



# IID

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## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING Business Session Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

**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  
Division 4—Lewis Pacheco  
Division 5—Karin Eugenio, *Chairwoman*

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**

Director Dockstader led the invocation, and ID employee Darrin Marquez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

- California Farm Water Coalition Introduction:  
Water Manager Tina Shields highlighted the importance of the California Farm Water Coalition (CFWC) in connecting farms, water supplies, and food. She described the coalition as an invaluable partner for IID in advocating for growers and the agricultural industry. She noted that CFWC representatives, including Executive Director Mike Wade, who is retiring, and his successor, Michelle Paul, were present at the meeting. Tina invited both Mike Wade and Michelle Paul to speak. Each took a moment to introduce themselves, share a brief background, and provide an overview of the CFWC.
- Service Awards to 25 employees for a total of 450 worker-years:  
Marcia Rivera, the Human Resources Manager, presented service awards to several recipients at the meeting to recognize their years of service to the Imperial Irrigation District.

- Employee of the Month for March 2026:

The Board recognized Jorge Sanchez as Employee of the Month for March 2026. As the Superintendent General of Water Operations Maintenance, he consistently demonstrates exceptional professionalism, customer service, and technical expertise in managing Imperial Dam and its facilities.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Director Cardenas, seconded by Vice Chairman Hamby, that the Board approve the agenda as presented, with Consent agenda item No. 3: *Customer Assistance Programs 2025 Update*, moved to Consent Items Added to Action Agenda.

Motion carried, 5-0.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mary Helen McCombs of El Centro stated that she would provide her comments during the discussion of Information Item No. 6: 2026 Electric System Refunding Revenue Bonds Financing.

### **CONSENT**

Moved by Director Cardenas, seconded by Vice Chairman Hamby, that the Board approve the consent agenda as presented (items Nos 1 and 2), with consent agenda item No. 3 moved to Consent Items Added to Action Agenda.

Motion carried, 5-0.

1. Approval of minutes – February 17, 2026, regular/work session
2. Approval of Service Agreement with Formation Environmental, LLC for Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program (SRFP 533)  
The Board approved the service agreement with Formation Environmental, LLC, for program management of the Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program, including three main tasks – Annual Emissions Monitoring and Reporting, Annual Proactive Dust Control Planning, and, as needed, support for Future Air Quality Mitigation. The service agreement request is for \$12,045,600 and is reimbursable by the Quantification Settlement Agreement Joint Powers Authority, with no net cost to the Water Department.9
3. Customer Assistance Programs 2025 Update  
This agenda item was moved to Consent Items Added to Action Agenda at Director Cardenas's request.

### **CONSENT ITEMS ADDED TO ACTION AGENDA**

3. Customer Assistance Programs 2025 Update  
Director Cardenas praised IID's programs, including Residential Energy Assistance Designed for You (READY), Customer Assistance for Residential Emergencies (CARE), and Energy Assistance for Special Equipment (EASE).

He recognized the efforts of the Finance Department and Public Affairs in promoting these programs and ensuring the community is informed about them.

Director Cardenas asked for a Parking Lot discussion on the trends in collecting the 2.85 percent, to forecast where that's headed, as this is the first time in a long time that those funds are at 100 percent utilization. Additionally, any other discussions to keep the momentum going regarding the ratepayers' assistance program.

General Manager Jamie Asbury stated that staff is preparing a presentation for the Board on summer readiness and the use of Public Benefits Charge funds to defray rate assistance during the summer. The aim is to present a holistic package to the Board at the appropriate time within the next couple of months.

Following General Manager Asbury's response and strategy, Director Cardenas noted that a Parking Lot discussion was no longer necessary.

In response to a question from Director Cardenas, Isis Montes, an officer in Customer Service, said the program's success is due to community outreach, which has increased participation. She also thanked the Public Affairs Department for doing an incredible job of scheduling and promoting those events online.

Moved by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Pacheco, that the Board acknowledge the Customer Assistance Programs 2025 update.

Motion carried, 5-0.

## **ACTION**

4. Approval of the First Amendment to the California Colorado River Contractors Forbearance Agreement for 2024-2026 Conservation Agreements Under the Lower Colorado Conservation and Efficiency Program

Water Manager Tina Shields reported that the board previously adopted Forbearance Agreements for system conservation water proposals on behalf of the California Contractors to raise Lake Mead's elevation. This Forbearance Agreement includes two modifications: expanding the Palo Verde Following Program for the last five months of the year and increasing water volume for the Bard Water District. Both are under the Metropolitan System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA). Essentially, the primary benefit of this agreement is raising the level of Lake Mead.

Director Dockstader noted that the IID has an additional 200,000 acre-feet of water to put on the table to help raise the elevation.

Moved by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Dockstader, that the Board authorize the general manager to execute the final *First Amendment to the California Colorado River Contractors Forbearance Agreement for 2024-2026*

*Conservation Agreements Under the Lower Colorado Conservation and Efficiency Program*, subject to any non-substantial final edits approved by the General Counsel from the January 2026 draft.

Motion carried, 5-0.

5. Approval of Funding Local Opportunities for Water (FLOW) Public Agency Grant Program

Water Manager Tina Shields reported on an IID proposal to establish a cost-share partnership grant program, the Funding Local Opportunities for Water (FLOW). The initiative honors the 125th anniversary of water flowing to the Imperial Valley and aims to support improvements to water and agricultural infrastructure. The program will focus on capital projects that deliver long-term public benefits.

FLOW would require a 50-50 cost share for projects selected by IID for funding, limited to local governmental entities. Funding will be at IID's discretion and may be available as early as 2026 for shovel-ready projects. Eligible projects must have a water nexus or support the agricultural industry.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential for unused funds, with input from Water Manager Tina Shields and General Manager Jamie Asbury.

A discussion took place regarding the matter, during which Director Cardenas provided positive feedback. He expressed support for General Manager Asbury to handle grant awards, make final decisions, and present recommendations to the Board.

Moved by Vice Chairman Hamby, seconded by Director Cardenas, that the Board authorize a \$7.5 million Water Department budget amendment to establish the Funding Local Opportunities for Water public agency grant program in honor of the 125th anniversary of water flowing to the Imperial Valley, and direct the General Manager, in coordination with the Water Department, to develop and administer the program.

Motion carried, 5-0.

## **INFORMATION**

6. 2026 Electric System Refunding Revenue Bonds Financing

Chief Financial Officer Belen Valenzuela reported that the Finance Department plans to issue the Electric System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2026, to refund all or a portion of the District's outstanding Electric System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2015C, and to pay the costs of issuance for the 2026 Bonds.

### Public Comment

Mary Helen McCombs from El Centro raised concerns about inconsistencies in the document and sought clarification from Chief Financial Officer Belen Valenzuela. Chairwoman Eugenio reminded her that the session was for comments only. Belen Valenzuela will follow up with Ms. McCombs to address her concerns.

In response to Director Pacheco's question about the Yucca Combustion Turbine Unit, which has not operated since 2022 (see page 143 of the agenda), Power Manager Matthew Smelser confirmed that the statement was technically correct, noting that the plant is shut down. He also noted that IID shares equipment with APS. Chief Financial Officer Valenzuela stated that the plan is to repower the plant.

Staff will recommend that the Board adopt the Thirteenth Supplemental Resolution at the March 17, 2026, meeting to authorize and approve the issuance of the Electric System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2026, and the execution and delivery of the associated financing documents.

## **POLICY MONITORING**

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

Chief Financial Officer Belen Valenzuela provided an overview of the BL-8 guidelines for the first quarter of 2026. Her PowerPoint presentation covered budget reporting and amendments, the budget process and staff collaboration, and the cost of services, including retail electric rates, the open access transmission tariff, and water rates.

Moved by Vice Chairman Hamby, seconded by Director Pacheco, that the board accept the policy monitoring report and 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.

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

General Services Manager Jennifer Goodsell presented the monitoring report of Board Policy BL-9: *Delegation to the General Manager with Respect to Procurement*, highlighting that district procurement activities occur in accordance with the following guiding principles, which serve as the standards for General Services in facilitating and executing the intent of this policy.



Ms. Goodsell reviewed active Project Labor Agreements for the Power Department. Including the operational inventory of the Power and Water departments, solicitations, and service agreements above or below the \$1 to \$5 million threshold.

General Manager Asbury commented on the biennial budgeting process, procurement, and her delegation of authority. She emphasized the importance of keeping the Board informed, maintaining public transparency, and ensuring accurate reporting to improve spending and forecasting for the IID.

Moved by Director Cardenas, seconded by Director Dockstader, that the board accept the policy monitoring report and 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

### 9. Water Department

- Water Manager Tina Shields reported on the following matters:
  - Snowpack conditions reflect that inflow projections have declined.
  - The 2024 On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program (OFEC) has been completed, and the 2025 OFEC is more than 50 percent complete.
- Water Manager Mike Pacheco reported on the following matters:
  - He thanked General Manager Asbury and the Board of Directors for recognizing Jorge Sanchez as IID's Employee of the Month for March 2026.
  - Two concrete lining capital projects were canceled this year due to issues with burrowing owls.
  - The Water Department started working on its Resource Budget for the next two years.

10. Power Department

Power Manager Matthew Smelser reported on the following matters:

- IID launched its 2026 Public Green Space Grant Program on March 2, 2026, with an application deadline of March 24, 2026.
- The peak demand for February was 601 megawatts, driven by higher-than-normal temperatures.
- Power Manager Smelser presented a slide on the BP-Line Relay, which was contacted by a Mylar balloon, causing an outage on February 4, 2026. He reminded everyone not to release Mylar balloons, as they can cause an outage when they come into contact with power lines.

11. Support Departments

Marica Rivera provided a summary of IID's Student Program 2026, with an application period of March 2-26, 2026. The IID Scholarship application period runs from February 26 to March 25, 2026. She also reviewed IID's 2026 Employee Events, including the Spring Family Picnic, Dog Days of Summer, Employee Appreciation Week, and the Holiday Party.

12. General Manager

General Manager Jamie Asbury reported on the following matters:

- She attended several meetings, including:
  - Two one-on-one meetings with Vice Chairman Hamby.
  - A Public Affairs meeting about IID's major events programs for 2026, and a meeting with IID's Internal Auditor.
  - A discussion with General Counsel Wayne Strumpfer about new California regulations on how public agencies should respond to law enforcement inquiries related to immigration and customs.
  - A phone call with Larry Cox, a farmer from Brawley, to discuss his ideas about post-2026 issues and other cost-of-service related issues.
  - A meeting with Chief Financial Officer Belen Valenzuela and Assistant General Manager Sergio Quiroz to talk about IID's reserve requirements.
  - Meetings with the River Work Group, California Strategy Group, Reliability Compliance Steering Committee, and a conference call with the California Strategy Group.
  - A meeting with the City of Coachella, its consultants, and its legal counsel about a Joint Powers Authority.
  - A meeting with Special Districts about possible LAFCO representation.
  - A meeting with the IT, Legal, and Power departments on energy and balance market issues and the extended day-ahead market.
  - A Lower Basin meeting in Phoenix with Vice Chairman Hamby, Fernando Castro-Alvarez, and Water Manager Tina Shields.
- She participated in the retirement luncheon for Javier Soliz, the Superintendent General of Power Construction and Maintenance, held at the IID La Quinta office.
- On behalf of IID, she reviewed and provided feedback on both the Lithium Valley Specific Plan and the post-2026 DEIS document.

- She has been diligently working on the FLOW Grant opportunity for some time and thanked Water Manager Tina Shields for her insightful ideas.
- Additionally, she's been working on augmenting the Water Department's 10-Point Plan and thanked Fernando Castro-Alvarez, Manager of Strategic Initiatives, along with the Finance Department, for their valuable support.
- She attended the dedication ceremony for IID's Hydro Pavilion at IVC.

General Manager Asbury thanked the Board for recognizing IID employees, as was done earlier today with the Employee of the Month, and emphasized the importance of acknowledging their hard work and dedication.

Vice Chairman Hamby was warmly congratulated as he celebrated his birthday.

*The Board took a break.*

**CONVENE CLOSED SESSION— 2:35 p.m.**

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Cal. Gov. Code sec. 54956.9 (d)(1): IID v. County of Imperial et al.  
Case # ECU004498
2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL — ANTICIPATED LITIGATION  
(Cal. Gov. Code sec. 54956.9(d)(2) & (e)(1)).  
(3 cases)

*Director Dockstader recused herself and left the room during the discussion of one of the three cases on the closed-session agenda item.*

3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR

**RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION — 4:54 p.m.**

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

None.

**ADJOURNMENT— 4:55 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.)**