

# MEETING MINUTES



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APRIL 15, 2026, 5:00 PM

### 1. ALL TO ORDER

President Doolittle called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

### 2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM & ATTENDANCE

**Board Members Present:** President Doolittle, Vice President Short, Director Floen, Director Jarlsberg, Director Fick

**Staff Present:** General Manager Johnson, Director of Finance Roman, Director of Administration Shook, Accounting Supervisor Rich, Executive Assistant Thompson

**Consultant(s) Present:** Legal Counsel, Jeff Hoskinson, Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radnich, Rojas Public Affairs Consultant, Jasmid Enciso, West Coast Civil Principal Engineer, Kyle McCarty

**Citizens Advisory Council Member(s) Present:** David Carrillo

### 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice President Short moved to approve the agenda and seconded by Director Fick and approved by the following vote:

1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Short/Fick
Ayes:	Doolittle, Short, Floen, Jarlsberg, Fick
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Joshua Tree resident Dennis shared a positive experience with District staff. He reported that drainage from nearby construction had impacted his water meter box. After contacting the District office, Field Service Technician Gary Evans responded promptly, evaluated the issue, and replaced the meter box to improve the situation. Dennis expressed appreciation for Gary’s professionalism, responsiveness, and work ethic, noting that his efforts reflect positively on the District.

### 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. DRAFT MINUTES – 04.01.26
- B. QUARTERLY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY REPORT – 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2026

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar seconded by Director Fick approved by the following vote:

1st/ 2nd	Jarlsberg/Fick
Ayes:	Doolittle, Short, Floen, Jarlsberg, Fick
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None

Absent: None

**6. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION - None**

**7. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR**

**A. FEBRUARY CHECK REGISTER**

PRESENTED BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, ANNE ROMAN

RECOMMENDED ACTION: APPROVE CHECK REGISTER

Director Jarlsberg motioned to approve the February 2026 Check Register, seconded by Vice President Short and approved by the following vote:

1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jarlsberg/Short
Ayes:	Doolittle, Short, Floen, Jarlsberg, Fick
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

**B. QUARTERLY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY REPORT – 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2026**

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE ATTACHED QUARTERLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

General Manager Sarah Johnson introduced Jasmid Enciso of Rojas Public Affairs, who presented updates on federal and state advocacy. Enciso outlined key upcoming timelines, including federal funding deadlines, congressional review and appropriations in spring and summer, and state actions such as Proposition 4 guidelines, the Governor’s May Revision, and the June budget deadline. Enciso also summarized advocacy activities from January through March and provided an overview of planned efforts for April through June.

Director Fick made a motion to file the quarterly legislative report, and seconded by Director Floen and approved by the following vote:

1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fick/Floen
Ayes:	Doolittle, Short, Floen, Jarlsberg, Fick
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

**C. AUTHORIZATION OF DISTRICT OFFICE EMERGENCY GENERATOR REPLACEMENT**

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH QUINN POWER SYSTEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$88,050 FOR PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW EMERGENCY GENERATOR AND AUTOMATIC TRANSFER SWITCH FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

General Manager Sarah Johnson presented the authorization to replace the District office emergency generator. Johnson noted that the administration building serves as both the District headquarters and Emergency Operations Center and that the existing generator is outdated and unreliable. Staff obtained proposals through Interim Director of Operations Ray Kolisz and West Coast Civil Principal Engineer Kyle McCarty, with the recommended option being a \$88,050

proposal from Quinn Power Systems, plus associated costs. The replacement is intended to ensure reliable backup power for the facility during outages.

Vice President Short noted a discrepancy in the proposal regarding the transfer switch, showing conflicting references to single-phase and three-phase power. Kyle McCarty of West Coast Civil confirmed the inconsistency was a typographical error and clarified that the system is single-phase.

Director Floen made a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Quinn Power Systems in the amount of \$88,050 for procurement and installation of a new emergency generator and automatic transfer switch for the district office, seconded by Vice President Short and approved by the following vote:

1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Floen/Short
Ayes:	Doolittle, Short, Floen, Jarlsberg, Fick
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

D. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL EARTHQUAKE INSURANCE

PRESENTED BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, ANNE ROMAN

RECOMMENDED ACTION: CONSIDER, DISCUSS, IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, PROVIDE DIRECTION TO THE GENERAL MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR SUPPLEMENTAL EARTHQUAKE INSURANCE.

Director of Finance Anne Roman presented the consideration of supplemental earthquake insurance. Roman explained that the proposed coverage would extend to the District's reservoirs, office building, and shop, while mainlines would generally be excluded unless within approximately 1,000 feet of a covered asset and would require separate coverage if included. Roman noted that mainlines have historically not been insured and that ACWA/JPIA would serve as the claims administrator.

After Board discussion, Vice President Short made a motion to direct the General Manager to enter into an agreement for supplemental earthquake insurance, and seconded by Director Floen and approved by the following vote:

1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Short/Floen
Ayes:	Doolittle, Short, Floen, Jarlsberg, Fick
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

8. DIRECTOR REPORTS/COMMENTS

President Doolittle

- Doolittle thanked public commenter Dennis for his remarks and expressed appreciation to Field Service Technician Gary Evans for his work.
- Doolittle reported attending the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) TAC meeting, which focused primarily on the dissolution of the Morongo Basin Pipeline Commission. Doolittle noted that General Manager Johnson will be leading the new group and expressed confidence in her ability to provide strong leadership during her one-year term.

- Doolittle referenced prior Board discussion regarding community engagement with the County's Special Districts Division on a proposed sewer project. Doolittle expressed appreciation for Board input and noted that community feedback highlighted a strong desire for transparency, accountability, and trust in the process. Doolittle added that residents have concerns based on past experiences and emphasized the importance of addressing those concerns as the County moves forward with its study. Doolittle requested that the District assist in facilitating transparency, accountability, and trust in the process between the County and ratepayers as it moves forward with its study.
- Doolittle noticed concerns of regionalized resource management signaling larger structural shifts that could influence the district's future governance, operational authority, and long-term autonomy.

#### Vice President Short

- Short commented that although he was unable to attend the previous board meeting in person, he viewed the sewer discussion via Zoom and expressed appreciation for staff and community participation. Short also stated concerns about the County's responsiveness to questions and transparency during the discussion.
- Short thanked staff and Rojas Public Affairs for their efforts in securing the federal earmark to support the chromium issue. Short noted the significance of the funding, acknowledged the collaborative effort involved, and expressed appreciation for the team's work in achieving this outcome.

#### Director Floen

- None

#### Director Jarlsberg

- Jarlsberg noted that she was unable to attend the April 1st Board meeting in person but watched the meeting via Zoom. Jarlsberg expressed appreciation for the engagement and participation of the Joshua Tree community
- Jarlsberg noted a newspaper article covering the April 1st Board meeting sewer discussion and indicated there was a follow-up article on the topic.
- Jarlsberg stated that she will be attending the CSDA Leadership Academy in May.

#### Director Fick

- Fick stated that he would like clarification regarding the sewer-to-septic meeting, specifically on the policy for communication between the County and the head of the Special District.

## **9. MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### General Manager Report

Johnson reported on the following:

- Johnson reported that Well 15 is back online. Johnson noted the District received a citation while the well was offline due to a missing nitrate sample, which was later reduced to a violation. Johnson also stated she worked with the State to seek removal of the violation, given that the well was not producing water at the time.
- Johnson shared that the profiling for Well 15 is scheduled this week.
- Johnson reported that the Interim Director of Operations, Ray Kolisz, has less than 100 hours left. Johnson is working on bringing a new contract to the board in May.
- Johnson announced that there will be interviews tomorrow for the Maintenance Supervisor position.
- Johnson reminded the Board that there will be three meetings in May:
  - May 6<sup>th</sup> - Regular Board Meeting Canceled

- May 11<sup>th</sup> - Special Meeting at 1:00 pm
- May 18<sup>th</sup> - Special Meeting at 1:00 pm
- May 20<sup>th</sup> - Regular Board Meeting at 5:00 pm
- Johnson reported that the Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting is scheduled for May 12th regarding the Hi Desert Medical Center (HDMC) wastewater treatment facility permit. Johnson noted the District recently received the draft permit and is preparing comments, including concerns about revised monitoring requirements and the addition of a required monitoring well. Johnson added that staff will be seeking clarification on funding responsibility for the new requirements.
- Johnson reported that the District has concluded its technical assistance partnership with the US Water Alliance, noting it was a very positive and beneficial relationship. Johnson shared that the organization remains open to assisting the District with future opportunities, if available. Johnson also acknowledged President Doolittle and Director Fick for facilitating the initial connection, and expressed appreciation to the Board for their efforts in legislative advocacy.
- Johnson announced that Assemblymember Greg Wallis's field representative will attend the upcoming District tour, and noted that Assemblymember Tom Lackey may also attend, pending confirmation.

#### **10. AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD**

- President Doolittle – none
- Vice President Short – none
- Director Floen - none
- Director Jarlsberg – none
- Director Fick – none

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Vice President, seconded by Director Floen, and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at: 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Sarah Johnson, General Manager & Board Secretary






# 3. .JBWD MINUTES TEMPLATE 1ST MEETING TEMPLATE 04.15.26 AMENDED BY BOARD

Final Audit Report

2026-05-12

Created:	2026-05-12
By:	LISA THOMPSON (lthompson@jbwd.com)
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## "3. .JBWD MINUTES TEMPLATE 1ST MEETING TEMPLATE 0 4.15.26 AMENDED BY BOARD" History

-  Document created by LISA THOMPSON (lthompson@jbwd.com)  
2026-05-12 - 9:36:29 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Sarah Johnson (sjohnson@jbwd.com) for signature  
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-  Document e-signed by Sarah Johnson (sjohnson@jbwd.com)  
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