



City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

CITY COUNCIL BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES Regular Special

Meeting Date: January 20, 2026

Title: Set the 2026 Board of Public Utilities Goals

Background: The Board of Public Utilities acts as a recommending body to the City Council on matters related to utility operations. The Board provides recommendations on a range of issues, including the annual budget, purchases of equipment, materials, and supplies for the utility system improvements, as well as the establishment of rates for water, wastewater, and electricity.

The Board's role ensures that utility services are managed efficiently and effectively, meeting the needs of the community while supporting sustainable growth and development. The City Charter outlines the following power authorities for the Board of Public Utilities;

Sec 909 Board Of Public Utilities

There shall be a board of public utilities consisting of seven members. The board of public utilities shall have the power and duty to:

- a) Consider the annual budget for the department of public utilities during the process of its preparation and make recommendations with respect thereto to the council and the city manager.
- b) Within the limits of the budget of the department of public utilities, authorize any purchase of equipment, materials or supplies exceeding the sum of three thousand dollars, and authorize the acquisition, construction, extension, enlargement, diminution, or curtailment of all or any part of any public utility system. No such purchase, acquisition, construction, extension, enlargement, diminution or curtailment shall be made without such authorization.
- c) Require of the city manager monthly reports of receipts and expenditures of the department of public utilities, segregated as to each separate utility, and monthly statements of the general condition of the department and its facilities.
- d) Establish rates for all revenue-producing utilities owned, controlled or operated by the city, but subject to the approval of the council and to any valid contract.
- e) Approve or disapprove the appointment, suspension or removal of the director of public utilities, who shall be the department head.
- f) Designate its own secretary.
- g) Make such reports and recommendations to the council regarding the department of public utilities as it shall deem advisable.
- h) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by ordinance not inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Charter.

Staff are seeking guidance from the Board of Public Utilities on the top goals for 2026 that will provide guidance to the budget.

For examples at the top of the list of priorities are;

- 1) SCADA – Substation Installation Completion
- 2) Solar – 2MW Solar Farm/Pole Yard Building
- 3) Capital Improvement System Reliability Infrastructure



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Fiscal Impact: To be determined

Environmental Impact: To be determined

Recommended Action: Set the 2026 Board of Public Utilities Goals

Submitted By: Rainie Torrance, Utility Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 1/14/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____