

Board of Directors and Neighbors:

August 19, 2026

First, I want to thank the Board for ultimately removing agenda items 7A and 7B from consideration at the August 5 meeting. However, I believe removing those items does not make the questions surrounding them disappear.

After 26 minutes of public comment, the director who had reportedly requested these items made the motion to remove them. Yet the public still has not been told what specifically prompted a proposed censure and board reorganization in the first place—or why those items came before the Board in the manner they did.

We now understand that the director who submitted the request has resigned. We also recognize there may have been communications among multiple Board members and the General Manager and possibly the Water District's attorney, concerning these matters before the August 5 meeting. Given those circumstances, the public deserves a full and independent investigation of how items 7A and 7B came to be on that agenda. This investigation should be managed openly by the Board in conjunction with a different legal firm.

This is not about assigning blame. It is about transparency and restoring public trust.

Ratepayers have a right to know what happened, how much Board, General Manager, and legal counsel time was spent on these matters before August 5, and what role the General Manager played in preparing and presenting these agenda items—particularly when the Board President was not involved in the usual agenda-setting process and ultimately became the subject of one of those items.

If there were communications that crossed the line from individual discussion into coordinated action, the public deserves to know that as well. The Brown Act exists precisely to ensure that important public business is deliberated openly rather than developed behind the scenes.

I respectfully ask the remaining Board members and District management to keep this matter in the light of day, conduct a thorough and independent review of how 7A and 7B came to be, and explain what steps will be taken to address any harm to District staff, the Board, and the community.

Finally, I believe the district should examine whether its current legal representation can independently and appropriately advise the district about these events, including whether a change in counsel is warranted.

The items may have been removed from the agenda. The questions have not been removed—and the ratepayers deserve answers. Thank you.

Dawn Davis
Joshua Tree Resident