

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 11, 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 August 11, 2025 at the District offices, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

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

Directors Absent: 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 Strategic Communications and Advocacy / Deputy General Counsel Compton, Director of Water Resources Nye, Senior Regulatory Compliance Administrator Barboza, Community Liaison Newell, General Counsel Collins, Secretary Swan, members of the staff, and public.

Written Communications: One letter from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) was received regarding Agenda Item No. 6.

Oral Communications: Four individuals expressed interest in addressing the Board: Mr. James Fisler, Mr. Paul Mesmer, Mr. Dick Reed, and Mr. Robert Tomasello. Mr. Dick Reed of IBEW and Mr. Robert Tomasello of IRWD staff wanted to address the Board regarding Agenda Item No. 6.

Mr. James Fisler of the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission provided an update to the Board regarding items of note to special districts. He further invited the Board to attend the next LAFCO meeting at 8:15 a.m. on September 17, 2025, and highlighted that they are now meeting in a new location, OCTA Conference Room 07, 550 S. Main Street, Orange.

Mr. Paul Mesmer, 1st Vice President of the Independent Special Districts of Orange County, reminded the Board to participate in the ISDOC Quarterly Meetings, and to participate as a keynote presenter at a future meeting.

Items too late to be agendized: None.

PUBLIC HEARING

REPORT ON WATER QUALITY RELATIVE TO PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS

President Reinhart declared this to be the time and place for the Hearing on the Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals, and he declared the Hearing open and asked the Secretary to report the manner by which the Notice of Hearing was given.

Secretary Swan said that the Notice of the Hearing was published in the Orange County Register on July 27, 2025, and August 3, 2025. A Notice was also posted in the District office and on the

PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED)

District's website on July 22, 2025. She then presented an Affidavit of Posting and the Proof of Publication for the Board to receive and file.

On MOTION by Swan, seconded by LaMar and unanimously carried, THE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING AND THE PROOF OF PUBLICATION PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY WAS RECEIVED AND FILED.

President Reinhart asked the Secretary whether there have been any written communications. She reported that there were none.

President Reinhart asked legal counsel to describe the nature of the proceeding. Legal Counsel Collins said that the 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 Reinhart asked staff to provide a report. Senior Regulatory Compliance Administrator Barboza said that this is a triennial review required by California law to report on IRWD's drinking water quality relative to the state-adopted Public Health Goals or the federal-level Maximum Contaminant Level Goals adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Ms. Barboza reported if the maximum contaminant level for a specific constituent has been adopted by the EPA or the California Division of Drinking Water, then agencies must include it in this report. Additionally, any constituents that are above the Public Health Goals, and if no Public Health Goals Exist above the federal maximum contaminant level goals, are also included in this report.

She said that Public Health Goals are not adopted standards for drinking water like Maximum Contaminant Levels, but rather goals at which the State says there is zero risk to public health by drinking the water over a lifetime. There's no consideration for detectability, treatability, or affordability in setting these goals. This specific report covers the calendar years 2022 through 2024.

She added, as compared to the 2022 report, a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for hexavalent chromium was added in 2024, and bromate and chlorite were removed from this report, as they were not detected above the Public Health Goals. Best available technology cost estimates are included and provide an estimation for what treatment costs, which is over two thousand dollars per customer per year, under the assumption of bringing levels closer to the Public Health Goals but it would not meet all public health goal levels. IRWD's potable water meets all state and federal drinking water standards. It is not possible to quantify or meet Public Health Goals or Maximum Contaminant Level Goals at zero using water and treatment techniques. No further action is recommended in terms of treatment related to Public Health Goals or Maximum Contaminant Level Goals.

Ms. Barboza said that District has not received any public comments or questions regarding the 2025 Report. She further said that the report was presented to the Engineering and Operations Committee and that staff recommend that the report be received and filed.

PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED)

President Reinhart asked whether there is anyone present who wished to address the Board concerning the Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals. There were none.

President Reinhart asked whether there were any comments or questions from members of the Board of Directors. Director Ferons reported that the report was reviewed by the Engineering and Operations Committee, and that the committee supports the staff recommendation to receive and file the 2025 Report on Water Quality Relative to Public Health Goals. President Reinhart asked that the hearing be closed and to receive and file the report. On MOTION by Ferons, seconded by Swan, and unanimously carried, THE HEARING WAS CLOSED AND THE 2025 REPORT ON WATER QUALITY RELATIVE TO PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS WAS RECEIVED AND FILED.

CONSENT CALENDAR

General Manager Cook requested that Agenda Item No. 6 be moved to the Action Calendar so staff could present a modified recommendation.

On MOTION by Swan, seconded by LaMar, and carried unanimously, CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS FIVE AND SEVEN WERE APPROVED AS FOLLOWS:

5. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

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.

ACTION CALENDAR

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

General Manager Cook reported that questions from staff have been raised since the Finance and Personnel Committee and in response to this agenda item for this evening's Board meeting. This item was presented at the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting, and the proposed approach to employee contributions to health insurance rates uses the same calculation methodology that has been used by the District since 2013 and that is included in the MOU between IRWD and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. This year, the calculation has resulted a larger employee contribution to insurance rates than in previous years.

Mr. Cook stated that placed before the Board this evening was the write up with a revised staff recommendation along with a letter from the IBEW. The revised recommendation proposed that the Board approve the other aspects of the recommended motion, but that the rates to be contributed by the employee will be determined and presented at a subsequent Board meeting.

President Reinhart invited members of the public to address the Board.

ACTION CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

Mr. Dick Reed of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers announced he was speaking on behalf of IBEW members. He stated his opinion that while the cost-sharing formula for health benefits was agreed upon in the collective bargaining agreement and had made sense in the past, it did not appear to work well anymore, given the changes in health benefits costs across the different plans offered by IRWD. He requested that the Board consider having a conversation looking at alternatives to the current cost-sharing formula to lessen the financial burden for IRWD employees.

Mr. Robert Tomasello, IRWD Automation Programmer, expressed to the Board the what a profound impact that the proposed employee contribution rates will have on him. Some plans have increased more than 340% in just one year, making access to healthcare coverage a difficult decision to ensure the health, stability, and security of employees and their families. He further asked the Board to postpone the vote on the renewal of rates for the group medical plan services.

Director Swan reported that this item was reviewed by the Finance and Personnel Committee, and that he supports the staff's modified recommendation. Following discussion with the Board, on MOTION by Swan, seconded by LaMar and carried unanimously, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE CONTINUATION OF IRWD'S HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE WITH CALPERS, WITH CHANGES IN DISTRICT AND EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION RATES TO BE DETERMINED AT A SUBSEQUENT BOARD MEETING, AUTHORIZED THE CONTINUATION OF THE DISTRICT'S DENTAL INSURANCE COVERAGE WITH DELTA DENTAL, AUTHORIZED THE CONTINUATION OF THE DISTRICT'S VISION INSURANCE COVERAGE WITH EYEMED, AUTHORIZED THE RENEWAL OF THE DISTRICT'S EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH REACH, AUTHORIZED THE TERM LIFE, ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT, LONG-TERM DISABILITY AND EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE WITH RELIANCE STANDARD, AND AUTHORIZED THE CONTINUATION OF THE FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT, LIFESTYLE SAVINGS ACCOUNT, HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENT, COBRA AND COMMUTER BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR, INSPIRA FINANCIAL.

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

Executive Director of Technical Services Burton reported to the Board that this item addresses the internal piping at the Michelson Water Recycling Plant. This project will reroute process water from the MWRP Biosolids Facility to avoid it commingling with stormwater runoff into Pond C during major storm events and instead be conveyed into the sewer system for treatment. The initial request for proposals received one bid and was rejected by Board. Subsequent to this action, staff rebid the project and received three bids.

Following discussion among staff and the Board, on MOTION by Ferons, seconded by LaMar, and carried with a 4-1 vote, with Ferons, LaMar, Withers, and Reinhart voting aye and Swan voting no, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED A BUDGET INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$966,000, FROM \$4,911,000 TO \$5,877,000 FOR PROJECT 12541, AND AUTHORIZED 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.

ACTION CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

9. RADIO TOWER IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET INCREASE AND CONSTRUCTION AWARD

Executive Director of Technical Services Burton reported that this project to construct four new radio towers will improve communication between IRWD facilities, providing reliable communication during emergency events, when other forms of communication may not be readily available to District staff.

Following discussion with the Board, on MOTION by Swan, seconded by Feron and carried unanimously, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED 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 AUTHORIZED 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.

OTHER BUSINESS

10. General Manager's Report

General Manager Cook stated that he did not have a report.

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

Community Liaison Newell had no report.

12. Directors' Comments and Meeting Reports

Director Feron reported on his attendance at the monthly WACO meeting.

Director Withers reported on his participation in the Resident Tour Dress Rehearsal / Briefing with District staff; the ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting via teleconference; the Resident Tour featuring the evening Bat Walk Tour of the Marsh; and the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce State of the County Luncheon in Newport Beach.

Director Swan reported on his attendance at the CASA Annual Conference in San Diego; the MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee meeting via teleconference; the MWDOC Board Workshop with the MWD Directors; and the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce State of the County Luncheon in Newport Beach.

Director LaMar reported on his attendance at the WACO monthly meeting; the ACWA Board of Directors' meeting via teleconference; and the 2025 Annual Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) Workshop in La Jolla.

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; and the OCWD Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee Meeting via teleconference.

OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:53 p.m., President Reinhart adjourned the Board meeting.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 25th day of August 2025.

President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

District Secretary,
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Claire H. Collins, General Counsel
Hanson Bridgett LLP