

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – MAY 12, 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 May 12, 2025 at the District offices, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

Directors Present: Ferons, LaMar, Withers, and President Reinhart.

Directors Absent: Swan.

Oral and Written Communications: None.

Items too late to be agendized: None.

Also Present: General Manager Cook, Executive Director of Technical Services Burton, Executive Director of Water Policy Weghorst, Executive Director of Operations Chambers, Executive Director of Finance and Administration Adly, Director of Financial Planning and Data Analytics Smithson, Director of Human Resources Mitcham, Director of Recycling Operations Zepeda, Director of Accounting and Treasury Lin, Controller Pickens, Director of Safety and Security Choi, Director of Strategic Communications & Advocacy Compton, Director of Maintenance Operations Manning, Recycled Water and Cross Connection Control Manager Hatch, Engineering Manager Moeder, General Counsel Collins, Secretary Swan, members of the staff, and public.

CONSENT CALENDAR

President Reinhart requested that item number five be moved to the Action Calendar.

On MOTION by LaMar, seconded by Ferons and unanimously carried, CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS FOUR AND SIX THROUGH EIGHT WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:

4. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

6. SYPHON RESERVOIR INTERSECTION AND ACCESS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FINAL ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM NO. 2 TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Recommendation: That the Board accept construction of the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project Portola Parkway and Sand Canyon Avenue Intersection and Access Road Improvements; authorize the payment of the retention 35 days after the date of recording the Notice of Completion for Project 03808; and approve the proposed Addendum No. 2 to the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project Final Environmental Impact Report, including the determinations set forth in Addendum No. 2, and authorize staff to post and file the Notice of Determination.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

7. SECOND AMENDMENT TO WATER CONSERVATION PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Recommendation: That the Board authorize the General Manager to execute the Second Amendment to the Water Conservation Participation Agreement with Municipal Water District Orange County, subject to non-substantive changes approved by legal counsel.

8. LEASES FOR PORTABLE GAS MONITORING EQUIPMENT

Recommendation: That the Board authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Industrial Scientific for a 48-month term in the amount of \$429,580.80 to lease portable gas monitoring equipment through its iNet Exchange Program.

ACTION CALENDAR

5. 2025 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

President Reinhart expressed his concerns regarding Assembly Bill 367, and the expressed intent of the author, Assemblymember Steve Bennett, to apply the same provisions to all water providers statewide in an additional bill next year. Vice President LaMar reported that the Water Resources Policy and Communications Committee and staff are keeping an eye on the proposed bill and that the Board authorized staff to work to improve the bill through the District's associations to ensure it balances the needs and roles of both the water agencies and firefighting entities.

Following discussion with staff, on MOTION by Withers, seconded by Ferons, and unanimously carried, THE BOARD ADOPTED A "SEEK AMENDMENTS" POSITION ON AB 25 (AGUIAR-CURRY) AND A "SUPPORT" POSITION ON H.R. 2093 (CALVERT / GARAMENDI).

9. TERMS FOR AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF TUSTIN FOR CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Recycled Water and Cross Connection Control Manager Hatch addressed the Board regarding new terms for an agreement with the City of Tustin to comply with the State Water Resources Control Board's July 1, 2025 deadline to adopt a Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook to meet the requirements in Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations. The requirements adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board in December 2023 are more extensive and require greater staff resources and costs than the existing agreement with the City of Tustin that has been in place since 1999.

Vice President LaMar reported that this item was reviewed by the Water Resources Policy and Communications Committee, and that the Committee supports the staff recommendation. On MOTION by LaMar, seconded by Ferons, and unanimously carried, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF TUSTIN FOR CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL BASED ON THE TERMS PRESENTED, SUBJECT TO NON-SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES APPROVED BY LEGAL COUNSEL.

ACTION CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

10. SANTIAGO CREEK DAM IMPROVEMENTS CONSULTANT VARIANCE

Engineering Manager Moeder updated the Board using a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Santiago Creek Dam improvements. District consultants AECOM and GEI completed a Value Engineering Study that demonstrated significant value by adjusting the alignment of the spillway structure to the Dam. District Staff and the Division of Safety of Dams agree on the advantages of revising the design of the spillway. This revision will not impact the design schedule, will reduce construction risk, and will provide an estimated savings of \$8 million in construction costs, which will more than offset the recommended design variance cost.

On MOTION by Withers, seconded by Ferons, and unanimously carried, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE VARIANCE NO. 9 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$893,473 WITH AECOM FOR ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE SANTIAGO CREEK DAM IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT 01813.

OTHER BUSINESS

11. General Manager's Report

General Manager Cook invited Director of Accounting and Treasury Lin to introduce IRWD's new Controller, Tamara Pickens.

Mr. Cook also shared that Human Resources will be rolling out a new employee referral incentive program—referring employees will receive a \$2,000 incentive when their referred new hire completes the one-year probation term.

He also informed the Board that MWD is looking to sell water to other state contractors. Dudley Ridge, where IRWD is a landowner in Kings County, is one of the contractors, and IRWD will submit its application to purchase water before the end of the week through Dudley Ridge.

General Manager Cook also shared that the Irvine Company is looking to develop the Oak Creek golf course into 3100 homes. District staff met with the Irvine Company to learn more about their infrastructure needs.

Mr. Cook informed the Board that Trabuco Canyon Water District sent IRWD and Santa Margarita Water District a request for proposals regarding opportunities for rate relief. Trabuco requested an initial response by June 15, 2025, and the General Manager will keep the Board updated.

General Manager Cook also added that the IRWD lab has earned additional accreditation from the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program to test for certain PFAS compounds, making IRWD one of the handful of laboratories in the state of California able to do so.

Mr. Cook also informed the Board that Engineering Manager Moeder led a two-day tour with the Division of Safety of Dams. He further added the DSOD was impressed with IRWD, the operations, and the staff.

General Manager Cook concluded his report that for the fourth consecutive year in a row, IRWD received the J.D. Power award for the Best Midsize Water Utility in the Western United States, as measured by J.D. Power's independent customer survey.

OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

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

Nothing to report; Mr. Newell was absent.

13. Directors' Comments and Meeting Reports

Director Ferons reported on his attendance at the City of Irvine's 2025 State of the Great Park.

Director Withers reported on his attendance at the ISDOC Quarterly meeting and luncheon in Fountain Valley; the monthly WACO meeting via teleconference; the ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting via teleconference; and the City of Irvine's 2025 State of the Great Park.

Director LaMar reported on his participation in the IRWD Overview and San Joaquin Marsh Tour for Irvine City Council members William Go and Melinda Liu; his attendance at the CCEEB Board of Directors' meetings and reception in Sacramento; and the monthly WACO meeting via teleconference.

President Reinhart reported on his participation in the MWDOC Joint meeting of the Planning and Operations committee and the Administration and Finance committee via teleconference; the MWDOC Board Workshop meeting with the MWD Directors via teleconference; the OCWD Board of Directors meeting via teleconference; and the OCWD Communications & Legislative Liaison Committee via teleconference.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:47 p.m., President Reinhart adjourned the Board meeting.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 9th day of June 2025.

President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

District Secretary,
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Claire Hervey Collins, General Counsel
Hanson Bridgett LLP