

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 9, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was called to order by Vice President LaMar at 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2025. at the District offices, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

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

Directors Absent: Reinhart and 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 Water Resources Nye, Director of Financial Planning and Data Analytics Smithson, Director of Human Resources Mitcham, Director of Recycling Operations Zepeda, Director of Accounting and Treasury Lin, 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, Community Liaison Newell, General Counsel Collins, Secretary Swan, members of the staff, and public.

PUBLIC HEARING

CHANGES TO IRWD RULES AND REGULATIONS

Vice President LaMar declared this to be the time and place for the hearing on the Resolution to revise the Rules and Regulations of the Irvine Ranch Water District. He asked the Secretary to report the manner by which the Notice of the Hearing was given.

Secretary Swan said that the Notice of this hearing was published in the Orange County Register on Sunday, June 1, 2025. The notice was also posted on the District's Web site and at the District office on Friday, May 30, 2025. She then presented the Affidavits of Posting and the Proof of Publication for the Board to receive and file.

On MOTION by Withers, seconded by Ferons and unanimously carried, THE AFFIDAVITS OF POSTING AND THE PROOF OF PUBLICATION PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY WERE RECEIVED AND FILED.

Vice President LaMar asked the Secretary whether there have been any written communications. She said there were none.

Vice President LaMar asked for a report from the District Staff. General Manager Cook reported that this item was reviewed by the Water Resources Policy and Communications Committee meeting. Proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations are provided in bulleted format in the Board writeup along with a redline copy included at Exhibit "A".

Vice President LaMar asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Board concerning the amended Resolution. There were none.

PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED)

Vice President LaMar inquired whether there are any comments or questions from members of the Board Directors. There were none.

On MOTION by Withers, seconded by Ferons and unanimously carried, THE HEARING WAS CLOSED, THE SECOND READING OF THE RESOLUTION WAS READ BY TITLE ONLY, THE FURTHER READING OF THE RESOLUTION WAS WAIVED, AND THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY TITLE:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2019-32 AND ESTABLISHING REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT FOR WATER, SEWER, RECYCLED WATER, AND NATURAL TREATMENT SYSTEM SERVICE

CONSENT CALENDAR

On MOTION by Withers, seconded by Ferons and unanimously carried, CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS FIVE THROUGH FIFTEEN WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:

5. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation: That the minutes of the May 12, 2025 Regular Board meeting be approved as presented.

6. TREASURY REPORT

Recommendation: That the Board receive and file the Treasurer's Investment Summary Report, the Summary of Fixed and Variable Rate Debt, and the Disclosure Report of Reimbursements to Board members and staff, approve the April 2025 Summary of Payroll ACH payments in the total amount of \$2,679,635 and approve the April 2025 accounts payable disbursement summary of warrants 448652 through 449185, Workers' Compensation distributions, ACH payments, virtual card payments, wire transfers, payroll withholding distributions, and voided checks in the net total amount of \$34,542,267.

7. 2025 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE

Recommendation: That the Board adopt a "support" position on SB 394 (Allen) and H.R. 1267 (Perez/Malloy).

8. IRWD SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICES OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES

Recommendation: That the Board support the nominations of Mrs. Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady for the position of Vice President of ACWA and Mr. Ernesto Avila for the position of President of ACWA and adopt the following resolutions by title.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 12

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT
SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF CAROL LEE GONZALES-BRADY AS VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES

RESOLUTION NO. 2025 – 13

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT
SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF ERNESTO AVILA
AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES

9. RENEWAL OF GENERAL AND EXCESS LIABILITY, EXCESS WORKERS’
COMPENSATION, AND PROPERTY INSURANCE PROGRAMS FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2025/26

Recommendation: That Board authorize the General Manager to continue IRWD’s participation in PRISM’s General and Excess Liability, Workers’ Compensation, and Property Insurance Programs for Fiscal Year 2025/26, including approval of the latest insurance premium estimates as shown in Exhibit “A”.

10. DOMESTIC WATER METER VAULT REPLACEMENT ON EAST PELTASON
DRIVE FINAL ACCEPTANCE

Recommendation: That the Board accept construction of the Domestic Water Meter Vault Replacement on East Peltason Drive; authorize the General Manager to file a Notice of Completion; and authorize the payment of the retention 35 days after the date of recording the Notice of Completion for Project 11850.

11. DISCOVERY PARK SUPPLEMENTAL REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

Recommendation: That the Board authorize the General Manager to execute a supplemental reimbursement agreement with Irvine Community Development Company, LLC for the Discovery Park Capital Sewer Facilities.

12. METER READING CONTRACT RENEWAL

Recommendation: That the Board authorize the General Manager to execute a four-year contract for meter reading services with Alexander’s Contract Services Inc. effective July 1, 2025 in the amount of \$8.6 million.

13. WATER EFFICIENCY TACTICAL INCENTIVE FUNDING AUTHORIZATION

Recommendation: That the Board authorize the General Manager to allocate \$1,262,000 in funding to the FY 2025-26 rebate programs administered through the Water Conservation Participation Agreement between Municipal Water District of Orange County and Irvine Ranch Water District; and to execute addenda to the agreement as may be necessary to allocate funds to specific programs and modify device incentive levels based on customer participation rates and regional program funding levels.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

14. FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 ANNUAL WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: That the Board approve IRWD's FY 2025-26 Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment for submittal to the California Department of Water Resources.

15. CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Recommendation: Receive and file.

ACTION CALENDAR

16. MICHELSON WATER RECYCLING PLANT BIOSOLIDS HANDLING IMPROVEMENTS CONSULTANT SELECTION

Executive Director of Technical Services Burton reported to the Board that there have been mechanical and performance issues with the solids thickening and dewatering process with the District's MWRP Biosolids Facility that was put online in 2020. In the spring of 2022 IRWD retained Carollo Engineers, Inc. to identify potential causes and solutions to implement into the facility's process. Carollo provided their findings in the fall of 2022 with over 30 recommended areas to address. Staff have implemented over ten, and this project will address the complex areas that will require modifications to the solids system. A request for proposals in March 2025 was submitted to four consultants, with one declining to participate. Following pre-proposal overview meetings and a facility tour, two of the consulting firms also declined to submit proposal due to needing additional prerequisite work to confirm the information contained in Carollo's 2022 technical memorandum. Carollo's proposal demonstrates an excellent understanding of the challenges and has identified clear and logical solutions to address the issues experienced in the facility.

Director Ferons reported that this item was reviewed by the Engineering and Operations Committee, and that the Committee supports the staff recommendation. On MOTION by Ferons, seconded by Withers, and unanimously carried, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CAROLLO ENGINEERS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,052,221 FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE MICHELSON WATER RECYCLING PLANT BIOSOLIDS HANDLING IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT 12555.

17. COSTAL ZONE 1-2 AND 2-4 PUMP STATIONS REHABILITATION BUDGET INCREASE AND CONSTRUCTION AWARD

Executive Director of Technical Services Burton reported that the rehabilitation of the Coastal Zone 1-2 and 2-4 Pump Stations is needed as they have become inoperable in the Newport Coast due to lack of operation over the years and its outdated components.

On MOTION by Withers, seconded by Ferons, and unanimously carried, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED A BUDGET INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$245,000 FROM \$6,612,500 TO \$6,857,500 FOR PROJECT 11912, AND AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH SS MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,133,885 FOR THE COASTAL ZONE 1-2 AND 2-4 PUMP STATIONS REHABILITATION, PROJECT 11912.

President Reinhart arrived at 5:13 p.m. in time for item 18.

ACTION CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

18. TERMS FOR WATER STORAGE AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Using a PowerPoint presentation, the Executive Director of Water Policy Weghorst presented to the Board a mutually beneficial Water Storage and Exchange Program that would allow the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District to store water purchased from the Metropolitan Water District in the IRWD Water Bank with half of the water accruing to the benefit of IRWD. District staff began working with LVMWD staff in 2022 to craft this exchange program. The recent Metropolitan out-of-service-area sale makes the program feasible.

President Reinhart reported that this item was reviewed by the Supply Reliability Programs Committee on August 18, 2022. He reported that this is a good and equitable deal for all parties involved, and on MOTION by Reinhart, seconded by Ferons, and unanimously carried, **THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A WATER STORAGE AND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT BASED ON THE TERMS PRESENTED AT THE MEETING, SUBJECT TO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES APPROVED BY SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL.**

OTHER BUSINESS

19. General Manager's Report

General Manager Cook asked that this evening's meeting be closed in memory of IRWD Employee, Vladimir Li.

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

Mr. Newell reported that there are still residents in the canyons staging private fire hydrants. In addition, the Inter-Canyon League hosted a "Chipper Day" where residents brought in 60 truckloads of brush that was chipped down and collected 60 tires.

21. Directors' Comments and Meeting Reports

Director Ferons reported on his attendance at the ACWA Spring Conference in Monterey; the City of Tustin PFAS Treatment Plant Dedication Ceremony; the Water UCI Webinar: Planning for Sustainable Water Management via Zoom; the Southern California Water Dialogue Meeting: The Next Chapter for Southern California Water Storage via teleconference; and the Natural Communities Coalition Executive Committee Meeting.

Director Withers reported on his attendance at the ACWA Spring Conference in Monterey; the City of Tustin PFAS Treatment Plant Dedication Ceremony; and the ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting via teleconference.

Director LaMar reported on his participation in the Water UCI Webinar: Planning for Sustainable Water Management via Zoom; the Southern California Water Dialogue Meeting: The Next Chapter for Southern California Water Storage via teleconference; the CCEEB WCW Project Meeting: SWRCB's Industrial General Permit Reissuance via teleconference; and the Natural Communities Coalition Executive Committee Meeting, Community Room.

President Reinhart on his attendance at the ACWA Spring Conference in Monterey; his participation in the OCWD Water Issues Committee Meeting via teleconference; the OCWD

OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

Administration / Finance Issues Committee Meeting via teleconference; the Groundwater Banking JPA Special Board Meeting; the MWDOC Board Meeting; IRWD Member Agency Spotlight; the South Orange County Agencies' Group Meeting; a Review of Community Tour Program with District Staff via Teams; the IRWD Community Tour – Green Dome Debut; the MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting via teleconference; the MWDOC Workshop Board Meeting with MWD Directors via teleconference; the OCWD Board Meeting via teleconference; the OCWD Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee Meeting via teleconference; and the WACO monthly meeting via teleconference.

22. Closed Session

Vice President LaMar convened the meeting into Closed Session at 5:46 p.m. with General Counsel Collins announcing the following:

A. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to Government Code Section: 54956.8

Property: 32003 Dove Canyon Dr., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679, APN: 804-542-27
Agency Negotiator: Paul Cook – IRWD General Manager
Negotiating Parties: Trabuco Canyon Water District
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

B. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS – Pursuant to Government Code Section: 54956.8

Property: 1211 Edinger Avenue, Tustin, CA 92780, APN 430-252-14
Agency negotiator: Paul Cook, Neveen Adly, Kevin Turner
Negotiating parties: Vivian Janho Kaufman Family Trust
Under negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

23. Open Session

Following the Closed Session, the meeting was reconvened in Open Session. General Counsel announced that there were no actions to be reported on either item.

24. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:20 p.m., President LaMar adjourned the Board meeting in memory of Vladimir Li.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 23rd day of June 2025.

President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

District Secretary,
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Claire Hervey Collins, General Counsel
Hanson Bridgett LLP