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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING Business Session Tuesday, December 2, 2025

William R. Condit Auditorium
1285 Broadway Avenue
El Centro, CA 92243

Division 1—Alex Cardenas

Division 2—JB Hamby, *Vice Chairman*

Division 3—Gina Dockstader, *Chairwoman*

Division 4—Lewis Pacheco

Division 5—Karin Eugenio

Jamie L. Asbury, *General Manager*

Wayne K. Strumpfer, *General Counsel*

Raquel Najera, *Secretary to the Board*

CALL TO ORDER— 1:02 p.m.

All directors were present in the El Centro Boardroom.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Interim Pastor Vince Brooke of the First Baptist Church in El Centro, and a superintendent in the Water Department, led the invocation. Director Eugenio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS

- Service Awards were presented to 16 employees for a total of 310 years of work.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Cardenas, seconded by Vice Chairman Hamby, that the Board approve the agenda as presented, with the following adjustments:

- Information item No. 8 - Open Access Transmission Tariff Cost-of-Service Study – will be moved to follow information item No. 12 - Customer Assistance Programs, 2026 Guideline and Material Change – at Director Cardenas's request.

Motion carried, 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following audience members expressed their opinions on certain agenda items:

- Patrick O'Dowd, the Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority, expressed his thoughts on action item No. 6: Appoint Salton Sea Authority Conservancy Member and Approve Withdrawal from the Salton Sea Authority Joint Powers Agreement.
- Alexander Earl, the development manager at Chelsea Investment Corporation, discussed an affordable housing project in the City of Coachella. He requested that IID prioritize issuing a will serve letter to align with the project's grant timeline.
- Eric Reyes of Los Amigos de La Comunidad, Inc., will provide his comments during the discussion on the following two action items:
 - Action item No. 6: Appoint Salton Sea Authority Conservancy Member and Approve Withdrawal from the Salton Sea Authority Joint Powers Agreement.
 - Action item No. 7: Adopt Resolution Making Appropriate Environmental Findings and Adopting the Adaptive Water Supply Policy for New Non-Agricultural Projects.
- Ryan Kelley, Board of Supervisors for Imperial County, addressed three matters: 1) he thanked the IID for scheduling an urgent meeting to discuss the water availability plan; 2) he shared his concerns about the lack of communication between the IID, the Salton Sea Authority, and the County of Imperial regarding action item No. 6; and 3) he mentioned a comment letter he received concerning the mitigation impacts on the drains and the Salton Sea.
- Sky Ainsworth of El Centro will provide his comments during the discussion of action item No. 7: Adopt Resolution Making Appropriate Environmental Findings and Adopting the Adaptive Water Supply Policy for New Non-Agricultural Projects.

CONSENT

Moved by Director Cardenas, seconded by Vice Chairman Hamby, that the board approve the agenda as presented (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5).

Motion carried, 5-0.

1. Approval of minutes:
 - September 16, 2025, regular/work session
 - October 3, 2025, regular/business session
 - October 21, 2025, regular/work session
2. Approval of the board meeting calendar for 2026.
3. Approval to transfer funds from the Water Transfer fund to the Water Department Operating Fund and other Reserve Funds
Board approval to transfer \$61,121,464 from the Water Transfer Fund to the Water Department Reserve Funds to meet the targeted operating reserve levels for 2025.

4. Adopt Resolution adopting CEQA findings for the Water Supply Agreement for Maverick, Inc.
Adoption of Resolution No. 35-2025, approving the California Environmental Quality Act findings as the responsible agency for the Water Supply Agreement with Maverick, Inc., which proposes to construct, own, and operate a convenience-store gas station and quick-serve restaurant at the corner of Highway 111 and Ross Road in an unincorporated area of Imperial County. Additionally, authorizing staff to file a notice of determination with the Imperial County Clerk.

5. Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Request for Letter of Credit Extension
The Board approved a five-year extension of the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) Letter of Credit. SMBC will continue to provide the District with interim financing for capital expenditures on power and water projects over the next five years, with an annual letter of credit fee of \$457,800 and any interest fees incurred from short-term borrowing.

CONSENT ITEMS ADDED TO ACTION AGENDA

None.

ACTION

6. Appoint Salton Sea Authority Conservancy Member and Approve Withdrawal from the Salton Sea Authority Joint Powers Agreement
General Manager Jamie Asbury began the discussion by noting resource constraints, IID's membership in various organizations, and the effectiveness of past organizations established by the Board. Water Manager Tina Shields then explained why the conservancy is a better approach for the district at this time.

Water Manager Shields explained that with the formation of the Salton Sea Conservancy, the recommendation is to focus IID's efforts on that organization and support its development. Today's action, in addition to that recommendation, is to appoint Chairwoman Dockstader to the IID position on that representative body to continue advocating before and on behalf of the Salton Sea Authority on Salton Sea issues.

Director Cardenas acknowledged the efforts of Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority, and Senator Padilla. Director Cardenas would like to see improved communication with the agencies.

Director Cardenas stated the following:

1. He stated that he would not support the withdrawal recommendation and requested a roll-call vote.
2. He asked General Manager Asbury for IID to continue monitoring the Army Corps of Engineers' feasibility study and to remain involved in those discussions.

3. If IID decides to end its membership with the Salton Sea Authority, he recommended that IID notify the other agencies of the potential exit by June 2026.
4. He thanked Mr. O'Dowd for his years of service as both a director and a general manager.

Public Comment:

Eric Reyes of Los Amigos De La Comunidad, Inc., shared his views on the Salton Sea issue, having been involved with the Salton Sea Authority over the years. He emphasized the need for a thorough review and more public input from stakeholders.

Director Eugenio stated the IID Board is thoughtful when making major decisions and sees this decision as a commitment toward better efforts regarding the Salton Sea.

Chairwoman Dockstader, also the President of the Salton Sea Authority, emphasized that the decision to withdraw from the Salton Sea Authority was made after careful consideration. She expressed enthusiasm for progress at the Salton Sea and noted that discussions about the initiative have been ongoing for more than a year and a half. She reassured the public that the decision was made thoughtfully, not lightly. Vice Chairman Hamby then offered comments.

Water Manager Tina Shields clarified that IID remains committed to supporting the Salton Sea but is redirecting its focus to another organization to better achieve its goals. The IID will continue to raise the Salton Sea in all its Colorado River discussions, as often as necessary, to address the issue and secure additional funding and resources for the Salton Sea.

Public Comment

Patrick O'Dowd shared his views, noting that the Authority plays a crucial role in serving the community and its member agencies. He appreciated the Board's comments and said the Salton Sea Authority has done, is doing, and will continue to do important work to meet the community's needs.

Director Pacheco stated the IID focus is changing and IID has never refused assistance to the Salton Sea Authority.

Director Cardenas reiterated that he would like the IID to contact the agencies by letter on this matter.

Moved by Vice Chairman Hamby, seconded by Director Eugenio, that the Board approve IID's withdrawal from the Salton Sea Authority at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year and the appointment of Chairwoman Dockstader as IID's Salton Sea Conservancy representative.

In response to Director Cardenas' question and after a brief discussion and clarification by General Counsel Strumpfer, the Board approved this agenda item by two motions, the first of which was approved by roll-call vote.

1. Vice Chairman Hamby amended his motion, seconded by Director Eugenio, that the Board approve IID's withdrawal from the Salton Sea Authority at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year and direct staff to provide the appropriate notice on this matter.

Roll Call Vote

Director Cardenas	No
Vice Chairman Hamby	Yes
Chairwoman Dockstader	Yes
Director Pacheco	Yes
Director Eugenio	Yes

Motion carried 4-1, with Director Cardenas voting no.

2. Moved by Director Cardenas, seconded by Vice Chairman Hamby, that the Board appoint Chairwoman Dockstader as IID's Salton Sea Conservancy representative and focus IID's efforts on the transition and successful start-up of the Conservancy, further advancing long-term restoration objectives at the Salton Sea.

Motion carried, 5-0.

7. Adopt Resolution Making Appropriate Environmental Findings and Adopting the Adaptive Water Supply Policy for New Non-Agricultural Projects

Water Manager Tina Shields reported that the IID adopted the Interim Water Supply Policy for Non-Agricultural Projects (IWSP) in 2009. The policy has led to various water conservation initiatives and allocated 25,000 acre-feet of water for new non-agricultural projects, with about 75 percent of that remaining uncontracted and available. An Adaptive Water Supply Policy (AWSP) is proposed to update the IWSP, including renaming it from "interim" to "adaptive," aligning it with current conservation programs, ensuring consistency with the Equitable Distribution Plan, and clarifying the calculation method for new non-agricultural water demands.

The environmental impacts of the AWSP were evaluated under the 2009 Negative Declaration, and no new significant changes have occurred that would require additional environmental documentation.

Water Manager Shields recommended that the Board approve Resolution No. 36-2025, which makes the necessary environmental findings and adopts the Adaptive Water Supply Policy for Non-Agricultural Projects.

Public Comment

- Eric Reyes asked for clarification on the water allocation, and Water Manager Shields explained that the IWSP authorized 25,000 acre-feet of water, with approximately 75 percent still uncontracted. Mr. Reyes emphasized the urgency of the issue for the community.
- Sky Ainsworth of El Centro, a member of IBEW 569, asked whether agenda item No. 7 concerned the Data Center in Imperial County. Chairwoman Dockstader clarified that it did not. He expressed concern about supporting projects that do not provide a significant benefit to Imperial County.

Chairwoman Dockstader noted that the IID plans to hold a Data Center Workshop.

Director Cardenas commented on the Adaptive Water Supply Policy for New Non-Agricultural Projects and recognized General Manager Asbury and Water Manager Shields for their work on this policy.

A discussion took place regarding the 25,000 acre-feet of water, with 75 percent still available for contracting. Water Manager Shields and Senior Water Resources Planner Justina Arce-Gamboa answered questions and clarified the process.

General Manager Asbury responded to Director Eugenio, stating that approximately 10 percent of water supply and generator interconnection agreements for projects meet the criteria for proceeding.

Moved by Vice Chairman Hamby, seconded by Director Pacheco, that the Board adopt Resolution 36-2025, making the appropriate environmental findings and adopting the Adaptive Water Supply Policy for Non-Agricultural Projects.

Motion carried, 5-0.

General Manager Asbury announced that the IID will host a public workshop on Data Centers on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the El Centro Boardroom.

INFORMATION

8. Open Access Transmission Tariff Cost-of-Service Study
This agenda item was moved after Information Item 12 at Director Cardenas's request.

9. CONNECT Initiative – Southwest Border Regional Commission Economic and Infrastructure Development Grant Update

Sabrina Barber, manager of Distribution Services and Maintenance Operations, provided a brief overview of the grant award, project scope, and next steps for developing and implementing the Creating Outdoor Neighborhood Networks for Eco-friendly Community Transportation Initiative. The initiative includes a proposed pilot, the “Heber Green Belt Project,” to be carried out in partnership with the Heber Public Utility District and Citizens Energy Corporation. If approved, the two-phase initiative aims to improve pedestrian safety, mobility, and recreational access throughout IID’s service area.

The Southwest Border Regional Commission award provides funding through the Economic and Infrastructure Development Grant Program. Matching contributions will be provided by IID, Heber Public Utility District, and Citizens Energy Corporation through in-kind services and collaborative investments.

After the presentation, Vice Chairman Hamby, Chairwoman Dockstader, and Director Cardenas offered their comments, including a request for a press release on this initiative.

10. Southern California Desert – California Urban and Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act 2024 Grant Update

Sabrina Barber, the manager of Distribution Services and Maintenance Operations, reported on the launch of the \$2.9 million Shade Trees for Southern California’s Deserts project, a collaborative effort between IID and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments. Funded by CAL FIRE through the Inflation Reduction Act, the initiative aims to plant 6,000 shade trees in residential neighborhoods and public spaces throughout the Imperial and Coachella valleys over the next three years. IID is partnering with Alianza Coachella Valley to enroll residential participants. The grant requires a one-to-one match of cash and in-kind contributions, with IID contributing \$500,000 over three years through the Public Benefits Charge.

Following the presentation, Chairwoman Dockstader, Vice Chairman Hamby, and Director Eugenio offered their comments.

11. 2025 Electric System Refunding Revenue Bonds Financing Update

Chief Financial Officer Belen Valenzuela updated the Board on the successful pricing of \$97.1 million in revenue bonds on November 4, 2025. The transaction achieved an all-in total interest cost of 3.84 percent, resulting in approximately \$4.5 million in savings and \$3.3 million in debt service savings when considering present value.

The Board took a break.

12. Customer Assistance Programs, 2026 Guideline and Material Changes

Isis Montes, customer service officer, reported that each year, staff update the IID's income guidelines to reflect the new year, and program materials are revised to incorporate those changes.

Ms. Montes reviewed the proposed changes to be presented to the Board for approval at the December 22, 2025, meeting.

1. Update the Customer Assistance programs as presented.
2. Update of the annual household income maximum qualifications for the READY and SHIELD programs as published by the federal poverty guidelines for 2026, including an additional \$10,000 per income bracket for READY.
3. Increase CARE assistance from \$450 to \$500
4. Update the renewal period from 2 years to 3 years.

A discussion ensued regarding the matter, during which General Manager Asbury stated that all customer assistance program materials will be updated and will take effect on January 1, 2026. In response to Director Cardenas' question, she also outlined the various media channels IID will use to deliver this information.

Director Cardenas requested that customer assistance program materials be distributed at IID's Festival of Lights on the Imperial Valley Fairgrounds. General Manager Asbury agreed.

8. Open Access Transmission Tariff Cost-of-Service Study

General Manager Asbury reported that the IID adopted its tariff in 2001 and has not adjusted its transmission service rates since. The tariff includes nine rate schedules. She noted that Tony Georgis of NewGen Strategies and Solutions, LLC, will review the draft cost-of-service study, which shows that IID is under collecting. However, no adjustments are planned at this time. Staff proposes informing the community and gathering substantial input.

For clarification, Vice Chairman Hamby stated that this does not affect residential customers in any way. It pertains to generation plants not owned by IID that are seeking to recover costs for high-voltage interconnection.

Chief Financial Officer Belen Valenzuela introduced Managing Director Tony Georgis, who presented a PowerPoint on the draft cost-of-service results for the IID electric system. The presentation covered the Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT), including its definition, services, key inputs and data for OATT development, the cost-of-service results, two potential rate design options for consideration, and next steps.

During and after the presentation, board members asked questions and/or provided input. Director Cardenas requested that General Manager Asbury schedule stakeholder or roundtable engagements in 2026.

POLICY MONITORING

13. BL-8: Delegation to the General Manager with Respect to the Biennial Planning Process

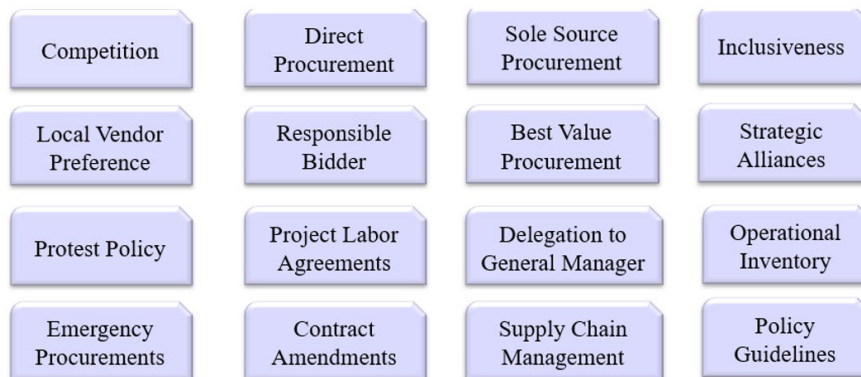
Chief Financial Officer Belen Valenzuela informed the board that Policy BL-8 delegates responsibilities to the general manager for the biennial planning process. She emphasized that this policy will ensure the Board receives annual updates and any necessary budget amendments. CFO Valenzuela explained the distinctions in the biennial budget process between even-numbered and odd-numbered years, noting the cost-of-service studies for the Water and Power departments and the adoption of the biennial budget.

Moved by Director Cardenas, seconded by Chairwoman Dockstader, that the board find that the District is substantially in compliance with Board Policy BL-8: Delegation to the General Manager with Respect to the Biennial Planning Process.

Motion carried 5-0.

14. BL-9: Delegation to the General Manager with Respect to Procurement

General Services Manager Jennifer Goodsell provided an update on Board Policy BL-9: Delegation to the General Manager with Respect to Procurement. The district's procurement activities are conducted in accordance with the following guiding principles, which serve as the standards for General Services to facilitate and execute the intent of this policy.



Jennifer Goodsell's presentation provided updates on active and ongoing project labor agreements for the Water and Power departments, including operational inventory for both departments. In accordance with Policy B-L9, the Board and the public are to be advised of all procurements in the \$1 million to \$5 million range that the General Manager approves under the authority granted by this governance structure. Since the last policy update, the General Manager has approved one solicitation in this range, and several service agreements have been executed within these parameters.

Moved by Director Eugenio, seconded by Vice Chairman Hamby, that the board find that the District is substantially in compliance with Board Policy BL-9: Delegation to the General Manager with Respect to Procurement.

Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

15. Water Department

- Water Manager Tina Shields reported on the following matters:
 - The water underrun is at about 115,000 acre-feet.
 - The 2024 On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program is effectively closed, with about 50 contracts going out this week. The IID has expended approximately \$88 million to date and will require a contract amendment of approximately \$1 million to finalize these contracts. For 2025, the Water Department has expended over \$15 million on grower contracts, about 30 percent of the way through the program for this year.
 - She will attend the CRWUA Conference in two weeks, where she will present on a panel about IID's conservation activities. Vice Chairman Hamby will speak on California's behalf and provide a status report.
 - Continuing negotiations on solutions for the post-2026 framework, which are challenging.
 - Staff is working on the Deficit Irrigation Program for 2026, which will be only about half the size of this year's program.
- Water Manager Mike Pacheco reported on the following matters:
 - Finishing some of the Water Department's capital projects by the end of the year.
 - The recent heavy rain caused problems for some IID water customers, who were unable to enter their fields.
 - Water Department staff met with the Bureau regarding the Federal Government's request for an additional easement for the border wall, with an extension of 60 to 100 feet in specific areas.

16. Power Department

Power Manager Mathew Smelser reported on the following matters:

- The Power Department plans to host a public workshop on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the El Centro Boardroom.
- On November 24, 2025, the IID received notification from the CEC that it had been awarded a \$7.2 million grant. This funding is intended for a long-duration energy storage system, specifically a 2-megawatt, 10-megawatt-hour system at Pilot Knob.

Director Cardenas asked General Manager Asbury for the Power Department to provide a general update on IID's status regarding Renewable Portfolio Standards, possibly for the January 2026 board meeting.

17. Support Departments

General Services Manager Jennifer Goodsell provided an update on ongoing supply chain issues and the rising costs IID faces when purchasing project materials. She emphasized that these are challenging times, particularly for the power inventory IID requires for maintenance and emergency response.

Ms. Goodsell presented a graph of the district's annual stock inventory values and trends. General Services has improved its forecasting model and procurement strategy to mitigate supply chain disruptions, ensuring a 48-month supply of critical materials. This includes two years of stock in the warehouse and secured production slots for the next two years. She reviewed high-turnover commodities, including wires and cable, meters, wood poles, substation equipment, and hardware, along with cost comparisons for 2019, 2023, and 2025. Staff is focused on forecasting and sourcing.

18. General Manager

General Manager Jamie Asbury reported on the following matters:

- General Manager Asbury, Vice Chairman Hamby, IID's outside counsel, and Power Manager Matthew Smelser attended yesterday's Coachella Valley Power Agency meeting in the Coachella Valley.
- She participated in the Imperial County two-on-two meeting, then attended a separate meeting with Supervisors Ryan Kelley and Peggy Price to discuss Lithium Valley.
- She and Power Manager Smelser went to Sacramento to meet with representatives of NextEra, which is proposing the Ironwood 500-kV transmission project, and of the California Independent System Operator Corporation.
- She is working closely with the Power Department on the Cook Street documents. These documents include all of the agency's cost allocations and have been submitted in time for their meetings next week.
- She thanked Water Manager Tina Shields for her hard work on the adaptive water supply policy.
- She reminded everyone of the following events.
 - IID's Festival of Lights, featuring the Flip the Switch event on Saturday, December 6, at 4:30 p.m.
 - IID's public workshop on the Data Center on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the El Centro Boardroom to discuss IID's role as a transmission owner and how IID relates not only to that project but also to all others that are coming in.

Director Cardenas noted that the American Public Power Association alleged that IID's sovereignty is under attack under Section 102 of H.R. 2289 [Proportional Reviews for Broadband Deployment Act]. Accordingly, he requested that General Manager Asbury draft a letter opposing the expansion of federal jurisdiction over public power poles. General Manager Asbury responded that Antonio Ortega, government affairs and communications officer, is addressing the issue.

CONVENE CLOSED SESSION— 3:45 p.m.

The order of the closed-session agenda items was rearranged.

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL — ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
(Cal. Gov. Code sec. 54956.9(d)(2) & (e)(1)).
(4 cases)

Director Cardenas left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS
(Cal. Gov. Code sec. 54956.8) Property:044-200-012
Agency Negotiator: Laura Cervantes/Sergio Quiroz
3. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS
(Cal. Gov. Code sec. 54956.8) Property: 044-450-030
Agency Negotiator: Laura Cervantes/Sergio Quiroz

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION— 5:14 p.m.

REPORT ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY

General Counsel Strumpfer reported that no action was taken on the items discussed during the closed session. However, Chairwoman Dockstader recused herself and left the room regarding one of the litigation issues.

ADJOURNMENT— 5:15 p.m.

(The regular meeting was livestreamed and is available for public viewing on the IID website for those wanting to access a full recording of the proceedings.)