

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

July 7, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 7th day of July, 2026, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL presiding and the following COMMISSIONERS present:

COMMISSIONERS WALTERS, McNEIL, CAIRNS AND POWELL

Also Present: SECRETARY SALLIS, UTILITY MANAGER TORRANCE AND OTHER KEY STAFF

EX ABSNC COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER POWELL, to grant an excused absence to COMMISSIONERS BROWN AND JONES. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS WALTERS,
McNEIL, CAIRNS AND POWELL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS JONES AND BROWN

APPROVAL COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER
AGENDA POWELL, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS WALTERS,
McNEIL, CAIRNS AND POWELL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS JONES AND BROWN

CORSPNDN: None

PBLC APRN: None

CNST CAL: COMMISSIONER WALTERS requested to pull agenda item 2 (approve the Annual Depository Statement and authorize the Director of Finance to make monthly transfers from NPUA to City accounts to reimburse for the fiscal year 2026-2027 payments for bond debt service, contract services, purchase payments, and reimbursement of non-utility sanitation revenues deposited with the Authority according to the approved budget)

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER McNEIL, to pull agenda item 2 and approve agenda items 1 and 3.

1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held June 2, 2026
3. Authorize the Purchase of one Pole/Reel/Dump Trailer from Brooks Brothers Trailers not to exceed \$55,060 utilizing the Electric Asset Replacement Fund

Motion to approve agenda item 1 carried by the following roll call vote:

July 7, 2026

Page 2

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS WALTERS,
CAIRNS AND POWELL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS JONES AND BROWN
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER McNEIL

Motion to approve agenda item 3 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS WALTERS,
McNEIL, CAIRNS AND POWELL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS JONES AND BROWN

ANNUAL DEPOSITORY STATEMENT 2026-27 FY COMMISSIONER WALTERS questioned the dates on the Annual Depository Statement, Operations & Maintenance, which show 2022 and 2023. Mark Demay, finance director, noted that is an error and will be corrected as the correct years should be 2026 and 2027. A brief discussion followed.

COMMISSIONER POWELL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAIRNS, to approve the Annual Depository Statement, as corrected to reflect the 2026-2027 fiscal year, and authorize the Director of Finance to make monthly transfers from NPUA to City accounts to reimburse for the fiscal year 2026-2027 payments for bond debt service, contract services, purchase payments, and reimbursement of non-utility sanitation revenues deposited with the Authority according to the approved budget. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS WALTERS,
McNEIL, CAIRNS AND POWELL
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS JONES AND BROWN

REG ITEMS: SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY SITE ACCESS & MOU FOR CAMERA Utility Manager Torrance briefly explained the Scripps Institution of Oceanography Site Access and Use Memorandum of Understanding with the University of California, San Diego for Alert California to place cameras in Needles. This will provide faster emergency response through AI (artificial intelligence) to fires and track changes to the earth and the impact of climate changes. The camera will be attached to the high tank on Lily Hill and there is no cost to participate in the program.

Discussion followed on the purpose of the agreement to capture wildfires early for quick response with some Board Members expressing concern on possible other uses, display of neighborhoods over the Internet, etc. Utility Manager Torrance explained that the intent is to get aerial coverage and possibly help with residential insurance coverages but if the Board is not in favor and denies, she will not present to the City Council/Needles Public Utility Authority as there will be no recommendation.

COMMISSIONER POWELL agreed this is a good idea but feels we need assurances that it will not be used for any other purposes noting that cameras have

taken jobs from fire personnel. COMMISSIONER WALTERS commented that Scripps is coming to the city for convenience of the higher area on Lily Hill as they could attach to poles elsewhere. COMMISSIONER POWELL expressed concern that the cameras could become “big brother watching”. CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL pointed out that there is a resource through the city attorney if there is abuse in use of the cameras.

Utility Manager Torrance suggested the MOU can be submitted for final review by the city attorney to make sure the intended use of the camera is clear. After any comments or changes, those would then be submitted to Scripps for their review and approval to make sure they’re agreeable with the protection language. COMMISSIONER McNEIL pointed out that Scripps is restricted to certain use as per the MOU and cannot include the surrounding neighborhoods.

Upon recommendation of Utility Manager Torrance, COMMISSIONER POWELL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAIRNS, to table until the next meeting and request the city attorney review for clarification.

COMMISSIONER McNEIL explained he does not see this issue reaching the level of going to the city attorney for review of the MOU or the expense thereof as the language is specific that they cannot spy on the community.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS WALTERS,
CAIRNS AND POWELL
NOES: COMMISSIONER McNEIL
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS JONES AND BROWN

REPORTS: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL acknowledged: 1) EUSI, LLC operational support services relating to the wastewater treatment facility and collection system May 2026; and 2) Present Perfected Rights Report for April and May 2026

MGR’S RPT: Utility Manager Torrance reported on: 1) power outage about a week ago and encouraged everyone to download the Needles Connect App if not already done so. The wind blew something into the powerlines that blew the circuit so a reminder was sent to the residents to keep secure anything that can blow into the powerlines; 2) spoke on several agencies in California that are pursuing an amended or extended system conservation implementation agreement for 2026, 2027 and 2028, and the city having a conservation agreement for the turf project done at the golf course which has expired. Not sure if it’s in the city’s best interest to entertain extending that but Metropolitan Water District (MWD) reached out that we may be getting some proposals on extending that agreement though the city has met its obligation.

BRD RQSTS: COMMISSIONER McNEIL questioned the status of the solar ad hoc committee to which Utility Manager Torrance responded grant applications have been submitted for two smaller solar systems with battery backup for the senior center and recreation center both of which serve as cooling stations during power

July 7, 2026

Page 4

outages. The plan is to finish SCADA and then put together a request for proposals for a 1 megawatt solar farm project as there are funds in the asset replacement as well as looking at other funding opportunities. The state is still giving out funding, just no federal funding.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL proposed to start metering streetlights so we know the consumption as the power used is currently showing with line losses. Need to make an argument with the city council on who pays for streetlights and make a proposal that the general fund pick up that cost. COMMISSIONER WALTERS noted the old streetlights are being changed out to new halogen lights. Discussion followed on streetlight costs, who pays, and metering of same. CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL feels streetlights are a public safety cost, not ratepayer cost.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL declared the regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 7th day of July, 2026, adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Chairman

Secretary