D, and LTD insurance coverage is provided by Reliance Standard, which offers an EAP in addition to the program offered by REACH. The 2026 rates are the same rates negotiated for 2023 and guaranteed through December 31, 2026, for the Term Life, AD&D, and LTD insurance and guaranteed through December 31, 2028, for the REACH EAP.

FSA, HRA, COBRA, LSA, and TRP Administration:

IRWD contracts with third-party benefits administrator Inspira Financial for its FSA, LSA, HRA, COBRA, and TRP plans. The District's Retiree Health Costs Assistance Program (RHCAP) is also administered through Inspira Financial. The plan provides qualified IRWD retirees and former Board members with a monthly monetary credit toward reimbursement of qualified retiree medical and healthcare expenses. The Inspira Financial fees for full program administration are \$35,154 per year, with a five-year rate guarantee through December 31, 2029.

In summary, staff recommends that the Board:

- Continue IRWD's health insurance coverage with CalPERS for the calendar year 2026 with changes in District and employee contribution rates as outlined in Exhibit "A";
- Continue IRWD's dental insurance with Delta Dental;
- Continue IRWD's contract with EyeMed for vision insurance;
- Continue to offer Reliance Standard for Term Life, AD&D, LTD, EAP, and other voluntary plan benefits;
- Continue to provide FSA, LSA, HRA, COBRA, and TRP ancillary benefits through Inspira Financial; and
- Continue the District's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) through REACH.

Open Enrollment Process for 2026:

The CalPERS health insurance open enrollment period is scheduled for September 15, 2025, through October 10, 2025. Staff will conduct an in-person Wellness and Open Enrollment Expo for all employees and Board members at the Sand Canyon Offices again this year. The event will be held on September 24, 2025, and IRWD's benefit plan representatives and other vendors have been invited to participate.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

The continuation of the CalPERS medical insurance plans will result in total projected expenses for FY 2025-26 of \$8,778,911.53. This accounts for the premium increase and employee-only HMO coverage for temporary employees to ensure we comply with the Affordable Care Act. The annual dental insurance premium rates for the direct Delta Dental PPO Plan for FY 2025-26 will be approximately \$552,551.64. The annual vision insurance premium rates for FY 2025-26 will be approximately \$96,720.96. The annual Term Life, AD&D, LTD insurance, and EAP premium rates for FY 2025-26 will be approximately \$368,015, and the FSA, LSA, HRA, COBRA, and TRP administration fees through Inspira Financial will be \$35,154 for FY 2025-26. The total estimated cost for the 2026 annual premiums is \$9,428,184.13, approximately \$1,383,967.87 below what was budgeted for FY 2025-26. Staff budgeted for a 12% increase in medical premiums, which was higher than the overall increase of 7.76% for all basic plans. The lower premiums for our dental, vision, and ancillary plans, as well as the anticipated increase in employee medical premium contributions, offset this amount.

The CalPERS Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA) administrative fee decreased from 0.24% to 0.08% for FY 2025-26 starting on July 1, 2025. The administrative fee is calculated on total active and retiree gross health premiums and billed to contracting agencies monthly.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Finance and Personnel Committee on August 4, 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

This item is not a project as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15378.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUATION OF IRWD'S HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE WITH CALPERS WITH CHANGES IN DISTRICT AND EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION RATES AS OUTLINED IN EXHIBIT "A", AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUATION OF THE DISTRICT'S DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE WITH DELTA DENTAL, AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUATION OF THE DISTRICT'S VISION INSURANCE COVERAGE WITH EYEMED, AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF THE DISTRICT'S EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH REACH, AUTHORIZE THE TERM LIFE, ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT, LONG-TERM DISABILITY AND EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE WITH RELIANCE STANDARD, AND AUTHORIZE THE CONTINUATION OF THE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT, LIFESTYLE SAVINGS ACCOUNT, HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT, COBRA AND COMMUTER BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR, INSPIRA FINANCIAL.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – CalPERS Medical Premium and IRWD Contribution Rates



Exhibit "A"



REGION 2 – ORANGE AND SAN DIEGO COUNTIES

Health Plan	Number of Employees Enrolled in 2025	2025 Plan Year			2026 Plan Year		
		Premium Rates	Employee Monthly Contribution	IRWD Monthly Contribution	Premium Rates	Employee Monthly Contribution	IRWD Monthly Contribution
<b>Anthem Blue Cross Select HMO</b>							
Employee Only	9	\$919.00	\$0.00	\$919.00	\$1,016.32	\$155.67	\$860.65
Employee + 1		\$1,838.00	\$0.00	\$1,838.00	\$2,032.64	\$311.34	\$1,721.30
Employee + Family		\$2,389.40	\$0.00	\$2,389.40	\$2,642.43	\$404.73	\$2,237.70
<b>Anthem Blue Cross Traditional HMO</b>							
Employee Only	9	\$1,110.97	\$0.00	\$1,110.97	\$1,158.26	\$297.61	\$860.65
Employee + 1		\$2,221.94	\$0.00	\$2,221.94	\$2,316.52	\$595.22	\$1,721.30
Employee + Family		\$2,888.52	\$0.00	\$2,888.52	\$3,011.48	\$773.78	\$2,237.70
<b>Blue Shield Access+ HMO</b>							
Employee Only	39	\$948.53	\$0.00	\$948.53	\$1,052.89	\$192.24	\$860.65
Employee + 1		\$1,897.06	\$0.00	\$1,897.06	\$2,105.78	\$384.48	\$1,721.30
Employee + Family		\$2,466.18	\$0.00	\$2,466.18	\$2,737.51	\$499.81	\$2,237.70
<b>Blue Shield Trio HMO</b>							
Employee Only	8	\$909.10	\$0.00	\$909.10	\$936.58	\$75.93	\$860.65
Employee + 1		\$1,818.20	\$0.00	\$1,818.20	\$1,873.16	\$151.86	\$1,721.30
Employee + Family		\$2,363.66	\$0.00	\$2,363.66	\$2,435.11	\$197.41	\$2,237.70
<b>Health Net Salud y Más</b>							
Employee Only	0	\$823.49	\$0.00	\$823.49	\$879.57	\$18.92	\$860.65
Employee + 1		\$1,646.98	\$0.00	\$1,646.98	\$1,759.14	\$37.84	\$1,721.30
Employee + Family		\$2,141.07	\$0.00	\$2,141.07	\$2,286.88	\$49.18	\$2,237.70
<b>Kaiser Permanente</b>							
Employee Only	123	\$944.34	\$0.00	\$944.34	\$987.69	\$127.04	\$860.65
Employee + 1		\$1,888.68	\$0.00	\$1,888.68	\$1,975.38	\$254.08	\$1,721.30
Employee + Family		\$2,455.28	\$0.00	\$2,455.28	\$2,567.99	\$330.29	\$2,237.70
<b>Sharp Performance Plus</b>							
Employee Only	0	\$868.45	\$0.00	\$868.45	\$916.20	\$55.55	\$860.65
Employee + 1		\$1,736.90	\$0.00	\$1,736.90	\$1,832.40	\$111.10	\$1,721.30
Employee + Family		\$2,257.97	\$0.00	\$2,257.97	\$2,382.12	\$144.42	\$2,237.70
<b>United Healthcare Alliance</b>							
Employee Only	16	\$890.66	\$0.00	\$890.66	\$950.99	\$90.34	\$860.65
Employee + 1		\$1,781.32	\$0.00	\$1,781.32	\$1,901.98	\$180.68	\$1,721.30
Employee + Family		\$2,315.72	\$0.00	\$2,315.72	\$2,472.57	\$234.87	\$2,237.70
<b>United Healthcare Harmony</b>							
Employee Only	6	\$819.64	\$0.00	\$819.64	\$857.14	\$0.00	\$857.14
Employee + 1		\$1,639.28	\$0.00	\$1,639.28	\$1,714.28	\$0.00	\$1,714.28
Employee + Family		\$2,131.06	\$0.00	\$2,131.06	\$2,228.56	\$0.00	\$2,228.56
<b>PERS Gold</b>							
Employee Only	50	\$864.75	\$0.00	\$864.75	\$956.28	\$95.63	\$860.65
Employee + 1		\$1,729.50	\$0.00	\$1,729.50	\$1,912.56	\$191.26	\$1,721.30
Employee + Family		\$2,248.35	\$0.00	\$2,248.35	\$2,486.33	\$248.63	\$2,237.70
<b>PERS Platinum</b>							
Employee Only	44	\$1,258.76	\$125.88	\$1,132.88	\$1,426.24	\$565.59	\$860.65
Employee + 1		\$2,517.52	\$251.75	\$2,265.77	\$2,852.48	\$1,131.18	\$1,721.30
Employee + Family		\$3,272.78	\$327.28	\$2,945.50	\$3,708.22	\$1,470.52	\$2,237.70

**REGION 3 – LOS ANGELES, RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES**

Health Plan	Number of Employees Enrolled in 2025	2025 Plan Year			2026 Plan Year		
		Premium Rates	Employee Monthly Contribution	IRWD Monthly Contribution	Premium Rates	Employee Monthly Contribution	IRWD Monthly Contribution
<b>Anthem Blue Cross Select HMO</b>	<b>4</b>	\$916.88	\$0.00	\$916.88	\$962.68	\$102.03	\$860.65
Employee Only		\$1,833.76	\$0.00	\$1,833.76	\$1,925.36	\$204.06	\$1,721.30
Employee + 1		\$2,383.89	\$0.00	\$2,383.89	\$2,502.97	\$265.27	\$2,237.70
Employee + Family	<b>4</b>	\$1,065.46	\$0.00	\$1,065.46	\$1,128.53	\$267.88	\$860.65
<b>Anthem Blue Cross Traditional HMO</b>		\$2,130.92	\$0.00	\$2,130.92	\$2,257.06	\$535.76	\$1,721.30
Employee Only		\$2,770.20	\$0.00	\$2,770.20	\$2,934.18	\$696.48	\$2,237.70
Employee + 1	<b>16</b>	\$828.48	\$0.00	\$828.48	\$917.91	\$57.26	\$860.65
Employee + Family		\$1,656.96	\$0.00	\$1,656.96	\$1,835.82	\$114.52	\$1,721.30
<b>Blue Shield Access+ HMO</b>		\$2,154.05	\$0.00	\$2,154.05	\$2,386.57	\$148.87	\$2,237.70
Employee Only	<b>1</b>	\$738.11	\$0.00	\$738.11	\$852.56	\$0.00	\$852.56
Employee + 1		\$1,476.22	\$0.00	\$1,476.22	\$1,705.12	\$0.00	\$1,705.12
Employee + Family		\$1,919.09	\$0.00	\$1,919.09	\$2,216.66	\$0.00	\$2,216.66
<b>Blue Shield Trio HMO</b>	<b>0</b>	\$714.40	\$0.00	\$714.40	\$740.11	\$0.00	\$740.11
<b>Health Net Salud y Más</b>		\$1,428.80	\$0.00	\$1,428.80	\$1,480.22	\$0.00	\$1,480.22
Employee Only		\$1,857.44	\$0.00	\$1,857.44	\$1,924.29	\$0.00	\$1,924.29
Employee + 1	<b>52</b>	\$926.52	\$0.00	\$926.52	\$969.05	\$108.40	\$860.65
Employee + Family		\$1,853.04	\$0.00	\$1,853.04	\$1,938.10	\$216.80	\$1,721.30
<b>Kaiser Permanente</b>		\$2,408.95	\$0.00	\$2,408.95	\$2,519.53	\$281.83	\$2,237.70
Employee Only	<b>3</b>	\$866.40	\$0.00	\$866.40	\$870.76	\$10.11	\$860.65
Employee + 1		\$1,732.80	\$0.00	\$1,732.80	\$1,741.52	\$20.22	\$1,721.30
Employee + Family		\$2,252.64	\$0.00	\$2,252.64	\$2,263.98	\$26.28	\$2,237.70
<b>United Healthcare Alliance</b>	<b>0</b>	\$756.28	\$0.00	\$756.28	\$765.51	\$0.00	\$765.51
Employee Only		\$1,512.56	\$0.00	\$1,512.56	\$1,531.02	\$0.00	\$1,531.02
Employee + 1		\$1,966.33	\$0.00	\$1,966.33	\$1,990.33	\$0.00	\$1,990.33
Employee + Family	<b>7</b>	\$868.15	\$0.00	\$868.15	\$960.03	\$99.38	\$860.65
<b>PERS Gold</b>		\$1,736.30	\$0.00	\$1,736.30	\$1,920.06	\$198.76	\$1,721.30
Employee Only		\$2,257.19	\$0.00	\$2,257.19	\$2,496.08	\$258.38	\$2,237.70
Employee + 1	<b>5</b>	\$1,263.73	\$130.85	\$1,132.88	\$1,431.81	\$571.16	\$860.65
Employee + Family		\$2,527.46	\$261.69	\$2,265.77	\$2,863.62	\$1,142.32	\$1,721.30
<b>PERS Platinum</b>		\$3,285.70	\$340.20	\$2,945.50	\$3,722.71	\$1,485.01	\$2,237.70

August 11, 2025

Prepared by: L. Kaneshiro

Submitted by: N. Adly

Approved by: Paul A. Cook



## CONSENT CALENDAR

### NETWORK REDESIGN AND UPGRADE PROJECT

#### SUMMARY:

IRWD's network is the critical technology infrastructure that enables computers to connect and interact with other computers, applications, data, and the internet. The current network was implemented in 2017 and core equipment components will be reaching vendor end-of-support in late 2025. The proposed project is needed to redesign and upgrade the network to support IRWD's current and future needs with improved performance, cybersecurity, and resilience. Logicalis, Inc. was the highest scoring proposer in response to a publicly posted Request for Proposals (RFP). Staff recommends that the Board authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Logicalis in the amount of \$850,000.

#### BACKGROUND:

The network is the technology infrastructure that enables computers to connect and interact with other computers to perform computer services, including access to software applications, data, and the internet. The network is comprised of routers, switches, and related equipment, which like other computer hardware, must be periodically replaced. Furthermore, as business use of computers changes, the network must be redesigned to those changing needs.

At IRWD, the network connects the District's approximately 1,600 network-connected devices, including PCs, laptops, tablets, security cameras and keypads, audio-visual equipment, printers, lab devices, servers, and guest connections. This network connectivity enables employees to securely access enterprise applications (e.g., Oracle, Maximo, GIS, etc.) and data, monitor facilities, communicate via voice calls and messages, conduct video conferences, use printers, access the internet, and more. The network must be available 24 hours a day / 365 days a year to support IRWD's critical business operations.

IRWD's existing network was installed in 2017 and now requires a redesign and upgrade. Core equipment components will be reaching vendor end-of-support in late 2025, which means that the vendor will no longer provide security updates or provide assistance if issues occur. Also, as IRWD continues to expand the use of technology and migrate more software applications to the internet cloud, the current network needs to be redesigned to improve performance, cybersecurity, and resilience.

The proposed Network Redesign and Upgrade project is to transition IRWD's network from the current legacy architecture to a multi-tier core / distribution / access model, thereby improving scalability, redundancy, and readiness for IRWD's current and future needs. The scope includes all required hardware, software, and services to do the following:

- Decommission and replace existing core network topology;

- Implement a scalable, redundant, and resilient three-tier network architecture across two data center campus locations;
- Implement advanced networking features, such as AI Machine Reasoning to help with network troubleshooting, deep application insights to help with end-user experience, and network automation to help with network operations; and
- Implement advanced security features, including micro-segmentation to reduce cybersecurity risks.

The new network will result in infrastructure modernization, 99.9% uptime fault tolerant system design, and centralized enterprise network visibility and management. The new network will be integrated with and leverage the wireless Wi-Fi network system that the Board approved in November 2022.

The RFP for the Network Redesign and Upgrade Project was publicly posted on PlanetBids on June 9, 2025. The RFP was downloaded by 41 vendors before it closed on July 7, 2025. Two vendors, Logicalis, Inc. and Zones LLC, submitted proposals. Staff also reached out to two additional vendors that had expressed interest, but they declined. Based on the RFP's scoring criteria of 50% for qualifications and experience and 50% for technical approach, the Evaluation Team selected Logicalis. Logicalis was also the lowest cost proposal; a summary of the proposed costs (page 11 of the Logicalis proposal) is provided as Exhibit "A".

The project cost is \$850,000. Approximately \$753,000 is for network equipment, such as routers, switches, network management tools, and related products. Approximately \$97,000 is for professional services for installation, configuration, training, and related services. The project is anticipated to be completed in approximately three months.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS:

The Network Redesign and Upgrade project cost is included in the Capital Budget and will be funded by equally dividing the cost among Project 12543 (Improvement District 1100 – Replacement Fund), Project 13008 (Improvement District 2100 – Replacement Fund), and Project 13009 (Improvement District 2100 – Replacement Fund).

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

This item is not a project as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15378.

#### COMMITTEE STATUS:

The Finance and Personnel Committee reviewed this item at its meeting on August 4, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH LOGICALIS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$850,000 FOR THE NETWORK REDESIGN AND UPGRADE PROJECT.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit “A” – Logicalis, Inc. Proposal Page 11: Costs

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# Exhibit "A"

## Irvine Ranch Water District – Network Infrastructure Refresh

### Costs

For implementation, complete Rate Card Table in Section III., provide milestone deliverables and costs.

Please see our completed rate card below.

#### Task1:

The Consulting firm shall be paid for on a time and materials basis with a not to exceed maximum fixed fee for services completed over the term of the Project. Monthly invoices are due to IRWD no later than the 15th of every month. The Consultant is required to submit a summary progress report with the monthly invoice. The one-page report shall have a table identifying each task, subtask, budget, billed to date, amount remaining.

Consulting firm is required to fill below rate card table specifying hourly rate details:

A	B	C	D	E
Number of Hours per Month	Hourly Rate	Guaranteed Minimum Fee, if any, per Month First X hours*	Rate for hours above X hours*	Cost per month
Tier 1 - Associate Consultant – (60 hours)	\$ 170			\$ 10,200.00
Tier 2 – Consultant (61 hours)	\$ 185			\$ 11,285.00
Tier 3 - Senior Consultant (235 hours)	\$ 225			\$ 52,875.00
Project Management (72 hours)	\$ 205			\$ 14,760.00
			<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$ 89,120.00</b>
			Not to Exceed	\$ 96,850.00

\* C & D are optional and can be filled if applicable.

#### Task2:

The Consulting firm shall be paid for a not to exceed maximum fixed fee for services completed over the term of the Project. Consultant shall propose key milestone deliverables and their costs to achieve Task 2. Invoices may be submitted after IRWD approval of the milestone deliverable.

#### Fixed Fee not to exceed maximum - \$ 96,850.00

Products Subtotal					\$716,463.54
Logicalis Professional Services - Fixed Fee					
703	1	PS	Project Initiation	\$48,363.00	\$48,425.00
704	1	PS	Project Completion	\$48,363.00	\$48,425.00
Logicalis Professional Services Fixed Fee Subtotal					\$96,850.00
<b>Grand Total</b>					
Products and Services Subtotal:					\$813,313.54
Sales Tax (estimated):					\$36,421.41
<b>Grand Total:</b>					<b>\$849,734.95</b>


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August 11, 2025

Prepared by: N. Mai / B. Waite

Submitted by: K. Burton

Approved by: Paul A. Cook 

## ACTION CALENDAR

### MICHELSON WATER RECYCLING PLANT BIOSOLIDS LIFT STATION AND SEWER PIPELINE BUDGET INCREASE AND CONSTRUCTION AWARD

#### SUMMARY:

Process flows from the Michelson Water Recycling Plant's (MWRP) Biosolids Facility currently commingle with stormwater runoff within MWRP's Stormwater Pump Station 3 (SWPS3) and are pumped to Pond C of the San Joaquin Marsh as part of normal operations during storm events. To comply with current discharge permitting, contaminants found in the process flows should not be conveyed to Pond C but rather go through MWRP for treatment. This project will bifurcate SWPS3 into two separate wet wells to segregate the process water from the stormwater. Staff recommends the Board:

- Authorize a budget increase in the amount of \$966,000, from \$4,911,000 to \$5,877,000 for Project 12541; and
- Authorize the General Manager to execute a construction contract with Paulus Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$4,186,573 for the MWRP Biosolids Lift Station and Sewer Pipeline project.

#### BACKGROUND:

Stormwater and process water from the MWRP Biosolids Facility converge at SWPS3 and then, during major storm events, these flows are pumped to Pond C of the San Joaquin Marsh. Analytical results of the water at SWPS3 have indicated the presence of waste flow contaminants, so the combined this water should not be sent to Pond C. Instead, the Biosolids process water needs to be separated and conveyed to the sewer system for treatment. This project will construct a new upsized gravity sewer to convey both process flow and sewage from the Biosolids Facility, modify SWPS3 to separate the process water from stormwater and pump it through the sewer for treatment within MWRP. Other project improvements include discharge piping, instrumentation and controls, site improvements, and safety enhancements. An aerial map detailing the new Biosolids Lift Station Sewer Improvements is shown in Exhibit "A". In November 2023, IRWD retained Tetra Tech to design the lift station and sewer improvements, and the design was completed in April 2025.

#### Construction Bid Process:

The project was previously bid in June 2025 and one bid was received in the amount of \$5,024,000. At the June 23, 2025 Board meeting, the Board rejected the bid and authorized staff to rebid the project. The project was readvertised to a select bidders list of 37 mechanical and pipeline contractors on June 26, 2025, and three bids were received on July 24, 2025. The bid results are provided as Exhibit "B" and are summarized as follows:

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Bid Amount</b>
Paulus Engineering, Inc.	\$4,186,573
Vido Artukovich & Sons, Inc./Vidmar Inc., a Joint Venture	\$4,698,800
Steve P. Rados, Inc.	\$4,723,000
<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	<i>\$3,600,000</i>

Paulus Engineering, Inc. was the apparent low bidder with a bid of \$4,186,573. The range of bids was small, and all bids were higher than the engineer's estimate. The discrepancy between the bids and the engineer's estimate can be attributed to higher construction costs in a volatile market for labor and materials. Paulus Engineering is well qualified to construct the project and has completed many projects for IRWD. Staff recommends that the Board authorize the General Manager to award a construction contract to Paulus Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$4,186,573.

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**

Project 12541 is included in the Fiscal Year 2025-27 Capital Budget. A budget increase is required to fund the construction phase of the project as shown in the following table:

Project No.	Current Budget	Addition <Reduction>	Total Budget
12541	\$4,911,000	\$966,000	\$5,877,000

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:**

This project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as authorized under California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 19, Sections 15301, 15302, and 15303, which exempt 1) the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, such as existing facilities of publicly owned utilities used to provide sewerage services; 2) the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, such as the replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity; and 3) construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure.

**COMMITTEE STATUS:**

Construction awards are not routinely taken to the Committee prior to submittal to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE A BUDGET INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$966,000, FROM \$4,911,000 TO \$5,877,000 FOR PROJECT 12541, AND AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH PAULUS ENGINEERING, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,186,573 FOR THE MICHELSON WATER RECYCLING PLANT BIOSOLIDS LIFT STATION AND SEWER PIPELINE, PROJECT 12541.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Project Aerial Map  
Exhibit "B" – Bid Results

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**MICHELSON WATER RECYCLING PLANT  
BIOSOLIDS LIFT STATION AND SEWER PIPELINE**





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## Exhibit "B"

### Bid Results

#### Bidder Details

**Vendor Name** Paulus Engineering, Inc.  
**Address** 2871 E Coronado St  
Anaheim, California 92806  
United States  
**Respondee** Rory Campbell  
**Respondee Title** Vice President  
**Phone** 714-412-1299  
**Email** campbell@paulusengineering.com  
**Vendor Type** CADIR  
**License #** 724114  
**CADIR** 1000000540

#### Bid Detail

**Bid Format** Electronic  
**Submitted** 07/24/2025 1:56 PM (PDT)  
**Delivery Method**  
**Bid Responsive**  
**Bid Status** Submitted  
**Confirmation #** 440229

#### Respondee Comment

#### Buyer Comment

#### Attachments

File Title	File Name	File Type
225086 Paperwork.pdf	225086 Paperwork.pdf	Bid Form

#### Subcontractors

*Showing 5 Subcontractors*

Name & Address	Desc	License Num	CADIR	Amount	Type
<b>CMB Structures Inc.</b> 7211 Haven Aveue, E-287 Alta Loma, California 91701	Concrete Work	613977	1000001531	\$142,438.00	CADIR
<b>Crosstown Electrical &amp; Data, Inc.</b> 5454 Diaz Street Irwindale, California 91706	Electrical	756309	1000000155	\$285,897.00	CADIR
<b>MCS</b> 35246 Antelope Road Murrieta, California 92563	Manhole	445161	1000010719	\$14,500.00	
<b>MISCOwater</b> 27101 Burbank Suite B Foothill Ranch, California 92610	Roof Structure	1083403	1000843626	\$47,675.00	
<b>Techno Coatings</b> 1391 Allec Street Anaheim, California 92805	Coatings	296517	1000005841	\$69,939.00	

Line Items

Discount Terms    No Discount

Item #	Item Code	Type	Item Description	UOM	QTY	Unit Price	Line Total	Response	Comment
BASE BID ITEMS							\$4,186,572.70		
1			Mobilization, Demobilization, and Cleanup	LS	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	Yes	
2			Payment and Performance Bonds, and Insurance	LS	1	\$34,000.00	\$34,000.00	Yes	
3			Sewer Pipeline and Appurtenances	LS	1	\$1,602,513.41	\$1,602,513.41	Yes	
4			Microturbine Lateral and Appurtenances	LS	1	\$139,319.56	\$139,319.56	Yes	
5			Lift Station Improvements	LS	1	\$1,619,640.87	\$1,619,640.87	Yes	
6			Site Improvements	LS	1	\$303,457.20	\$303,457.20	Yes	
7			Temporary Construction Materials and Equipment	LS	1	\$274,162.47	\$274,162.47	Yes	
8			Startup, Testing, Training, Operations and Maintenance Manuals	LS	1	\$61,008.71	\$61,008.71	Yes	
9			Street Sweeping	EA	52	\$816.74	\$42,470.48	Yes	
10			Prepare and Maintain Record Drawings	LS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Yes	
ADDITIVE AND DEDUCTIVE BID ITEMS							\$0.00		
11			ADDITION (+) OR DEDUCTION (-)	LS	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	Yes	

Line Item Subtotals

Section Title	Line Total
BASE BID ITEMS	\$4,186,572.70
ADDITIVE AND DEDUCTIVE BID ITEMS	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$4,186,572.70



August 11, 2025

Prepared by: N. Mai / M. Cortez

Submitted by: K. Burton

Approved by: Paul A. Cook



## ACTION CALENDAR

### RADIO TOWER IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET INCREASE AND CONSTRUCTION AWARD

#### SUMMARY:

This project will erect new radio towers at four separate sites to improve communication between IRWD facilities and provide reliable communication during emergency events. Staff recommends the Board:

- Authorize a budget increase in the amount of \$268,000, from \$807,000 to \$1,075,000 for Project 11154;
- Authorize a budget increase in the amount of \$490,000, from \$585,000 to \$1,075,000 for Project 11156;
- Authorize a budget increase in the amount of \$520,000, from \$555,000 to \$1,075,000 for Project 11157; and
- Authorize the General Manager to execute a construction contract with Southern Contracting Company in the amount of \$1,806,600 for the Radio Tower Improvements project.

#### BACKGROUND:

IRWD's existing radio communication infrastructure has been detrimentally affected by the increase in radio traffic interference and obstructed lines-of-sight caused by the continued development within IRWD's boundary. To improve its current radio communications infrastructure, IRWD evaluated the improvements needed to accomplish this. The proposed project will construct new radio towers at four separate sites to improve communication between IRWD facilities and provide reliable communication during emergency events. Other project improvements include site improvements to provide access to the new towers and radio panels. The four sites are: 1) an 80-foot tower at Dyer Road Initial Disinfection Facility, 2) a 90-foot tower at Coastal Zones 6 and G Reservoirs (Signal Peak), 3) a 40-foot monopole along Williams Canyon Road, near the entrance to the canyon, and 4) a 40-foot monopole at Well 76, located within the City of Irvine's Heritage Community Park adjacent to Interstate 5 and Yale Avenue. A map identifying the four sites is provided as Exhibit "A".

#### Community Outreach:

Extensive coordination, outreach, and communication were made with the City of Santa Ana, the City of Irvine, and the City of Newport Beach for this project with renderings and preliminary drawings to detail the proposed towers and monopoles. Staff also discussed the project with the IRWD liaison for Williams Canyon to coordinate construction requirements and guidelines for the proposed monopole.

Construction Bid Process:

SoCal SCADA Solutions was retained to design the towers in September 2023, and the design was completed in June 2025. The project was originally advertised to a select bidders list of 23 mechanical and tower contractors on June 12, 2025, with a bid opening date of July 16, 2025. The pre-bid meeting was not well attended, with only one tower contractor in attendance – that was not included on the bidders list. On July 15, the day prior to the bid opening, staff received just one contractor bid for the project. Based on this, staff reviewed IRWD’s previous tower projects and reached out to prospective electrical and tower contractors for inclusion to the bidders list. Ultimately, only one tower contractor showed interest. Staff subsequently issued an addendum to add the contractor and to extend the bid opening date to July 29, 2025, allowing contractors more time to prepare their bids.

Even with the extension of the bid period, no additional bids were received. The bid opening occurred, and only Southern Contracting Company submitted a bid:

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Bid Amount</b>
Southern Contracting Company	\$1,806,600
<i>Engineer’s Estimate</i>	<i>\$1,100,000</i>

Due to the project type, there is a limited number of prospective radio tower contractors with the required qualifications. In addition, since the project has minimal mechanical and civil work, it was likely an unattractive project for mechanical contractors compared to IRWD’s typical projects. Staff does not believe that rebidding the project would attract or increase contractor interest. Staff reviewed the engineer’s estimate and compared it with Southern Contracting’s bid. Much of the discrepancy between the bid and the engineer’s estimate was attributed to underestimating the inflated construction market and labor costs of new electrical cabinets and panels, which are needed at all four sites. The bid results are provided as Exhibit “B”.

Southern Contracting is qualified to construct the project. Southern Contracting previously completed IRWD’s recent MWRP T-1 Transformer Replacement as a prime contractor and is the electrical subcontractor to SS Mechanical on the current Coastal Zones 1 to 2 and 2 to 4 Pump Stations Rehabilitation, in which Southern will be constructing the electrical improvements. Staff recommends that the Board authorize the General Manager to award a construction contract to Southern Contracting Company in the amount of \$1,806,600.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Projects 11154, 11156, and 11157 are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-27 Capital Budget. Budget increases are required to fund the construction phase of the project as shown in the following table:

Project No.	Current Budget	Addition <Reduction>	Total Budget
11154	\$807,000	\$268,000	\$1,075,000

11156	\$585,000	\$490,000	\$1,075,000
11157	\$555,000	\$520,000	\$1,075,000
Total	\$1,947,000	\$1,278,700	\$3,225,700

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

This project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), in conformance with California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15303, which states construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures and installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures are exempt, and in conformance with California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15311, which states construction or placement of minor structures accessory to existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities is exempt. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Orange County Clerk and State Clearinghouse.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

Construction awards are not routinely taken to the Committee prior to submittal to the Board.

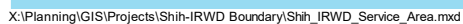
RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE BUDGET INCREASES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$268,000, FROM \$807,000 TO \$1,075,000 FOR PROJECT 11154, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$490,000, FROM \$585,000 TO \$1,075,000 FOR PROJECT 11156, AND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$520,000, FROM \$555,000 TO \$1,075,000 FOR PROJECT 11157; AND AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH SOUTHERN CONTRACTING COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,806,600 FOR THE RADIO TOWER IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECTS 11154, 11156, AND 11157.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Site Map  
Exhibit "B" – Bid Results

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Bid Results

Bidder Details

Vendor Name

Address

Respondee

Respondee Title

Phone

Email

Vendor Type

License #

CADIR

Southern Contracting Company  
559 N. Twin Oaks Valley Road  
San Marcos, California 92069  
United States  
Philip Waterman  
President  
760-744-0760  
pwaterman@southerncontracting.com  
CADIR  
222252  
1000002172

Bid Detail

Bid Format

Submitted

Delivery Method

Bid Responsive

Bid Status

Confirmation #

Electronic  
07/29/2025 12:31 PM (PDT)  
  
Submitted

Respondee Comment

Buyer Comment

Attachments

File Title	File Name	File Type
Bid Forms.pdf	Bid Forms.pdf	Bid Form

Subcontractors

Showing 1 Subcontractor

Name & Address	Desc	License Num	CADIR	Amount	Type
Tashjian Towers Corporation 2765 S Temperance Ave3 Fowler, California 93625	Tower & Foundation Installation, Site Work	885678	2000003119	\$532,000.00	

Line Items

Discount Terms    No Discount

Item #	Item Code	Type	Item Description	UOM	QTY	Unit Price	Line Total	Response	Comment
BASE BID ITEMS							\$1,806,600.00		
1			Mobilization, Demobilization, Insurance, Bonds, and Cleanup (All Sites)	LS	1	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	Yes	
2			Trench Safety Measures (All Sites)	LS	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	Yes	
3			Signal Peak site	LS	1	\$580,650.00	\$580,650.00	Yes	
4			IDF site	LS	1	\$507,650.00	\$507,650.00	Yes	
5			Well 76 site	LS	1	\$287,650.00	\$287,650.00	Yes	
6			Williams Canyon site	LS	1	\$307,650.00	\$307,650.00	Yes	
7			Startup and Testing (All sites)	LS	1	\$20,500.00	\$20,500.00	Yes	
8			Final Record Document (All sites)	LS	1	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Yes	
ADDITIVE AND DEDUCTIVE BID ITEMS							\$0.00		
9			ADDITION (+) OR DEDUCTION (-)	LS	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	Yes	

Line Item Subtotals

Section Title	Line Total
BASE BID ITEMS	\$1,806,600.00
ADDITIVE AND DEDUCTIVE BID ITEMS	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$1,806,600.00