



# IID

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## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

### Work Session

**Monday, December 22, 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— 1:03 p.m.**

All directors were present in the El Centro Boardroom.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chairman Hamby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Director Pacheco, seconded by Director Eugenio, that the Board approve the agenda as presented.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Peter Rodriguez of El Centro and Kristina Salgado of Calexico said they would provide comments during the presentation of Action Item No. 5, "Adopt Resolution Establishing Safeguards to Protect Ratepayers and Parameters for Large, New Industrial Loads."

Jake Tyson of El Centro expressed his concerns about the process, transparency, and IID's responsibility to protect grid reliability and its ratepayers regarding the data center in Imperial.

## CONSENT

Moved by Director Eugenio, seconded by Director Pacheco, that the Board approve the consent agenda as presented (Nos. 1, 2, and 3).

1. Approval of minutes:
  - November 4, 2025, regular/business
  - November 18, 2025, regular/work session
  
2. Customer Assistance Programs, 2026 Guideline and Material Changes

Board approval of the proposed changes to the subject matter:

  1. Update the Customer Assistance programs as presented.
  2. Update the annual household income maximum qualifications for the Residential Energy Assistance Designed for You (READY) and the Senior Health and Income Energy Lifeline Discount (SHIELD) programs as published by the federal poverty guidelines for 2026, including an additional \$10,000 per income bracket for READY.
  3. Increase the Customer Assistance for Residential Emergencies (CARE) program's assistance from \$450 to \$500.
  4. Update the renewal period from 2 years to 3 years.
  
3. Approval of Proposed Revisions to Board Meeting Procedures

Board approval of a revision to IID's Board Meeting Procedures, Rule 1.2 Types of Regular Meetings. This change states that in January, the Board's first meeting will now be a Work Session, while the second meeting will be a Business Session. This adjustment reverses the usual order to ensure that the Board's traditional annual offsite meeting, which takes place during the first meeting in January, is designated as a Work Session.

## ACTION

4. Approval of Amendment No. 4 to Service Agreement No. 8100002871 with Formation Environmental for Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program Management

Jessica Humes, supervisor of Environmental Compliance, reported that the Water Department is soliciting professional services for the implementation and management of the Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program. The current contract is set to expire on December 31, 2025; however, Amendment No. 4 to the service agreement with Formation Environmental, LLC, for \$979,678 will extend services through March 31, 2026, and provide additional funding for specific tasks. Funding is covered by the Quantification Settlement Agreement Joint Powers Authority, with no net cost to the Water Department.

Moved by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Pacheco, that the Board approve Amendment No. 4 to the service agreement with Formation Environmental, LLC, for the Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program.

Motion carried, 5-0.

5. Adopt Resolution Establishing Safeguards to Protect Ratepayers and Parameters for Large, New Industrial Loads

Director Eugenio emphasized the significance of the resolution, noting that IID must prepare for substantial industrial demands, like data centers, while protecting its ratepayers. She stated that IID is a reliable, cost-effective power provider focused on the well-being of its constituents in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. Although the district is not a land-use zoning or permitting authority, it must provide power without negatively impacting ratepayers when projects arise. She quoted the resolution, which states, “whereas, prudent utility governance requires clear safeguards, expert analysis, and transparent processes to ensure that new electric loads do not burden ratepayers or compromise reliability.” This resolution aims to uphold these principles going forward.

Public Comments Supporting Action Item No. 5:

1. Kristian Salgado, a Calexico resident, supported this action item but voiced concerns that the resolution, in its current form, might lack sufficient strength.
2. Pete Rodriguez from El Centro voiced his support for this action item and thanked the Board for advocating on behalf of its ratepayers.

Director Cardenas recognized Director Eugenio as the shepherd of this policy and expressed his support for the resolution as presented. He also acknowledged General Manager Asbury, who has extensive experience with this matter and ultimately serves as the gatekeeper for bringing projects before the board that are viable and do not compromise IID’s grid resiliency.

Director Eugenio reminded everyone that this resolution is not the policy itself but rather reassurance to IID constituents that it is taking these precautions very seriously.

Moved by Director Eugenio, seconded by Director Cardenas, that the Board adopt Resolution No. 37-2025 establishing safeguards to protect ratepayers and parameters for large, new industrial loads.

Motion carried, 5-0.

## **POLICY MONITORING**

6. GP-2: Governance Focus

Chairwoman Dockstader started the discussion on this agenda item and reviewed the results of the five-question survey. This was followed by comments and input from the Board.

2026 Annual Work Plan Parking Lot:

Vice Chairman Hamby requested that the development of an Orientation Guide for new directors be added to the Parking Lot discussion list for the first quarter of 2026.

Moved by Vice Chairman Hamby, seconded by Chairwoman Dockstader, that the Board accept the policy monitoring report and find that the Board is substantially in compliance with GP-2: Governance Focus.

Motion carried, 5-0.

7. GP-9: Board Conduct

Chairwoman Dockstader started the discussion on this agenda item by reviewing the results of the thirteen-question survey. This was followed by comments and input from the Board.

2026 Annual Work Plan Parking Lot:

Vice Chairman Hamby requested that a draft of Policy GP-9, item M, which states, "Directors will abide by the Board Guidelines for Outages and Emergency Events," be added to the discussion list for the February work session.

Moved by Director Pacheco, seconded by Director Eugenio, that the Board accept the policy monitoring report and find that the Board is substantially in compliance with GP-9: Board Conduct.

Motion carried, 5-0.

**REPORTS**

8. Board of Directors

Board of Directors Committee Reports:

Chairwoman Dockstader reviewed the list of external and Local Agency Two-on-Two appointments, and the directors provided brief reports on current activities related to the following appointments.

<b>External Appointments</b>	<b>Appointees</b>
American Public Power Association Policy Makers Council	Cardenas
Association of California Water Agencies	Dockstader
California Farm Water Coalition	Dockstader
Coachella Valley Association of Governments — Coachella Valley Conservation Commission	Cardenas/Hamby
Coalition of Labor, Agriculture, and Business	Pacheco
Colorado River Board of California	Hamby/Dockstader
Family Farm Alliance	Dockstader
Imperial County's Binational Relations	Eugenio/Pacheco
Imperial County Transportation Commission	Eugenio
Salton Sea Authority	Dockstader/Cardenas

- Director Cardenas attended and reported on the following events:
  - He was interviewed by a KESQ reporter about a grant to plant 6,000 shade trees across Southern California's deserts. He thanked Robert Schettler, Public Information Officer, for arranging the interview.
  - The Colorado River Water Users Association Conference, December 16-18, 2025, and thanked IID staff for their assistance in setting up IID's exhibition booth.

He raised the topics of AMI Integration, meter-to-cash, and the importance of pinpointing revenue leakage. He also referenced the program from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. Furthermore, he inquired with General Manager Asbury about the feasibility of developing a software dashboard that could flag potential revenue issues in advance and asked about the resources required for such a tool. In response, General Manager Asbury indicated that the IT and Finance departments could put together a presentation on this topic.

2026 Annual Work Plan Parking Lot:

Director Cardenas requested a discussion and presentation on AMI Integration be added to the Parking Lot discussion list in January or February 2026.

- Vice Chairman Hamby had no updates to report.
- Director Pacheco attended and reported on the following events:
  - IID's end-of-year party.
  - Board Site Visit to the Water Department with Water Manager Mike Pacheco and staff.
  - Took part in the Calexico Christmas Parade and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- Director Eugenio attended and reported on the following events:
  - The City of Imperial Lights Parade.
  - IID's Second Annual Festival of Lights in Imperial.
  - The Colorado River Water Users Association Conference, December 16-18, 2025, with the rest of the board. She thanked Vice Chairman Hamby for his work on the Colorado River and praised Chairwoman Dockstader for her presentation at the conference. She also thanked both for representing IID and for ensuring its water rights remain protected.
- Chairwoman Dockstader attended and reported on the following events:
  - IID's end-of-year party.
  - IID's Festival of Lights, featuring the Flip the Switch event.
  - Imperial County Stakeholder meeting at the Imperial Airport to discuss a potential new service provider, Advanced Air.

- A meeting at Brawley City Hall regarding Dr. Tyson and Dr. Palakodeti's new Medical Center, which they plan to build near the Brawley Hospital.
- She and Director Eugenio attended a public workshop on Data Centers hosted by the IID [December 9, 2025]. She thanked IID staff for the information provided.
- The Colorado River Water Users Association Conference in Las Vegas, December 16-18, 2025.

## **ACTION**

General Manager Jamie Asbury reported that, according to Water Code sections 21376, 21386, and 22840.5, the board must elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from among its members at its organizational meeting. Additionally, Board Policy GP-5: Election of the Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson outlines the process for these elections. It states that the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are elected by a vote of four or more directors in favor and that they serve one-year terms beginning January 1st of each year.

Director Cardenas expressed his gratitude for the leadership demonstrated by Chairwoman Dockstader and Vice Chairman Hamby, recognizing their valuable contributions. He outlined his rationale for nominating Director Eugenio as Chairwoman and for recommending that Vice Chairman Hamby continue in his position for 2026.

### 9. Reorganization of officers

#### a. Chairman and Vice Chairman

Moved by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Pacheco, that the board elect Director Eugenio as Chairwoman and re-elect Director Hamby as Vice Chairman of the Imperial Irrigation District for 2026.

Motion carried 5-0.

On behalf of the IID Board, Vice Chairman Hamby presented Chairwoman Dockstader with a plaque and tokens to honor her leadership and contributions during her tenure. In response, Chairwoman Dockstader expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Chairwoman of the IID Board of Directors.

Director Eugenio expressed gratitude to outgoing Chairwoman Dockstader, the Board, her family, and friends for their support. She also thanked General Manager Asbury, Board Secretary Raquel Najera, General Counsel Strumpfer, departmental managers, and the audience.

#### b. Treasurer

Moved by Vice Chairman Hamby, seconded by Director Pacheco, that the board appoint Vivia Arellano as treasurer of the Imperial Irrigation District for calendar year 2026.

Motion carried 5-0.

c. Secretary

Moved by Vice Chairman Hamby, seconded by Director Cardenas, that the board appoint Raquel Najera as secretary of the Imperial Irrigation District for calendar year 2026.

Motion carried 5-0.

The Board took a break.

**CONVENE CLOSED SESSION— 2:31 p.m.**

The order of the closed-session agenda was rearranged.

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL — ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
(Cal. Gov. Code sec. 54956.9(d)(2) & (e)(1)).  
(7 cases)
2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Cal. Gov. Code sec54956.9(d)(1). (1 case)

Raquel Najera left the meeting, and Judy Avila, the Administrative Assistant and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Directors, took her place.

**RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION— 4:55 p.m.**

**REPORT ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION, IF ANY**

General Counsel Wayne Strumpfer reported on item No. 2 of the closed-session agenda. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the settlement agreement in IID vs. Desert View Power.

**ADJOURNMENT— 4:58 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.)**