

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – JANUARY 27, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was called to order by President Reinhart at 5:00 p.m. on January 27, 2025 at the District offices, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

Directors Present: Ferons, Withers, Swan, and President Reinhart.

Directors Absent: LaMar.

Oral and Written Communications: None.

Items too late to be agendaized: None.

Also Present: General Manager Cook, Executive Director of Finance Adly, Executive Director of Technical Services Burton, Executive Director of Operations Chambers, Executive Director of Water Policy Weghorst, Director of Strategic Communications and Advocacy / Deputy General Counsel Compton, Director of Water Quality Colston, Director of Human Resources Mitcham, Director of Recycling Operations Zepeda, Director of Maintenance Operations Manning, Director of Water Resources Sanchez, Director of Information Technology Kaneshiro, Director of Accounting and Treasury Lin, Engineering Manager Moeder, Consultant Newell, General Counsel Collins, Secretary Swan, members of the staff, and public.

PRESENTATIONS – PROCLAMATION

A Proclamation was presented to Mr. Andrew Willis for his thirty-five years of service to the District by General Manager Cook with best wishes from the members of the Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On MOTION by Withers, seconded by Swan, CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS FIVE THROUGH EIGHT WERE APPROVED 4-0 AS FOLLOWS:

5. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Recommendation: That the minutes of the December 16, 2024 Regular Board meeting and December 17, 2024 Adjourned Regular Board meeting be approved as presented.

6. MEMORANDUM ON OFFICERS OF THE BOARD, COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

Recommendation: That the Board receive and file the memorandum dated January 13, 2025, titled Officers of the Board, Committee Appointments and Other Assignments and approve attendance for meetings and events for the Board's representation for calendar year 2025 as delineated.

CONSENT CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

7. DECEMBER 2024 TREASURY REPORT

Recommendation: That the Board receive and file the Treasurer's Investment Summary Report, the Summary of Fixed and Variable Rate Debt, and the Disclosure Report of Reimbursements to Board members and staff, approve the December 2024 summary of payroll ACH payments in the total amount of \$2,648,045, and approve the December 2024 Accounts Payable Disbursement Summary of warrants 446552 through 447023, Workers' Compensation distributions, ACH payments, virtual card payments, wire transfers, payroll withholding distributions, and voided checks in the net total amount of \$26,347,779.

8. FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 GUIDING PRINCIPLES SCORECARD

Recommendation: Receive and file.

ACTION CALENDAR

9. ORACLE EBS SOFTWARE VERSION UPGRADE

Director of Information Technology Kaneshiro shared the background of the Oracle E-Business Suite, its implementation at IRWD, and the "Error Correction" Baseline patch that is necessary to maintain compliance and security with Oracle. Following an overview of the project, on MOTION by Withers, seconded by Swan, and unanimously carried, 4-0, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CENTROID SYSTEMS, LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$352,000 TO UPGRADE IRWD'S EBS SOFTWARE TO VERSION 12.2.14 TO MEET ORACLE'S NEW ERROR CORRECTION BASELINE REQUIREMENT.

10. TECHNICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR SEISMIC MONITORING

Using a PowerPoint Presentation, Engineering Manager Moeder provided an overview of the IRWD Dam Safety Program and the USGS ShakeCast Agreement. Director Ferons reported that this item was reviewed by the Engineering and Operations Committee, and that the Committee supported the staff recommendation. Following discussion with the Board an amended recommendation was adopted, on MOTION by Ferons, seconded by Swan, and unanimously carried, 4-0, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A TECHNICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$238,911 FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND HOSTING OF IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT'S SHAKECAST NETWORK, AND UPDATE THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REGARDING THE POTENTIAL ADDITION OF OTHER IRWD FACILITIES TO THE MONITORED FACILITIES.

ACTION CALENDAR (CONTINUED)

11. SAN JOAQUIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY ITEM

General Manager Cook reported that over the years, IRWD has established “affiliated” organizations, such as Bardeen Partners and corporations related to bond issuance. Some of these organizations remain, while others have been shut down, having served their purpose. An organization that was formed by IRWD many years ago for a specific purpose was the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. The Sanctuary was established as a non-profit charitable 501(c)(3) entity to: “*promote public awareness and education of the value of marsh environments and to assist in preserving the San Joaquin Marsh,*” which is owned by IRWD.

The Sanctuary’s current primary function is as a pass-through entity for the licensing of the use of certain facilities at the San Joaquin Marsh to Sea & Sage Audubon Society. Staff believes that the Sanctuary has served its purpose, and is no longer needed to serve in that role. Staff recommends that the Sanctuary wind itself down, with IRWD assuming responsibility for continuing the work of the Sanctuary utilizing IRWD staff and the Sanctuary’s remaining funds.

Staff recommends that IRWD submit a grant proposal to the Sanctuary through which most of the funds currently held by the Sanctuary will be transferred to IRWD for purposes that align with the Sanctuary’s mission to “promote public awareness and education of the value of marsh environments and to preserve the Marsh,” which includes funding Marsh operations. Staff also recommends that IRWD cancel the license agreement between IRWD with the Sanctuary and instead directly license use of the Marsh facilities to the Sea & Sage Audubon Society.

Mr. Cook stressed that nothing about this proposal will interrupt or otherwise limit Sea & Sage’s operations at the San Joaquin Marsh. He stated that IRWD values the relationship with Sea & Sage Audubon and wants to preserve this well into the future.

After discussion with the Board, on MOTION by Withers seconded by Ferons, and unanimously carried, 4-0, THE BOARD AUTHORIZED STAFF TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE SAN JOAQUIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY FOR GRANT FUNDING TO PERFORM ACTIVITIES CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE SAN JOAQUIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE BALANCE OF ITS FUNDS, LESS ANY FUNDS NECESSARY FOR LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH WINDING DOWN THE SAN JOAQUIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY; AND AUTHORIZED STAFF TO TERMINATE, AT A TIME STAFF DEEMS APPROPRIATE, THE EXISTING LICENSE BETWEEN IRWD AND THE SAN JOAQUIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AND EXECUTE A REPLACEMENT LICENSE BETWEEN IRWD AND SEA & SAGE AUDUBON, THE TERMS OF WHICH WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE TERMINATED LICENSE.

OTHER BUSINESS

12. General Manager’s Report

In the wake of the Eaton and Palisades wildfires in Los Angeles County, Mr. Cook stated that IRWD has received some questions via calls and visits to IRWD.com regarding the status of IRWD’s fire hydrants. HOAs and other organizations are starting to inquire about the natural landscaping / brush at our District facilities. The District will be working to answer their questions and address their areas of concern.

OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

He also announced the completion of the transaction with Serrano Water District on January 15, and that bringing the Howiler Plant online to IRWD's system occurred without issue. He thanked Operations staff for making the transfer seamless; and thanked Laura Cunningham for meeting with the immediate neighbors of the plant to introduce IRWD as their new neighbor.

13. Receive oral update(s) from District liaison(s) regarding communities within IRWD's service area and interests.

Mr. Newell reported that with the recent wind and fire events, some residents in the canyons are looking to purchase private fire hoses to attach to the fire hydrants. He is working together with the Fire Authority, Fire-Safe Council, and the Inter-Canyon League to educate the residents that these actions can be detrimental to the water distribution system, the safety of their neighbors and firefighters, and that it is against the law to tamper and interfere with the fire hydrants.

14. Directors' Comments and Meeting Reports

Director Ferons reported on his meeting with Tustin Councilman Ryan Gallagher; his participation in the Water UCI: Evaluating the Efficacy of Nature-Based Solutions to Urban Water Challenges webinar; his lunch with Kadash & Associates; his participation in the Southern California Water Coalition Board Meeting and Quarterly Luncheon in Inglewood; his attendance at the Swearing-in Ceremony for 47th District of California Congressman Dave Min; and the Southern California Water Coalition Legislative Task Force Meeting via teleconference.

Director Withers reported on his participation in the WACO Monthly meeting via teleconference and the Southern California Water Coalition's Quarterly Luncheon in Inglewood.

Director Swan reported on his attendance at the WACO Planning Committee via teleconference; the MWDOC Board of Directors' Meeting via teleconference; the MWDOC Workshop Board Meeting with MWD Directors via teleconference; the WACO Monthly Meeting via teleconference; the MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting via teleconference; the MWDOC Administration & Finance Committee Meeting via teleconference; MWDOC Board of Directors' Meeting; the WACO Planning Committee Meeting; the Quarterly MWDOC / OCWD Joint Planning Committee Meeting and the Water UCI: Evaluating the Efficacy of Nature-Based Solutions to Urban Water Challenges webinar.

President Reinhart reported on his attendance at the OCWD Board of Directors Meeting via teleconference; the WACO Monthly Meeting via teleconference; the MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting via teleconference; the MWDOC Administration & Finance Committee Meeting via teleconference; OCWD Administration / Finance Issues Committee Meeting; the MWDOC Board of Directors' Meeting; OCWD Board of Directors' Meeting; Quarterly MWDOC / OCWD Joint Planning Committee Meeting; and the Southern California Water Coalition Quarterly Luncheon, Inglewood.

OTHER BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:16 p.m., President Reinhart adjourned the Board meeting.

APPROVED and SIGNED this 24th day of February 2025.

President, IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

District Secretary,
IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Claire Hervey Collins, General Counsel
Hanson Bridgett LLP