

MEETING MINUTES



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS JUNE 03, 2026, 5:00 PM

1. CALL 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 Administration Shook, Accounting Supervisor Rich, Executive Assistant Thompson, HR & Risk Generalist Sheehan

Consultant(s) Present: Legal Counsel, Jeff Hoskinson, Zanjero's Water Resources Planner, Adriel Ramires and Principal Engineer Greg Young, Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radich

Citizens Advisory Council Member(s) Present: David Carrillo

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Jarlsberg moved to approve the agenda and seconded by Director Floen and approved by the following vote:

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT –

Daniel Flores, Joshua Tree resident, expressed concerns regarding delays in obtaining a non-interference letter and will-serve verification related to his four-parcel subdivision project.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. DRAFT MINUTES – 05.18.26
- B. DRAFT MINUTES – 05.20.26
- C. APRIL 2026 CHECK REGISTER

Vice President Short made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar 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 ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2025 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON INTRODUCING ZANJERO'S WATER RESOURCES PLANNER, ADRIEL RAMIREZ

RECOMMENDED ACTION: CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 26-1086 APPROVING THE DISTRICT'S 2025 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN

General Manager Sarah Johnson introduced Zanjero Water Resources Planner Adriel Ramirez and Principal Engineer Greg Young, who presented the District's 2025 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The presentation included an overview of the regional planning framework, water supply and demand projections, reliability assessments, population forecasts, and the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. Ramirez reported that the District has sufficient water supplies to meet projected demands throughout the planning horizon and that the Water Shortage Contingency Plan remains in place as a preparedness measure.

The Board conducted a Q&A session with Ramirez and Young regarding the Plan, including population growth projections and related assumptions. After discussion, it was agreed that a final sentence in Article 13 would be struck.

President Doolittle opened the public hearing at 5:59 p.m. and closed the hearing at 6:00 p.m.

Director Floen made a motion to conduct a public hearing and adopt Resolution No. 26-1086 Approving the District's 2025 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan, and seconded by Director Vice President Short, approved by the following vote:

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

B. VACANCY REPORT IN COMPLIANCE WITH AB 2561

PRESENTED BY: AUDRIANA SHEEHAN, HR & RISK GENERALIST

RECOMMENDED ACTION: OPEN PUBLIC HEARING, RECEIVE AND FILE VACANCY REPORT

HR & Risk Generalist Audriana Sheehan presented the Vacancy Report in Compliance with AB 2561. The report includes a summary of all funded full-time vacant positions, the length of each vacancy,

the impact on service delivery, and current recruitment efforts. The purpose of the report is to promote transparency regarding staffing levels and the agency's capacity to maintain essential services.

President Doolittle opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. and closed the hearing at 6:03 p.m. The Board acknowledged receipt of the Vacancy Report, which is ready for filing.

C. EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION PLAN

PRESENTED BY: AUDRIANA SHEEHAN, HR & RISK GENERALIST

RECOMMENDED ACTION: RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT RESOLUTION 26-1087 APPROVING THE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION PLAN

HR & Risk Generalist Audriana Sheehan presented the 2026 Employee Compensation Plan, which was developed using employee survey feedback. The proposed plan included a 3.4% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and a \$1,000 increase to the District's 457 Retirement Employer Match contribution, effective with the first payroll in July. All other compensation and benefit programs would remain unchanged.

Vice President Short made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-1087 Approving the Employee Compensation Plan, seconded by Director Jarlsberg and approved by the following vote:

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

D. 2025/26 REVISED AND 2026/27 PROPOSED BUDGET ADOPTION

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE ROMAN, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION SHOOK

RECOMMENDED ACTION: ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026 REVISED BUDGET AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2026/2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

Director of Finance Anne Roman presented the 2025/26 Revised Budget and the 2026/27 Proposed Budget. Roman provided an overview of the District's operating and capital budgets, budget assumptions, reserve usage, and projected revenues and expenses. Roman reviewed revisions made since the May 18th budget workshop, including adjustments to engineering and grant consulting services, staffing support, AMI funding, and the District's 457 employer contribution. Roman also presented budget comparisons, salary summaries, capital improvement projects, and projected reserve balances. The Board conducted a Q&A session regarding the proposed budget and reserve impacts.

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2025/26 Revised Budget and the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Proposed Budget and seconded by Director Floen, approved by the following vote:

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

Abstain: None
Absent: None

8. DIRECTOR REPORTS/COMMENTS

President Doolittle

- Doolittle commented that the new flags outside the office building look nice.
- Doolittle reported meeting with General Manager Sarah Johnson to discuss agenda planning, board-staff communications, and upcoming Board business. They also discussed the formation and scheduling of the Water & Growth Standing Committee, which will meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Initial committee discussions will focus on identifying priority topics and refining the committee charter, with any substantial recommendations to be brought forward to the Board for consideration.
- Doolittle reported that she and General Manager Sarah Johnson discussed placing greater emphasis on in-person communication instead of communication via email, when appropriate, to help lessen the administrative burden on Johnson's workload. Doolittle noted that email will still be used when necessary to document important matters and maintain an appropriate record.
- Doolittle reported that she had contacted the district's legal counsel on a few occasions to seek guidance on procedural matters, including discussions related to the Water & Growth Committee and CEQA-related issues. Doolittle also emphasized that at no time did she intend to imply, nor should it be interpreted, that she was authorized to act on behalf of the Board.
- Doolittle reported that she attended the ACWA Vision Working Group kick-off meeting on June 2nd. The group meets biweekly and is developing recommendations for California's next Governor focused on water infrastructure, affordability, investment, and modernization of water management, with an emphasis on accelerating state funding for water projects. Final recommendations will be presented to the ACWA Board for consideration in November. Doolittle noted she is pleased to participate in the working group.
- Doolittle reported that she met with a geohydrologist she previously encountered at the Cal Rural Water Expo 2026 to discuss nitrate issues in the district's aquifers. The discussion included the potential for him to provide a comprehensive report for the Board and public review of available data. Doolittle clarified that her meeting was informational only and not intended to procure consultants or conduct district business.

Vice President Short

- None

Director Floen

- None

Director Jarlsberg

- Jarlsberg noted that she has previously raised concerns related to PFAS and reiterated her commitment to continue following up on the topic.
- Jarlsberg will be attending the MWA TAC meeting tomorrow in place of President Doolittle.

Director Fick

- Fick reported that he contacted the Regional Water Quality Control Board to review historical records related to the nitrate issues in Yucca Valley and to investigate any relevant records

pertaining to Joshua Tree. Fick noted that he copied Director of Administration David Shook on the correspondence to keep him informed.

- Fick reported attending the Mojave Water Agency Board meeting, where the primary topic of discussion was the Agency's Master Plan.

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Report

Johnson reported on the following:

- Johnson stated that, at the request of the Board, a written manager's report has been prepared. Johnson distributed the report to the Board, and it is included as an attachment to the minutes. In addition to the written report:
- Johnson expressed appreciation to the Finance Department for their hard work on the budget and thanked the Board for its input and strategic direction.
- Johnson thanked HR & Risk Generalist Audriana Sheehan for her two presentations at tonight's Board meeting and noted that she did a good job presenting.
- Johnson stated that a quarterly operational report will be implemented beginning in July, which will be included on the agenda's consent calendar.

10. AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD

- Doolittle – None
- Short – None
- Floen – None
- Jarlsberg – None
- Fick – None

11. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Vice President Short, seconded by Director Jarlsberg, and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Johnson, General Manager & Board Secretary



Managers' Report

PRESENTED ON: June 3, 2026

PURPOSE:

The Manager's Report provides the Board of Directors with a summary of noteworthy activities, meetings attended, and updates from the General Manager, Operations, Administration, Finance, and other District functions. The report is not intended to be all-inclusive and does not replace separate staff reports or agenda items for matters requiring Board discussion or action. The Manager's Report will be provided at least monthly and may be presented more frequently as needed.

GM

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE – FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST Joshua Basin Water District has received positive news regarding its FY2027 federal appropriations request for Chromium 6 treatment. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies has recommended the District's project for funding and advanced it to the next stage of the federal appropriations process.

While the requested funding amount was reduced, the project was included in the Subcommittee's recommendations at \$1 million. This is an important milestone and reflects continued recognition of the District's critical drinking water infrastructure needs, particularly related to chromium-6 treatment and regulatory compliance.

The project must still be considered by the full House and Senate, with final funding levels to be determined through negotiations between both chambers before legislation is sent to the President for approval. Although several steps remain, advancing beyond the Subcommittee stage is a significant achievement and keeps the project in a strong position as the process moves forward.

COURT RULING ON CHROMIUM-6 REGULATION CHALLENGE The Fresno County Superior Court denied the petition filed by Joshua Basin Water District and other water agencies challenging the State Water Resources Control Board's adoption of the new 10 parts per billion (ppb) Chromium-6 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The court found that the State Water Board acted within its legal authority, adequately evaluated technological and economic feasibility, complied with public participation requirements, and properly supported the regulation through scientific review. While the court acknowledged concerns raised regarding implementation costs and impacts on water systems, it concluded that the petitioners did not demonstrate that the regulation or rulemaking process violated applicable law. As a result, the Chromium-6 MCL remains in effect. The Court declined to set aside a policy simply because it may be a bad policy or unwise, and determined that economically feasible simply meant the treatment was possible--even if it is expensive.

PELICAN'S MEETING ATTENDANCE - REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH GM Johnson attended the June 1 Pelicans meeting, which provided an opportunity to strengthen regional partnerships and discuss issues of mutual interest. The meeting facilitated productive conversations and relationship-building with representatives from Southern California Edison, the Morongo Basin Healthcare District, and other local agencies. These connections support ongoing collaboration on matters affecting the Morongo Basin region and help advance opportunities for future coordination among local agencies and stakeholders.

SB COUNTY SEWER STUDY UPDATE On May 26, 2026, the GM Johnson requested an update from San Bernardino County regarding the status of the sewer study. On May 28, 2026, County Public Works responded that county staff is actively drafting the Request for Proposals (RFP) and anticipating beginning internal review on the draft in June. Following internal review, the County will provide the draft RFP to Joshua Basin Water District for input prior to initiating the County's procurement approval process. The County is currently anticipating releasing the solicitation in July 2026. They said they would be in touch with any changes to the timelines.

OPERATIONS

WELL 15 PROFILING UPDATE The District recently completed profiling of Well 15 to evaluate whether pumping from lower depths could reduce chromium-6 concentrations. The results showed that while chromium-6 levels decrease at deeper intervals, other water quality constituents increase, effectively trading one water quality challenge for another. In addition, operating the well at these lower depths would reduce production capacity by approximately 50%, significantly impacting the well's gallons-per-minute output.

Based on these findings, staff believes the most practical and reliable path forward is to continue pursuing chromium-6 treatment rather than modifying well operations. While the results were not the outcome the District had hoped for, the study provided valuable information about the well's characteristics and performance. This improved understanding will help guide future operational and infrastructure decisions and supports the District's long-term planning efforts.

ADMIN No Report

FINANCE

INTERIM AUDIT UPDATE The interim audit started on June 1st and continues this week. This first phase of the audit includes sampling of accounts payable data, cash receipt and billing data, employee and payroll review, as well as documentation of internal controls. Starting at fiscal year-end, Finance will begin preparing year end entries and preparing reports and schedules for the final audit, the second phase, which will occur in the fall.

OTHER No Report






2. JBWD MINUTES MEETING AMENDED 06.17.26

Final Audit Report

2026-06-18

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