

President
Stacy Doolittle

VP
Tomas Short

Directors
Tom Floen
Jane Jarlsberg
David Fick

**General
Manager**
Sarah Johnson

Legal Counsel
Jeff Hoskinson



REGULAR MEETING AGENDA OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

MEETINGS ARE HELD IN PERSON AT 61750 CHOLLITA RD., JOSHUA TREE, CA 92252

REMOTE ACCESS IS AVAILABLE FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE PUBLIC

CLICK TO JOIN VIRTUALLY: [ZOOM LINK](#)

CALL TO JOIN BY PHONE: (669) 444-9171

MEETING ID: 864 4800 3304

PASSCODE: 61750

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

Mission Statement

To provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree's water - our vital community resource.

Vision Statement

To achieve excellence in all District endeavors.

Values

The community of Joshua Tree has entrusted the Board of Directors and employees of Joshua Basin Water District with its most valuable natural resource, its groundwater. As stewards of the community water supply, we oversee this critical natural resource to ensure current and future water reliability. Dedicated to this purpose, we embrace these important values:

- **Integrity** – To consistently earn our customers’ trust by prioritizing the needs of the community... doing the right thing for the right reason.
- **Transparency** – To openly and honestly share information about our operations with the public.
- **Respect** – To treat the residents of Joshua Tree, and all those contacted in the course of business, with high esteem and regard.
- **Fiscal Responsibility** – To manage all resources as if they were our own, whether revenues, assets, or water supply, in a conscientious and appropriate manner.
- **Accountability** – To take responsibility for our decisions and actions in managing this essential resource.

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Consideration of Board Member requests for remote participation.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time set aside for public comment on any District related matter, whether appearing on the agenda or not. Pursuant to the Brown Act, the Board is prohibited from taking action on items not listed on the agenda. At the discretion of the Board President comments on a particular Agenized item may be deferred until that item is heard. Please state your name and limit your comments to 3 minutes. For members of the public attending the meeting on-line, please use the “Raise Hand” reaction feature in your toolbar on Zoom to signal your desire to comment and be recognized by the Board.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial, to be acted upon by the Board at one time, without discussion. If a board member would like an item to be handled separately, it will be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate action.

Pg. 6-10

A. DRAFT MINUTES – 02.04.26

6. ITEM(S) PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION

7. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR

Pg. 11-13

A. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBER

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW APPLICATION AND CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)

Pg. 14

B. CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) CHAIR LEGISLATIVE TRIP

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: AUTHORIZE THE CAC CHAIR TO ACCOMPANY DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MARCH 2026 SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE TRIP

Pg. 15-19

C. LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH LETTER FROM THE BOARD

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: REVIEW THE DRAFT LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH LETTER, PROVIDE EDITS OR DIRECTION AS APPROPRIATE, AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO SIGN THE FINALIZED LETTER FOR DISTRIBUTION TO IDENTIFIED LEGISLATORS AND REGULATORY OFFICIALS

Pg. 20-24

D. C2B RESERVOIR RECOATING

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ARDURRA GROUP, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE C2-B RESERVOIR INTERIOR RECOATING PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$34,759, AND TO EXECUTE ALL ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

8. DIRECTOR REPORTS/COMMENTS

This time is reserved for Director reports and comments on matters within the District's jurisdiction, for informational purposes only, on subjects not covered by the agenda; the opinions expressed by individual Directors do not necessarily reflect those of the Board as a whole or District staff, and no action shall be taken.

9. MANAGERS' REPORT

For informational purposes only on subjects not covered by the agenda. No action is to be taken.

10. AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD

Directors may request items be placed on future agendas. These requests will be recorded on the "Future Agenda Items" list, located on the page following the agenda, and scheduled as time permits. Items will be brought back for Board discussion as requested—no additional staff work will be initiated in advance. The Director making the request is responsible for being prepared to discuss the topic for initial consideration. The full Board will then vote to determine whether the item moves forward for staff involvement.

11. CLOSED SESSION -Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 (b)(1) Public Performance Evaluation of the General Manager.

OPEN SESSION - Report Out on General Manager Performance Evaluation

12. ADJOURNMENT

Pg. 5

MEETING INFORMATION

The public is invited to comment on any item on the agenda during the discussion of that item.

Availability of agenda materials: Materials related to any item on this Agenda submitted to the District Board of Directors or Committee Members after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the District's office, 61750 Chollita Road, Joshua Tree, CA 92252, during normal business hours. All documents supporting this agenda are available on the District website www.jbwd.com, subject to the staff's availability to post the documents before the meeting.

Reasonable Accommodation: Any person with a disability who requires accommodation to view the agenda or to participate in the public comment portion of the Board meeting, should direct such requests to Lisa Thompson, Executive Assistant, at 760-366-8438. Please allow three business days for your request to be processed. Requests must be received at least seventy-two (72) hours before the scheduled meeting.

Disruptive Conduct: If any meeting of the District is willfully disrupted by a person or by a group of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting impossible, a meeting may be recessed or the person or persons willfully disrupting the meeting may be ordered to leave the meeting. Disruptive individuals attending on-line may be removed from the meeting and banned for the remainder of such session. Disruptive conduct includes addressing the Board or Committee without first being recognized, not addressing the subject before the Board or Committee, repetitively addressing the same subject, failing to relinquish the podium when requested to do so, or otherwise preventing the Board or Committee from conducting its meeting in an orderly manner. Your cooperation is appreciated.

FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS - CALENDAR REMINDER

Informed, well-connected, and educated Directors are able to provide the best decision-making on behalf of JBWD ratepayers. Training and educational conferences provide an invaluable opportunity for Directors to become and stay educated about issues of significance to JBWD. Networking with various representatives, whether local, state, or federal officials, provides an opportunity for JBWD to have a seat at the table, and affords perspective, insight, and occasion for JBWD to collaborate on similar issues, learn about grant opportunities or gain an understanding of upcoming legislation. Director attendance at various meetings is critical for ensuring that JBWD’s concerns, needs, or interests are appropriately shared and represented at many levels of government. Directors serve as the official face of JBWD and their attendance at JBWD-sponsored events such as Water Education Day, JBWD tours, retirements, or celebrations, signifies the importance and value of such events. JBWD belongs to various industry associations and Director attendance at their meetings demonstrates our interest and willingness to be part of the solution.

MEETING	DATE	TIME	ATTENDEES
JBWD - GM Meeting	02.19.26	10:00 AM	Doolittle
JBWD - Manager Meetups	02.19.26	11:00 AM	Jarlsberg/Short
ASBCSD Dinner	02.23.26	5:30 PM	Fick
ACWA - DC Conference	02.24.26 to 02.26.26	Multiday	Short/Floen/GM Johnson
MWA - Board Meeting	02.26.26	9:30 AM	Doolittle
JBWD - Board Meeting	03.04.26	5:00 PM	All

MEETING MINUTES



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEBRUARY 04, 2026, 5:00 PM

1. ALL TO ORDER

President Doolittle called the meeting to order at 5:01 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, Accounting Supervisor Rich, Director of Administration Shook, Executive Assistant Thompson

Consultant(s) Present: Legal Counsel, Jeff Hoskinson, Ardurra Consultants, Ryan Huston and Leah Russell, Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radnich

Citizens Advisory Council Member(s) Present: David Carrillo

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Floen moved to approve the agenda, and Director Jarlsberg seconded the motion. Motion approved by the following vote:

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. DRAFT MINUTES – 01.07.26

Vice President Short made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar 01.21.26 draft minutes and seconded by Director Floen, approved by the following vote:

1st/ 2nd	Short/Floen
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. AGREEMENT WITH WATERWORKFORCE, INC. FOR RECRUITING AND INTERIM OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH WATERWORKFORCE, INC. TO PROVIDE BOTH:

- RECRUITMENT SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT’S DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS POSITION; AND
- INTERIM OWNER-ADVISOR OPERATIONAL OVERSIGHT SUPPORT, AS NEEDED, DURING THE RECRUITMENT PERIOD

General Manager Sarah Johnson presented the agreement with WaterWorkforce, Inc. to provide recruiting and interim operational support services, noting that filling the Director of Operations position has been challenging due to the limited pool of qualified candidates and the specialized certifications required. Johnson explained that she along with the District’s HR & Risk Generalist interviewed multiple firms before staff selected WaterWorkforce as the best fit to support recruitment efforts. Johnson introduced Brett Kadel, Chief Executive Officer of WaterWorkforce, who outlined the company’s focus on recruiting senior utility leadership and supporting agencies in filling hard-to-recruit management roles. Kadel explained that director-level utility positions are particularly difficult to staff because qualified candidates are typically already employed and not actively seeking positions, and that the District’s geographic location further limits the candidate pool. Johnson further reported that, after the agenda was posted, staff successfully negotiated an improved 90-day placement guarantee, replacing the standard 60-day guarantee included in the originally posted agreement.

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with WaterWorkForce, Inc. with the agreement to update the service quote of 90 days and for the owner-operator services not to exceed the salary budgeted for the Director of Operations position, seconded by Director Floen and approved by the following vote:

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

B. AWARD BID SUBMITTED BY PASO ROBLES TANK, INC. FOR THE E2-1 RESERVOIR REHABILITATION PROJECT

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON & DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, DAVID SHOOK

RECOMMENDED ACTION: ACCEPT AND AWARD PASO ROBLES TANK, INC THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND QUALIFIED BIDDER, FOR THE E2-1 RESERVOIR REHABILITATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$655,688 AND AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AND RELATED CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.

General Manager Sarah Johnson and Director of Administration David Shook presented the award of the bid submitted by Paso Robles Tank, Inc. for the E2-1 Reservoir Rehabilitation Project, noting the project will rehabilitate the District’s reservoir to extend its service life and improve operational reliability. Shook reported the project was formally bid in accordance with District procedures, and Paso Robles Tank, Inc. was determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, with no bid protests received. Shook also clarified that the staff report contained a spelling error and confirmed the correct company name is Paso Robles Tank, Inc.

Vice President Short made a motion to accept and award Paso Robles Tank Inc, the E2-1 Reservoir Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$655,688 and authorize the General Manager to execute the construction contract and related contract documents, seconded by Director Jarlsberg and approved by the following vote:

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

- C. E2-1 RESERVOIR REHABILITATION PROJECT ENGINEERING SERVICES DURING CONSTRUCTION
PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON & DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, DAVID SHOOK
RECOMMENDED ACTION: AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ARDURRA GROUP, INC. TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES DURING CONSTRUCTION, INCLUDING WELDING INSPECTION SERVICES, FOR THE E2-1 RESERVOIR REHABILITATION PROJECT IN A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$91,689, AND TO EXECUTE ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS

General Manager Sarah Johnson and Director of Administration David Shook presented engineering services during construction for the E2-1 Reservoir Rehabilitation Project and introduced Ardurra consultants Leah Russell and Ryan Huston. Russell stated that Ardurra, which completed the E-21 project design, will provide engineering support and inspection services during construction. Russell also reported the project will include tank improvements, overflow structure modifications, piping replacement, and interior recoating, with construction anticipated to begin in early March and expected to be completed within approximately 120 calendar days.

Director Fick motioned to authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Ardurra Group, Inc to provide Engineering services during construction, including welding inspection services, for the E2-1 Reservoir Rehabilitation Project in a not-to-exceed amount of \$91,689 and to execute all related documents, seconded by Vice President Short and approved by the following vote:

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

- D. DECEMBER 2025 CHECK REGISTER
PRESENTED BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, ANNE ROMAN
RECOMMENDED ACTION: APPROVE CHECK REGISTER

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to approve the October 2025 Check Register, seconded by Director Floen, and approved by the following vote:

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

Absent: None

8. DIRECTOR REPORTS/COMMENTS

President Doolittle

- Doolittle encouraged everyone to follow WaterWorkForce on social media, noting that the company plans to use its platforms to promote the recruitment for the Director of Operations position.
- Director Doolittle reported that she will be attending upcoming governance trainings to enhance her skills and support her role as Board President.
- Doolittle requested that the Future Director Meetings be updated to include relevant content from the Administrative Code.

Vice President Short

- Short reported that the General Manager's performance review is getting wrapped up tomorrow and noted that the ad-hoc portion of the review was completed in two meetings. Short thanked the Board for completing their reviews.

Director Floen

- Floen inquired about the office generator and noted that he didn't see its replacement included in the budget. Johnson shared that it was budgeted, but the replacement is looking to be greater than the budget.
- Floen explained the process for directors signing checks and how it relates to the check register included in the agenda packet.

Director Jarlsberg

- Jarlsberg reported that she will be attending the MWA TAC meeting tomorrow.
- Jarlsberg reported attending the January 26th ASBCSD dinner, noting it was beneficial for networking. Updates presented included LAFCO activities, a General Manager review, officer candidate information, state and federal legislative matters affecting special districts, and discussions regarding AI and increasing ransomware concerns.

Director Fick

- Director Fick reported attending the January 26th ASBCSD dinner, noted that the AI presentation was highly technical for a general audience, and reported gaining useful information from an energy planning manager regarding regional programs supporting small agencies with energy projects.

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Report

Johnson reported on the following:

- Johnson reported that the Citizen Advisory Committee completed a letter-writing campaign supporting efforts to obtain additional time and funding for compliance with the new Chromium-6 regulatory requirements, gathering approximately 200 signatures within a few days. The letters were submitted to state legislators and regulatory agencies. Johnson thanked CAC Chair David Carrillo and Public Outreach Consultant Kathleen Radnich for coordinating the effort. Johnson also reported that Rojas is preparing a related board letter for consideration at the next meeting to allow the Board to formally support the initiative.
- Johnson reported that Well 15 remains offline following rehabilitation while staff complete flushing and sampling needed to return the well to service. Johnson noted the well will be

placed back into operation once testing requirements are met, after which profiling work will proceed.

- Johnson announced staff promotions, naming Kenny Ware as Production Supervisor and Hillary Rogers to Customer Support Specialist II.
- On January 20th, Johnson, Director of Finance Anne Roman, and Director of Administration David Shook attended the County’s kickoff meeting for preliminary planning of Joshua Tree’s septic-to-sewer project. The project remains in the early planning phase, with funding currently approved only for planning activities; construction will depend on securing future funding and obtaining necessary approvals. District staff emphasized the importance of maintaining clear communication with the community and county. The meeting minutes from that meeting were distributed to the Board for reference.
- On January 28, Johnson reported attending the Morongo Basin Coffee Group meeting and shared the following updates: In December 2025, Joshua Tree National “Park” recorded its highest single-day revenue that year. However, park visitation has declined over the past two years. Both the Park and the Bureau of Land Management are currently experiencing staffing shortages. The Morongo Unified School District has also seen declining enrollment in recent years. Additionally, the State of California is projecting an \$18 billion budget shortfall.

10. AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD

- President Doolittle – Requested to remove tiered rates topic from the Future Agenda Items
- Vice President Short – Customer Deposits
- Vice President Short - Updated employee handbook with incentives
- Director Fick – CAAP re-evaluation

11. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Director Floen, seconded by Director Jarlsberg, and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Johnson, General Manager & Board Secretary

Lisa Thompson

From: Streamline <noreply@specialdistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, February 6, 2026 12:58 PM
To: Lisa Thompson
Subject: New form submission assigned to you: CAC Application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



CAC Application

Complete the online application and submit it along with your resume and/or letter of interest. Please note that all applications will be reviewed for eligibility. If there are vacancies available within the council, your application may be considered at a future board meeting.:	
Name:	Jeffrey Walter
Residence Address:	
Mailing Address:	same
Primary Phone:	
Secondary Phone:	
Please check all that apply::	I own a home in Joshua Tree
Please check all that apply::	I live in Joshua Tree full-time
Please check all that apply::	I am a customer of Joshua Basin Water District

Please check all that apply::	I am a registered voter within the Joshua Basin Water District (required).
How did you hear about the JBWD Citizens Advisory Council?:	Friend
How do you think you could contribute as a member of the Citizens Advisory Council?:	I have project and budgeting experience
Please list any relevant water experience you may have:	none
Please submit a letter of interest, resume, or any other supporting documents.:	File attached —
Your Signature:	J Walter

[Reply / Manage](#)

Powered by [Streamline](#).

JEFFREY WALTER

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Experienced Supply and Marketing Director at Northwest Polymers with a proven track record in strategic planning and project management. Skilled in budgeting and cross-departmental alignment, fostering team development while driving revenue growth through innovative marketing strategies.

2003 to 2018

2019 - Present

President

Viking Pacific Resource Management

Plastics recycling and resource consulting firm

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

President: Oregon Chapter of The Society Of Plastics Engineers (SPE)

Chairman: SPE National Environmental Division

Volunteer: Mohave Desert Land Trust (Current)

SKILLS

- Project planning
- Sales expertise
- Project oversight
- Sales
- Budgeting and allocation
- Project management
- Key decision making
- Product marketing
- Team recruiting and hiring
- Pricing strategies

EDUCATION

Willamette University, Salem, OR

Bachelor of Science, Urban And Regional Govt., 05/1973



AGENDA ITEM NO:	7B
MEETING DATE:	02.18.26

Staff Report

PRESENTED BY:	SARAH JOHNSON, GENERAL MANAGER
TOPIC:	PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) CHAIR IN MARCH 2026 SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE TRIP
RECOMMENDATION:	AUTHORIZE THE CAC CHAIR TO ACCOMPANY DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MARCH 2026 SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE TRIP.

BACKGROUND This year, Rojas Public Affairs, the District’s legislative advocacy firm, has organized a legislative trip to Sacramento to build relationships with state legislators and advocate for funding for the District’s Chromium-6 treatment project, and other capital projects (if applicable).

DISCUSSION CAC Chair Dave Carrillo provides a community-based perspective that complements staff and Board advocacy. As a representative of District ratepayers, he can convey the local impacts of state policy and funding decisions. Legislators often value constituent input, which can strengthen the District’s messaging and credibility.

Participation in the trip will also expand the CAC Chair’s understanding of state water policy and funding processes, improving the CAC’s ability to provide informed input to the District.

CONCLUSION Including the CAC Chair in the March Sacramento legislative trip will strengthen the District’s advocacy by incorporating the community perspective, reinforcing the District’s commitment to engagement, and supporting efforts to secure funding for critical infrastructure, including the Chromium-6 treatment project. Staff recommends that the Board authorize the CAC Chair’s participation in the legislative trip.

STRATEGIC PLAN 5.0 – External Relations and Influence
5.2 – Develop mutually beneficial relationships, expand collaboration, and exercise strategic leadership with local, regional, state, and federal partners to meet challenges and opportunities.

FISCAL IMPACT Travel costs will be consistent with standard District travel policy.



AGENDA ITEM NO:	7C
MEETING DATE:	02.18.26

Staff Report

PRESENTED BY:	SARAH JOHNSON, GENERAL MANAGER
TOPIC:	LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH LETTER FROM JBWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RECOMMENDATION:	REVIEW THE DRAFT LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH LETTER, PROVIDE EDITS OR DIRECTION AS APPROPRIATE, AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO SIGN THE FINALIZED LETTER FOR DISTRIBUTION TO IDENTIFIED LEGISLATORS AND REGULATORY OFFICIALS.

BACKGROUND Rojas Public Affairs, the District’s legislative advocacy firm, is advancing several legislative and regulatory strategies this year on behalf of Joshua Basin Water District. One component of this strategy includes coordinated outreach from the Board of Directors to legislators, policymakers and regulatory officials to reinforce the District’s priorities.

DISCUSSION The attached draft legislative outreach letter addresses chromium-related regulatory matters impacting the District and its ratepayers, including the financial and operational challenges associated with compliance. It emphasizes the need for sustainable funding solutions for small and disadvantaged water systems.

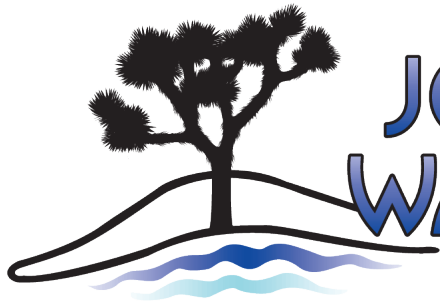
The letter is designed as a template for distribution to multiple legislators and regulatory officials. Following Board review and approval, recipient information will be customized for each official while maintaining consistent messaging.

Review of the draft ensures the letter accurately reflects the District’s position prior to distribution. Engagement from the full Board strengthens the District’s voice, demonstrates unified leadership, and underscores the importance of these issues to decision-makers at the state and federal levels.

CONCLUSION Review the draft letter, provide any recommended edits or direction, and authorize the full Board of Directors to sign the finalized legislative outreach letter for distribution to identified legislators and regulatory officials.

STRATEGIC PLAN 5.0 – External Relations and Influence
 5.2 – Develop mutually beneficial relationships, expand collaboration, and exercise strategic leadership with local, regional, state, and federal partners to meet challenges and opportunities.

FISCAL IMPACT N/A



JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

*Proudly providing water from an ancient
source...well into the future*

Board of Directors

President Stacy Doolittle

Vice President Tomas Short

Director Thomas Floen

Director Jane Jarlsberg

Director David Fick

Date: _____

RE: Letter of Support for Community Advocacy and Request for State Assistance for Chromium-6 Compliance in Joshua Tree

Dear _____,

On behalf of the Joshua Basin Water District (JBWD), we are writing in support of the advocacy efforts led by the Joshua Tree community and its Community Advisory Committee regarding compliance with California's Chromium-6 drinking water standard. See attached community letter and petition. The petition reflects rapid community mobilization, with more than 200 signatures collected in just a few days to meet time-sensitive advocacy deadlines, demonstrating the urgency and depth of concern among the residents the District serves.

The Board shares the community's concern and remains firmly committed to protecting public health while ensuring that safe drinking water remains affordable and accessible for all Joshua Tree residents. As expressed by the community, the State's chromium-6 drinking water standards have created an unattainable financial burden for the District, imposing an unfunded mandate that would result in severe rate increases and a substantial long-term debt obligation.

Overall, the chromium-6 regulations adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board in April 2024 impose a disproportionate burden on small special districts like JBWD, which have limited water supplies, constrained ability to diversify sources, and minimal access to the financial support necessary to achieve compliance. Since adopting these standards, JBWD has been actively working toward compliance by evaluating feasible treatment options. In January 2025, the District partnered with the U.S. Water Alliance to secure Environmental Protection Agency funding for a Chromium-6 Treatment Alternatives Analysis. Completed in October 2025,

the analysis identified Decentralized Strong Base Anion Exchange (SBA-IX) as the preferred approach due to its cost-effectiveness, public health protection, and operational feasibility. This study confirmed the District’s and community’s concerns by estimating capital costs of \$60 million and ongoing operation and maintenance costs of approximately \$1 million each year, which is far beyond the District’s financial capacity without significant external assistance. The District has made substantial, good-faith progress toward compliance by developing a phased compliance plan for chromium-6 that builds on a completed alternatives analysis and extends through pilot testing, design, engineering, permitting, construction, and compliance demonstration. While the District remains committed to advancing this work, the financial and practical implications of full compliance extend beyond what a small, rural, and severely disadvantaged public water system can through local rate increases without causing significant hardship for our residents and businesses.

Guided by its mission to provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree’s water, our community’s most vital resource, JBWD is committed to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water while exercising integrity, transparency, fiscal responsibility, and accountability in all District actions. As stewards of a naturally occurring groundwater supply, the District is committed to managing public resources prudently while ensuring long-term water reliability for current and future generations.

JBWD is not seeking to avoid compliance; rather, it seeks a realistic and equitable path that protects public health without imposing unsustainable financial burdens on its small, disadvantaged community.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. We look forward to working collaboratively with the State to achieve shared water quality goals.

Respectfully submitted,

President Stacy Doolittle

Vice President Tomas Short

Director Thomas Floen

Director Jane Jarlsberg

Director David Fick

Board of Directors

Joshua Basin Water District

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL DRAFT LETTER

PETITION LETTER: URGENT REQUEST FOR EXTENDED COMPLIANCE TIME AND FUNDING SUPPORT FOR JOSHUA TREE'S CHROMIUM-6 REQUIREMENT

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

RE: Urgent Request for Extended Compliance Time and State Funding Support for Joshua Tree's Chromium-6 Requirement

Dear _____

We, the undersigned residents and customers of Joshua Tree, California, write with urgency and hope. Our community is proud, resilient, and deeply rooted—but we are also a severely disadvantaged community made up of retirees, veterans, working families, and low-income households doing everything we can just to stay afloat.

We want what every Californian wants: safe, clean, reliable drinking water. We are asking for your help to ensure we can achieve that goal without forcing our community into financial hardship.

Joshua Basin Water District (JBWD) is required to comply with the state Chromium-6 mandate by October 1, 2027. For a small desert water system like ours, this deadline is simply not realistic—especially without meaningful state support. JBWD would need to plan, fund, design, permit, and construct treatment facilities at all five (5) well sites. There is just 1 year and 8 months left to comply. Even under ideal conditions, that is not enough time.

The estimated cost of construction alone is approximately \$60,000,000—and that doesn't include the estimated \$1,000,000 per year ongoing costs to operate and maintain treatment systems for decades to come. Those long-term costs will mean higher water bills every month for people who can least afford it.

Many Joshua Tree residents are living on fixed incomes. Some are choosing between groceries and prescriptions. Others are veterans and seniors who built their lives here because it was one of the last places they could afford. A dramatic increase in water rates would not be an inconvenience—it would be devastating.

We also want to emphasize that the Chromium-6 in our groundwater is naturally occurring, not caused by industrial pollution or local wrongdoing. Yet our small customer base is being asked to shoulder treatment costs that are far beyond what our community can bear.

We respectfully request that you take immediate action to support:

1. Extended compliance time for severely disadvantaged communities like Joshua Tree, where construction timelines and funding availability make the current deadline unworkable.
2. Significant state grant funding (not loans) to cover both construction and long-term operational costs—so safe water does not come at the cost of pushing residents out of their homes.
3. Streamlined and prioritized funding support for rural and small water systems so projects can move faster and more efficiently.

We are not asking to avoid compliance, we are asking for a fair, realistic path forward. Our community should not be punished for conditions we did not create. We simply need time, funding, and support to do this the right way.

Please stand with Joshua Tree. Help protect public health and protect the people who call this place home.

Sincerely,

Residents and Customers of Joshua Tree, California

Signers:

Printed Name	Signature	Address / Neighborhood	Email / Phone	Date



AGENDA ITEM NO:	7D
MEETING DATE:	02.18.26

Staff Report

PRESENTED BY:	SARAH JOHNSON, GENERAL MANAGER
TOPIC:	C2-B RESERVOIR RECOATING PROJECT – ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL
RECOMMENDATION:	AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ARDURRA GROUP, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE C2-B RESERVOIR INTERIOR RECOATING PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$34,759, AND TO EXECUTE ALL ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS.

BACKGROUND The C2-B Reservoir was constructed in 2001 and is 24 feet tall with a diameter of 199 feet. It serves the C Pressure Zone—the District’s largest service area—and has a storage capacity of 5.6 million gallons. Recent dive inspections (November 2024 and January 2025) recommended interior recoating and documented 120 floor patches applied as temporary repairs. More than 400 areas of corrosion have been identified. While no structural deficiencies were noted, continued spot repairs are not a long-term solution. Recoating is necessary to protect the reservoir and extend its service life.

PROPOSED SERVICES Ardurra’s February 2, 2026, proposal includes preparation of project specifications, an opinion of probable construction cost, and bidding support services for the interior recoating project. The work will be completed on a time-and-materials basis for a not-to-exceed amount of \$34,759, with final specifications delivered within three months of Notice to Proceed.

CONCLUSION Ardurra was previously selected through a Board-approved competitive RFP process for similar infrastructure rehabilitation work, including the E21 Tank project. Pursuant to Section 3.3(B), the District may utilize a firm previously selected through a competitive process for related work. Staff finds that continued use of Ardurra is in the best interest of the District due to their demonstrated competence, familiarity with District facilities, and proven performance. For these reasons, staff recommends approval to proceed.

STRATEGIC PLAN 3.2 – Construct and operate facilities and equipment to meet compliance with all state and federal regulations.

FISCAL IMPACT Not to exceed \$34,759 (\$50,000 budgeted)



February 2, 2026

Mr. Ray Kolisz
Joshua Basin Water District
61750 Chollita Road
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

**SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR C2-B RESERVOIR RECOATING PROJECT
ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Dear Mr. Kolisz:

Ardurra is pleased to submit this proposal to Joshua Basin Water District (District) to provide professional engineering services for the C2-B Reservoir Recoating Project. The District's Tank C-2B is a welded steel potable water storage facility located in Joshua Tree, erected in 2001 by Pacific Tank and Construction. The tank has a storage capacity of 5.6 MG and is 24 feet high with a diameter of 199 feet.

Ardurra reviewed the Municipal Diving Services reports provided by the District dated November 20, 2024 and January 23, 2025. The 2024 inspection report recommended recoating of the interior. The 2025 report documented 120 patches applied to the floor as a temporary solution to prevent metal loss. No as-built drawings of the facility were provided.

The proposed project consists of preparing contract documents (Specifications only) for the recoating of the tank interior in accordance with the following scope of services. It is assumed that piping and structural modifications are not required.

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

TASK 1 Project Management and QA/QC

- 1.1 Project Management:** Management responsibilities associated with project setup, scheduling, budget control, invoice preparation, and coordination.
- 1.2 QA/QC:** Ardurra will perform an independent review of deliverables prior to submittal to the District.
- 1.3 Meetings:** Ardurra will conduct two virtual meetings with the District. It is anticipated the meetings will consist of the following:
 - Kick-off meeting
 - 90% Design Review Meeting

TASK 2 Contract Documents

- 2.1 Data Collection and Review:** Ardurra will gather and review available information related to the project including record drawings, tank inspection reports, District specifications.
- 2.2 Specifications:** Ardurra will provide a complete set of project specifications for the bidding and construction of the project and consisting of front-end, general

provisions, and technical specifications. Ardurra will utilize the District's existing front-end bidding documents and general provisions and prepare the bid schedule and necessary technical specifications.

2.3 Cost Opinion: Ardurra will prepare an opinion of probable construction cost.

Task 2 Deliverables: Specifications and Cost Opinion (PDF) submitted via email at the 90% design level for the District's review. Comments will be incorporated into the Final Design Submittal (PDF) consisting of signed specifications suitable for bidding purposes.

TASK 3 Services During Bidding

3.1 Bid Phase Services: Ardurra will provide technical support and respond to questions and RFIs from potential bidders via addendum. Ardurra will prepare a response to questions within four working days. Ardurra will prepare up to two (2) addenda which will be submitted to the District for review and distribution.

3.2 Bid Evaluation: Ardurra will review the bid documents provided by the District, prepare a bid spreadsheet containing the costs from all bids received, and perform a full evaluation of the bids received from the three lowest bidders. Ardurra will evaluate the bidder's responsiveness, licensing, references, and work experience.

Task 3 Deliverables: Bid evaluation memo submitted via email (PDF)

ASSUMPTIONS

Ardurra proposal includes engineering design for recoating of tank interior only. Upon District request Ardurra can provide scope and fee addendum for additional facility repairs and improvements. Ardurra assumes the District will perform lead testing for the project.

FEE AND SCHEDULE

Ardurra proposes to perform the scope of work as described above on a time and materials basis in the not-to-exceed amount of **\$34,759** in accordance with the enclosed fee proposal and our 2025-26 rate schedule. Ardurra will submit the final specifications within three (3) months from a notice-to-proceed.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this proposal and assist the District with this project. Please contact me at (949) 205-7196 or Ryan Huston at (858) 774-4847 should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Leah Russell, MS, ENV SP
Project Manager



Ryan Huston, PE
Principal-in-Charge

**Joshua Basin Water District
C2-B Reservoir Recoating Project**

Task/ Subtask	Task/Subtask Description	Ardurra Personnel				Subtask Labor-Hours	Subtask Labor Cost	Direct Cost	Total Cost
		Principal	Tech Review	Project Manager	Project Engineer				
		R. Huston	A. Gnesa	L. Russell					
		\$352	\$255	\$224	\$194				
Task 1	Project Management and QA/QC								\$10,864
1.1	Project Management	2		20		22	\$5,184		\$5,184
1.2	QA/QC		16			16	\$4,080		\$4,080
1.3	Meetings (2)	2		4		6	\$1,600		\$1,600
Task 2	Contract Documents								\$17,216
2.1	Data Collection and Review			4	8	12	\$2,448		\$2,448
2.2	Specifications - 90% and Final	2		36	12	50	\$11,096		\$11,096
2.3	Cost Opinion			6	12	18	\$3,672		\$3,672
Task 3	Services During Bidding								\$6,679
3.1	Bid Phase Services (2 Addenda)	1	8	8		17	\$4,184		\$4,184
3.2	Bid Evaluation		1	10		11	\$2,495		\$2,495
		7	25	88	32	152			
		\$2,464	\$6,375	\$19,712	\$6,208		\$34,759	\$0	\$34,759

TOTAL NOT-TO-EXCEED FEE: \$34,759



ARDURRA GROUP, INC. (CALIFORNIA)
Standard Billing Rate Schedule (July Fiscal Year 2025-26)
Rates Effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

(Future years subject to review for Consumer Price Index escalation or 3%, whichever is greater)

ENGINEERING, MUNICIPAL, WATER, ENVIRONMENTAL, TRAFFIC, & SURVEYING SERVICES

STAFF	HOURLY RATE	STAFF	HOURLY RATE
Principal / Project Manager VI.....	\$352	Senior Structural Engineer.....	\$297
Project Manager V.....	\$344	Structural Engineer.....	\$233
QA/QC Manager.....	\$308	SUE Technician*.....	\$154
Project Manager IV.....	\$296	SWPPP Practitioner*.....	\$186
Project Manager III.....	\$275	Specialty Professional/Discipline.....	\$297
Project Manager II.....	\$255	Scientist VI.....	\$224
Project Manager I.....	\$224	Scientist V.....	\$214
Project Engineer VI.....	\$296	Scientist IV.....	\$179
Project Engineer V.....	\$235	Scientist III.....	\$168
Project Engineer IV.....	\$224	Scientist II.....	\$158
Project Engineer III.....	\$194	Scientist I.....	\$138
Project Engineer II.....	\$168	Planner VI.....	\$255
Project Engineer I.....	\$148	Planner V.....	\$240
Program Manager VI.....	\$255	Planner IV.....	\$224
Program Manager V.....	\$224	Planner III.....	\$184
Program Manager IV.....	\$204	Planner II.....	\$153
Program Manager III.....	\$194	Planner I.....	\$133
Program Manager II.....	\$173	Senior Landscape Architect.....	\$265
Program Manager I.....	\$158	Landscape Architect.....	\$196
Project / CAD Designer VI.....	\$204	Principal Architect.....	\$265
Project / Designer V.....	\$194	Senior/Associate Architect.....	\$233
Project / CAD Designer IV*.....	\$179	Architect.....	\$223
Project / CAD Designer III*.....	\$163	3-Person Survey Crew*.....	\$403
Project / CAD Designer II*.....	\$158	2-Person Survey Crew*.....	\$329
Project / CAD Designer I*.....	\$143	1-Person Survey Crew*.....	\$223
Administrative Assistant VI*.....	\$133	Survey Director.....	\$265
Administrative Assistant V*.....	\$122	Assistant Surveyor (not Licensed)*.....	\$196
Administrative Assistant IV*.....	\$112	GIS Analyst*.....	\$196
Administrative Assistant III*.....	\$102	GIS Specialist*.....	\$175
Administrative Assistant II*.....	\$97	Graphic Designer*.....	\$154
Administrative Assistant I*.....	\$92	Drone Operator*.....	\$196
Plan Check Engineer IV.....	\$287	Flow Monitoring Project/Data Manager.....	\$212
Plan Check Engineer III.....	\$239	Flow Monitoring Field Manager.....	\$191
Plan Check Engineer II.....	\$212	Flow Monitoring Field Supervisor*.....	\$159
Plan Check Engineer I.....	\$196	Flow Monitoring Field Technician III*.....	\$133
Senior Traffic Engineer.....	\$276	Flow Monitoring Field Technician II*.....	\$122
Traffic Engineer III.....	\$265	Flow Monitoring Field Technician I*.....	\$101
Traffic Engineer II.....	\$223	Community Relations Strategic Advisor.....	\$308
Traffic Engineer I.....	\$196	Community Relations Project Manager.....	\$276
Traffic Engineering Associate II.....	\$180	Community Relations Assistant Project Manager.....	\$244
Traffic Engineering Associate I.....	\$154	Community Relations Senior Account Coordinator.....	\$180
Traffic Engineering Technician III*.....	\$159	Community Relations Account Coordinator.....	\$154
Traffic Engineering Technician II*.....	\$138	Community Relations Specialist.....	\$167
Traffic Engineerin Technician I*.....	\$111	Community Relations Senior Graphic Artist.....	\$202
Sr. Grants Manager.....	\$244	Community Relations Graphic Artist.....	\$170
Grants Manager.....	\$180	Community Relations Account Assistant.....	\$133
Sr. Project Coordinator/Graphic Artist.....	\$202	Field Representative III.....	\$133
Project Coordinator/Graphic Artist.....	\$154	Field Representative II.....	\$122
Public Works Technician III*.....	\$159	Field Representative I.....	\$112
Public Works Technician II*.....	\$138		