



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 3:00 PM

66575 Second St, Desert Hot Springs, CA AND/OR Via Teleconference

CALL TO ORDER

President Duff called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Amber Duff, Vice President Robert Griffith, Director Ivan Sewell, Director Russ Martin, Director Ted Mayrhofen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Macy, Marion Champion, Kurt Kettenacker, Dori Petee, Danny Friend, Skyler Aubrey, Amanda Lucas, Eric Weck, Oriana Hoffert, Selene Rodriguez, Will Whitten

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Director Sewell

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules of Procedure were read by General Counsel.

All noticed meetings are conducted using Rosenberg’s Rules of Order as a procedural guideline. Directors should refrain from responding directly to public comments at meetings of the Board. The Board President will refer matters raised during public comment to the General Manager for follow-up when appropriate. Occasionally, a prompt response may be offered when an obvious answer resolution is available provided this is done in compliance with the Brown Act. Directors should refrain from debating or making decisions in response to public comments. The President of the Board presides at all meetings and decides all points of order and procedure during meetings. The President is responsible for maintenance and decorum at all Board meetings. No person shall be allowed to speak who has not first been recognized by the President. All questions and remarks should be addressed to the President as the presiding officer. No member of the Board should speak more than once about any one subject until every other member on the Board wishing to speak on the subject shall have been given the opportunity to speak. No Board member shall interfere with the orderly progress of a Board meeting. In order to ensure the orderly progress of Board meetings the Board President regulates the amount of time to be dedicated to a particular agenda item.”

PUBLIC INPUT

Edward Razer, addressed the board regarding proposed water-district changes and concerns about potential impacts to customers. Mr. Razer stated he lives part-time in Desert Edge and has been trying to understand recent discussions about a possible junction/connection between districts (referencing Coachella Valley and Mission), potential pursuit of state or federal funding, and efforts to address chromium (Chrome 6) issues. He asked why the issue is being addressed now, what specific problem or requirement is driving the potential district changes, and what consequences might follow—particularly possible water-rate changes that could significantly increase bills for fixed-income seniors and retirees. Mr. Razer also requested clearer, higher-level public communication and guidance on

where to obtain accurate information, noting the community's concern and confusion. In response, General Manager Macy thanked him for attending, offered to provide contact information, and clarified that the Coachella Valley's Chromium-6 issue is naturally occurring (not caused by industrial contamination). After confirming Mr. Razer is within the service area as a CVWD customer, the General Manager invited him to follow up directly for a one-on-one discussion and offered to involve appropriate staff (e.g., engineering/operations) to address his questions in detail.

PRESENTATION

DESERT HOT SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL REAL ACADEMY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Assistant General Manager Marion Champion introduced the four winter interns who just completed 60 hours of internship with the District. The students shared their experiences with the Board.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

The Board acknowledged the following employees:

ANNIVERSARIES

John Kee	Field Operations Technician I	1 Year
Josiah Perez	Field Operations Technician I	2 Years
Adrian Perea	Field Operations Technician II	4 Years
Eric Weck	Engineering Manager	4 Years
Rita Huber	Accountant	8 Years
Oriana Hoffert	Human Resources Manager	9 Years
Chris Jacobson	Wastewater Plant Operator II	22 Years

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 WITH L.O. LYNCH QUALITY WELLS AND PUMPS, INC., FOR THE ON-CALL WELL AND BOOSTER MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES CONTRACT

The Board authorized the General Manager to approve Change Order No. 1 with L.O. Lynch Quality Wells and Pumps, Inc. for the On-Call Well and Booster Maintenance and Repair Services contract to complete the projects issued under Task Orders 1 through 5. This change order increases the contract amount by \$957,875.05 (includes a 10% contingency), revising the total from \$150,000 to \$1,107,875.05, and augments the capital budget for Job No. 11899 (Well 27 Repairs) from \$91,000.00 to \$131,800.00.

Staff presented at the Study Session; there is nothing further to add.

Motion made by Vice President Griffith, Seconded by Director Martin.

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

APPROVE CONTRACT AMENDMENT NO. 2 FOR KYLE GROUNDWATER, INC.

The Board authorized the General Manager to approve a contract amendment with KYLE Groundwater, Inc. (KGI) to provide hydrogeological support services for the Well 30 Rehabilitation Project. This amendment increases the contract amount by \$78,862.30 (including a 10% contingency), revising the total from \$93,187.30 to \$172,049.60.

Staff presented at the Study Session; there is nothing further to add.

Motion made by Vice President Griffith, Seconded by Director Sewell.

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH INTELESYS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Board authorized the General Manager to approve the contract amendment, increasing the contract scope and not-to-exceed (NTE) amount from \$125,544.44 to \$259,615.39 (includes a 10% contingency), with Intelesys Communications Services for Information Technology (IT) Professional Services for the remainder of the current contract ending June 30, 2026.

Staff presented at the Study Session; there is nothing further to add.

Motion made by Vice President Griffith, Seconded by Director Mayrhofen.

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

DISCUSSION ITEMS**AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR LITTLE MORONGO & 19TH AVENUE RES-BCT SOLAR SITE REPAIRS**

General Manager Macy explained that bids were received, but they are still being evaluated and will be brought back to the board in March for execution.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING UPDATE

General Manager Macy explained that the district has been working with the city to finalize design details, mostly related to off-site/exterior aspects rather than the specific site itself, and as a result, the district plans to move forward with bidding later this month. Although the architect was not available at the meeting, the bid package is expected to be received and posted on the district's OpenGov site, and potential bidders are encouraged to review it there. The project includes not only the administrative building but also a three-bay operations center with a warehouse, along with yard improvements that involve moving some ponds, which will require permitting and approval through the regional board.

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

General Manager Macy introduced Engineering Manager Eric Weck to provide the monthly Groundwater Quality Protection Program update. Mr. Weck reported that the update focused on the M2 septic-to-sewer project: staff received eight bids and the project team is currently reviewing them, with staff expecting to bring a recommendation and proposed award to the Board at next month's meeting. No public comments were received. During Board discussion, Director Sewell asked whether receiving eight bids was typical; staff responded that bid counts fluctuate based on contractor availability and market conditions, citing a recent solar repairs solicitation where initial interest was high but only one bid was ultimately received.

CONSENT AGENDA**Motion made by Director Sewell, Seconded by Vice President Griffith.**

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It is recommended to approve the minutes as follows:

1. January 7, 2026 ~ Special Meeting Workshop Minutes
2. January 15, 2026 ~ Study Session Minutes
3. January 20, 2026 ~ Board Meeting Minutes

REGISTER OF DEMANDS

The register of demands totaling \$17,246,251.17

REPORTS**DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

Director Martin reported attendance at the following meetings and events: 1/8 DVBA Legislative Meeting, 1/12 DVBA Board Meeting, 1/13 Oversight Committee Agenda Review, 1/14 DVBA Public Officials Luncheon, 1/15 RivCo Oversight Committee Meeting, 1/22 RivCo Staff meeting/document signing, 1/26 Cabots Museum Board Meeting, 1/29 SDARC Quarterly Luncheon, 1/30 DVBA Installation Dinner.

Vice President Griffith reported attendance at the following meetings and events: 1/6 DWA Board Meeting, 1/28 CSDA Webinar, and 1/30 CSDA Webinar.

Director Sewell reported attendance at the following meetings and events: 1/13 CVWD Board Meeting, 1/29 GCVCC Legislative Breakfast.

Director Mayrhofen reported attendance at the following meetings and events: 1/29 SDARC Quarterly Luncheon.

President Duff reported attendance at the following meetings and events: 1/8 CVCC Meeting, 1/10 CVCAN Business Meeting, 1/16 ACWA State Legislative Committee Meeting, 1/28 San Geronio Pass Regional Water Alliance Meeting, 1/29 CSDA Webinar.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Included in this report are the following oral reports:

1. Finance Report

Report given on Thursday; nothing further to add.

2. Public Affairs Report

Assistant General Manager Marion Champion highlighted January outreach, media, and upcoming engagement activities for Mission Springs Water District (MSWD). Staff and board participated in multiple community and partner events, including a quarterly luncheon with the Riverside Chapter of the Special Districts Association (sponsored by SBEMP) focused on Brown Act revisions and compliance; a roundtable briefing with Assemblyman Greg Wallace's staff on January 30; a spa tour kickoff event at Cabot's on January 29 where MSWD promoted its award-winning drinking water; and attendance at the City's Eagle Spark Sports Park groundbreaking, the CORBS Awards, and the Palm Springs Museum Gala. The team also attended the ACWA State Legislative Symposium and heard remarks from Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio on effective advocacy at the State Capitol.

MSWD reported receiving three regional CORBS recognitions: Outreach and Engagement Program of the Year (internship program with Desert Hot Springs High School's "Rail Academy"), Plant of the Year for Operations and Maintenance (Nancy Wright Regional Water Reclamation Facility), and a Gizmos and Gadgets award for a debris-prevention shield created by wastewater operators Mark Vermeer and Joey McElrone to keep windblown material from the grit chamber; a news release generated coverage in the "Uken Report" and the "El Informador."

Looking ahead, Public Affairs noted a busy schedule with a Lifestream blood donation event, hosting the Desert Hot Springs Rotary Four-Way Speech Contest (student scholarships), CASA DC followed by the Desert Hot Springs Women's Club fashion show, and completion of the winter internship program. MSWD participated in the Palm Springs Unified School District Science and Engineering Fair and presented its Water Innovation Award to Ja'nylah Lewis, a third-grade student at Cabot Yerxa Elementary, for a filtration-focused project ("House of Filtration"). The district announced half-day public infrastructure tours on March 10–11 (morning and afternoon) featuring a well, booster pump, reservoir, and wastewater treatment plant; sign-ups open February 19 and are expected to fill quickly.

Communications updates included Water Matters newsletter topics (January: leak prevention; February: water quality), media pickup for the board reorganization and Director Martin's countywide oversight chair role, and progress on the CV Water Counts Academy (70+ applicants for 55 spots; Operations Director Danny Friend presented on cross-connection/backflow; rates and Proposition 218 to be covered; West Valley tour to include the Nancy Wright facility). Current campaigns include the "Leaks Happen" initiative, promoting timely repairs and customer-portal alerts, and the New Year water conservation campaign, promoting free "Water Fit" conservation kits (approximately 70 distributed to date, about one-third more than in prior years), supported by a short social media video and positive engagement.

3. Burrowing Owl Support Letter

General Manager Macy noted that they had provided CVAG with a draft burrowing owl support letter, reiterating that state and federal agencies do not fully align on the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan. Staff requested that legal counsel (SBEMP) continue representing MSWD in ongoing legal discussions and correspondence with CVAG to ensure the District's interests are addressed. With no objections and apparent consensus from the group, leadership agreed to sign the letter and formally add MSWD's support on the burrowing owl

issue, emphasizing the District's longstanding support for the conservation plan and its commitment to protecting the species in alignment with that plan.

COMMENTS

DIRECTOR COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. General Comments
2. Requests for Future Agenda Items
3. Requests for Future Meetings

Director Mayrhofen noted that it feels degrading and demoralizing to be in their fourth year and hear others give reports about their government-related activities while he feels he has "nothing really" to report. He added that he's expressed this feeling before and implied that if others haven't understood it by now, they likely won't.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING POTENTIAL INITIATION OF LITIGATION

pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) Two potential cases.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Pursuant to Govt Code 54957

Title: General Manager

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Agency designated representative: MSWD Board President Amber Duff or her designee

Unrepresented Employees: General Manager.

REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN DURING CLOSED SESSION

The Board met in closed session on the items listed above, there was no reportable action taken on any items.

ADJOURN

With no further business, President Duff adjourned the meeting at 4:27 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dori Petee
Executive Assistant