



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM

66575 Second St, Desert Hot Springs, CA AND/OR Via Teleconference

CALL TO ORDER

President Duff called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Amber Duff, Vice President Robert Griffith, Director Ivan Sewell, Director Russ Martin, Director Ted Mayrhofen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Macy, Marion Champion, Kurt Kettenacker, Dori Petee, April Scott, Oriana Hoffert, Eric Weck, Danny Friend, Skyler Aubrey, Amanda Lucas, Selene Rodriguez, Daniel Virgen, and Will Whitten.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Director Sewell.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules of Procedure were read by General Counsel.

All noticed meetings are conducted using Rosenberg's Rules of Order as a procedural guideline. Directors should refrain from responding directly to public comments at meetings of the Board. The Board President will refer matters raised during public comment to the General Manager for follow-up when appropriate. Occasionally, a prompt response may be offered when an obvious answer resolution is available provided this is done in compliance with the Brown Act. Directors should refrain from debating or making decisions in response to public comments. The President of the Board presides at all meetings and decides all points of order and procedure during meetings. The President is responsible for maintenance and decorum at all Board meetings. No person shall be allowed to speak who has not first been recognized by the President. All questions and remarks should be addressed to the President as the presiding officer. No member of the Board should speak more than once about any one subject until every other member on the Board wishing to speak on the subject shall have been given the opportunity to speak. No Board member shall interfere with the orderly progress of a Board meeting. In order to ensure the orderly progress of Board meetings the Board President regulates the amount of time to be dedicated to a particular agenda item."

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

The Board acknowledged the following employees:

ANNIVERSARIES

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Selene Rodriguez | Administrative Assistant I | 1 Year |
| Ana Murillo | Accountant | 4 Years |
| Theresa Murphy | Engineering Technician II | 17 Years |
| Mark Vermeer | Wastewater Plant Operator I | 25 Years |

PROMOTIONS

Zachary Norman Water Production Operator I
(previously Field Operations Technician I)

CERTIFICATIONS/EDUCATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Richard Andrade Water Distribution Grade 2 Certificate

ACTION ITEMS**MISSION CREEK SUBBASIN ANNUAL REPORT FOR WATER YEAR 2024-2025**

It is recommended to receive and file the Mission Creek Subbasin Annual Report for Water Year 2024-2025, prepared for the Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Water Agency, and Mission Springs Water District by WSP Environmental & Infrastructure Inc.

Assistant General Manager Champion introduced consultant Rick Rees (chief hydrologist) to present the annual status update for the Mission Creek subbasin plan. Rees reported that Water Year 2024 groundwater production was approximately 12,900 acre-feet (about 23% below the 2006 historical high) and that approximately 10,200 acre-feet of Colorado River water was recharged at the groundwater replenishment facility, contributing to a positive annual change in storage of about 4,900 acre-feet; monitoring indicates the long-term overdraft has been eliminated and, except for one key well, groundwater levels were above the measurable objective (set near 2009 levels), with no sustainable management criteria exceedances for subsidence, water quality, or storage. Rees noted the same well (4P1, in the southern/western portion of the subbasin) fell below the minimum threshold for the first time; its measurable objective and minimum threshold are provisional and will be reviewed and potentially modified as part of the alternative plan update due January 1, 2027. He also summarized supporting figures showing recharge-related water level increases near the facility (including approximately 60 feet of water-level rise at a nearby monitoring well), generally positive groundwater levels relative to 2009 across the basin, and InSAR satellite data indicating essentially no ground-surface change (no evidence of subsidence). Regarding water quality, Rees stated that a newly implemented hexavalent chromium maximum contaminant level resulted in several wells being flagged as above the MCL, but noted exceedances are naturally occurring in the subbasin and will continue to be monitored. During Q&A, Director Sewell thanked Rees and commented that groundwater appears well managed; another board member asked how the reported mountain-front recharge estimate (about 6,850 acre-feet) was determined given a stream gauge destroyed by the Hilary storm and not planned for replacement by USGS or Riverside County Flood Control—Rees said he did not know why agencies would not replace the gauge, and explained the inflow estimate is

currently derived from the groundwater model (averaged over 10 years) as a placeholder until the next model update. The board discussed sending a joint letter from the three agencies to encourage replacement of the stream gauge, which Rees and staff indicated could help. Director Mayrhofen asked about a slide photo of the Indio Hills; Rees explained it depicts older, consolidated, tilted marine sediments that yield limited groundwater compared with younger basin sediments. With no further board or public questions, staff concluded the report.

Motion made by Director Sewell, Seconded by Director Mayrhofen.

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

CONTRACT AMENDMENT NO. 9 WITH WEST YOST FOR REGULATORY REPORTING, PERMITTING, AND DESIGN SERVICES

It is recommended to authorize the General Manager to execute Contract Amendment No. 9 for West Yost to provide regulatory reporting services to prepare the Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant Total Dissolved Solids Annual Report, and permitting and design services to decommission Monitoring Well 1 and reconfiguration the Horton Wastewater Treatment Plant percolation ponds in the amount of \$56,100 increasing the contract from \$419,566 to \$475,666.

Staff presented at the Thursday Study Session; there is nothing further to add.

Motion made by Vice President Griffith, Seconded by Director Martin.

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR LITTLE MORONGO & 19TH AVENUE RES-BCT SOLAR SITE REPAIRS

It is recommended to authorize the General Manager to award a contract for the construction of the Little Morongo & 19th Avenue RES-BCT Solar Site Repairs to Photovoltaics California (PVCA), the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$295,229.27 plus a 10% contingency for a total of \$324,752.20, and augment Capital Job No. 11900 by \$32,000, for a total project budget of \$331,881 and to do all things necessary to complete the project.

Staff presented at the Thursday Study Session; there is nothing further to add.

Motion made by Director Sewell, Seconded by Director Martin.

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

DEEM BID RECEIVED FROM GENTRY GENERAL ENGINEERING, INC. AS INCOMPLETE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE GQPP AD-15 AREA M-2 SEWER CONSTRUCTION AND WATER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

It is recommended to authorize the General Manager to award a contract for the construction of the GQPP AD-15 Area M-2 Sewer Construction and Water Line Replacement Project to WEKA, Inc (WEKA), the second lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$19,817,667.00 plus a 10% contingency of \$1,981,767.00 for a total of \$21,799,433.00 and to do all things necessary to complete the project; and augment the Capital Project Budget by \$12,345,000.

General Manager Brian Macy presented the award of contract for the GQPP AD15 Area M2 sewer construction and waterline replacement project. General Manager Macy referenced a prior study session presentation by Engineering Manager Eric Weck, explaining that bids came in higher than the engineer's estimate used for the state grant, and staff is continuing to work with the state to secure full funding. An exhibit map was reviewed showing proposed waterlines (blue) and sanitary sewers (green), noting that the M2 area currently lacks sewers; staff explained that system flow and construction sequencing would generally start in the south near Dylan Road and progress north, with particular attention to serving the school at the far north as efficiently as feasible. Board members asked whether residents might have to contribute if full grant funding is not received; staff reiterated the goal of full funding so residents do not pay, and noted that if funding is short the District could negotiate via change orders, potentially phase work by prioritizing certain streets and a primary trunk line, and any modified scope/assessment approach would return to the Board. Questions were raised regarding service to nearby parks/developments relative to the service boundary; staff confirmed plans to serve the park/development within the boundary (including Hidden Springs, which would abandon its private commercial septic system and connect via a master meter with multifamily-style charges), while the area outside the boundary would not be included. Staff also clarified that some waterline work involves relocating rear-yard easement lines and is funded from the water fund, while sewer construction is funded by the state grant and funds cannot be commingled; therefore, water work would not be shifted to expand sewer scope. Finally, Macy requested that the action title include a notation that the bid from Gentry General Engineering, Inc. was deemed incomplete and rejected, along with the award of the contract for the project.

Motion made by Vice President Griffith, Seconded by Director Sewell.

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

NOTICE OF COMPLETION FOR MONITORING WELL 1A PROJECT

It is recommended to accept the Horton Monitoring Well 1A Project as complete and authorize the release of retention money held for ABC Liovin Drilling, Inc., in the amount of \$7,279.00, thirty-five (35) days after filing the Notice of Completion.

Staff presented at the Thursday Study Session; there is nothing further to add.

Motion made by Director Martin, Seconded by Vice President Griffith.

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

REVIEW AND ADOPT THE UPDATED MSWD STRATEGIC PLAN

It is recommended that the Board adopt the updated Mission Springs Water District Strategic Plan, which builds on the past year's successes and provides guidance for the future.

General Manager Macy noted that staff had presented updates on Thursday and invited Assistant General Manager Champion to summarize changes. Champion reported updates to Objective 2.4.1 to incorporate the recycled water program and a phased implementation approach, and proposed a refinement under Smart Goal 5 (Environmental Sustainability) to strengthen the solar initiative: under

Key Success Measure 5.1.1(1), staff recommended adding language committing the District to periodically evaluate advancements in solar panel technology to ensure adoption of the most efficient and cost-effective solutions over time. Board members expressed appreciation for staff teamwork and responsiveness and commented positively on the Strategic Plan's continued use and alignment with District actions, noting it has not become a "shelf" document; one member additionally stated a personal preference regarding the table of contents layout.

Motion made by Director Sewell, Seconded by Director Martin.

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED GENERAL MANAGER/CHIEF ENGINEER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

It is recommended to approve the Second Amended and Restated General Manager/Chief Engineer Employment Agreement between Mission Springs Water District and Brian Macy.

General Counsel noted the General Manager has recused himself from this discussion. Counsel reported that on February 17, 2026, Board President Duff and Mr. Macy—assisted by district counsel and under the Board's direction—negotiated updates that clarify terms related to salary advancement and cost-of-living adjustments and extend the contract one year, setting a new end date of February 8, 2029. Key provisions include an annual salary of \$264,560 (reflecting a 5% merit increase over the prior base salary), a 401A retirement contribution of \$410.40 per pay period (COLA adjustment), and an automobile allowance of \$810 per month (aligned with allowances provided to other executive-level district employees); all other contract terms remain unchanged. Board members offered supportive comments, noting improved operations and teamwork over the past three years, appreciation for staff responsiveness, and strong confidence in Mr. Macy's performance and leadership.

Motion made by Vice President Griffith, Seconded by Director Mayrhofen.

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING UPDATE

Staff presented at the Thursday Study Session; there is nothing further to add.

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff presented at the Thursday Study Session; there is nothing further to add.

HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM UPDATE

Director of Operations Danny Friend provided the Board an update on the Chromium-6 (Chrome 6) issue and related well rehabilitation work supporting the district's compliance plan for the summer months. He reported that final redevelopment is underway at Well 28, with minor, contained water managed via preventative controls and coordinated roadway safety measures with the city; brush/bail activities and repairs have begun at Well 27; and a pre-construction meeting for Well 30 is scheduled this week. Staff is targeting completion of these three projects over the next few months and

continues coordinating with the state on permitting/reactivation items affecting Wells 28 and 30. The Corona Environmental team is supporting the preliminary design report for treatment at multiple locations and has prepared the draft compliance plan; the General Manager, Mr. Friend, and staff are reviewing it ahead of the March 31 deadline, and they remain confident in the approach to bring supplemental wells online and comply by October 1. Mr. Friend also noted that warmer weather has required staff to re-implement certain operational flexibilities for the first time since the wells were shut off in December 2024, and he offered to answer questions. Board members thanked staff for the ongoing updates and efforts to ensure safe water for the public. In response to a question, Mr. Friend stated that most states follow the federal total chromium standard rather than a specific Chromium-6 MCL; he was not aware of any updated information linking the federal standard to deaths and noted that information remains inconclusive. No additional questions were raised by the board or the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Director Martin, Seconded by Vice President Griffith.

Voting Yea: President Duff, Vice President Griffith, Director Sewell, Director Martin, Director Mayrhofen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It is recommended to approve the minutes as follows:

1. February 4, 2026 ~ Special Meeting Workshop Minutes
2. February 12, 2026 ~ Study Session Minutes
3. February 17, 2026 ~ Board Meeting Minutes

REGISTER OF DEMANDS

The register of demands totaling \$2,659,704.18

REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Director Martin reported attendance at the following meetings and events: 2/5 DVBA Legislative Meeting, 2/7 PS Air Museum Fundraising Gala, 2/25 Tribal Water Authority, 2/25 Urban Water Institute Board Meeting, 2/25-2/27 Urban Water Institute Conference.

Vice President Griffith reported attendance at the following meetings and events: 2/3 DWA Board Meeting, 2/7 PS Air Museum Fundraising Gala, 2/11 ACWA Legislative Symposium, 2/23-2/24 CASA 2026 Washington DC Policy Forum.

Director Sewell reported attendance at the following meetings and events: 2/3 DHS City Council Meeting, 2/5 RivCo Flood Control Meeting, 2/10 GCVCC DHS Networking Mixer, 2/24 GCVCC & PS Chamber Mixer, 2/25-2/27 Urban Water Institute Conference.

President Duff reported attendance at the following meetings and events: 2/7 PS Air Museum Fundraising Gala, 2/11 ACWA Legislative Symposium, 2/12 CVAG ~ CVCC & CVES Committee Meeting, 2/23-2/24 CASA 2026 Washington DC Forum, 2/25-2/27 Urban Water Conference.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Included in this report are the following oral reports: Oral reports were given on Thursday. President Duff acknowledged an employee who was called out, in the written report, doing great things.

1. Finance Report
2. Public Affairs Report

COMMENTS

DIRECTOR COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. General Comments
2. Requests for Future Agenda Items
3. Requests for Future Meetings

Director Mayrhofen noted he is struck by how many people and how much funding is involved nationwide in ensuring residents have safe, clean drinking water. He then shared a personal story about visiting property near Lake Isabella and realizing that realtors are often the first point of contact for newcomers, often before any city council or water-district meeting, so water conditions and rates can be overlooked. He explained that access to reliable, potable water was a key reason they chose to stay in Desert Hot Springs but warned that the Lake Isabella area has an unresolved dam-crack risk that was not disclosed, with lake levels being lowered to reduce pressure. He concludes by urging buyers, especially young couples- to do proper due diligence and seek knowledgeable help, and they ask realtors to watch out for clients because they shape whether people choose to move to and recommend a community.

ADJOURN

With no further business, President Duff adjourned the meeting at 4:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Dori Petee
Executive Assistant