

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, DECEMBER 15, 2025:**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, December 15, 2025, at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, California, in the Board Room of the District Office. President, Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1) Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence.

At the request of President Mac Laren-Gomez, Director Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

2) Roll Call.

Attendance:

Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, President
Scott Kellerman, Vice President
Don Wilson, Treasurer
Debbie Dino, Assistant Secretary

ABSENT --

Cynthia Sanchez, Secretary

Others Present:

Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager
Scott Rogers, Assistant General Manager
Darren Ziegler, Assistant General Counsel
Viri Iguaran, Finance Manager
Shadi Bader, Engineering Manager
Angelica Garcia, Human Resources Director
Claudia Bolanos, Resource and Analytics Director
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director
Angel Abarca, Help Desk Assistant
Danielle Henry, Executive Assistant
3 members of the public

3) Adoption of Agenda.

It was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to adopt the agenda, as written.

4) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.

There were no public comments for non-agenda items.

5) Presentations:

5.1) State Legislative Summary. (Mr. Robert Reeb, Reeb Government Relations)

Mr. Robert Reeb of Reeb Government Relations presented an overview of 2025 legislative activities, including Proposition 4 Climate Resilience bond funding, AB 149 on invasive mussel species, state funding for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program, and the Delta Conveyance Project. He stated that the 2026 focus will be collaboration with State Water Contractors on the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan update after which the Board thanked Mr. Reeb for these updates.

6) Action Items - Consent Calendar: (The Public Shall Have an Opportunity to Comment on Any Action Item on the Consent Calendar as the Consent Calendar is Considered Collectively by the Board of Directors Prior to Action Being Taken.)

- 6.1) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held November 24, 2025.
- 6.2) Ratification of Payment of Bills for December 8, 2025.
- 6.3) Approval of Certification Updates to Recommended Job Descriptions. (No Budget Impact – Human Resources Director Garcia/Personnel Committee)
- 6.4) Approval of Updates to Job Description Duties for Recommended Positions. (No Budget Impact – Human Resources Director Garcia/Personnel Committee)
- 6.5) Approval of Updated Structure for Education and Years of Experience Requirements for Recommended Positions. (No Budget Impact – Human Resources Director Garcia/Personnel Committee)
- 6.6) Approval to Ratify the General Manager's Execution of the First Amendment to Professional Contract Services Agreement with California Consulting for As-Needed Grant Funding Services. (\$28,000.00 – Budgeted – Assistant General Manager Rogers)

President Mac Laren-Gomez announced the items included in the Consent Calendar after which it was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve those items included in the Consent Calendar.

7) Action Items - Action Calendar (The Public Shall Have an Opportunity to Comment on Any Action Item as Each Item is Considered by the Board of Directors Prior to Action Being Taken.)

- 7.1) Public Hearing Regarding Draft Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigated Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Pure Water

Antelope Valley Project. (No Budget Impact – Project No. 22-656 – Engineering Manager Bader)

Engineering Manager Bader presented an overview of the Draft Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigated Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Pure Water Antelope Valley Project, including the Project's purpose and components, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and findings, the key mitigation areas, staff's responses to the written comments received, the review by the State Clearinghouse, and the published notices and postings for public review followed by a brief discussion of the environmental monitoring timeline.

President Mac Laren-Gomez opened the Public Hearing at 6:26 p.m. and closed at 6:28 p.m. with no comments.

7.2) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Resolution No. 25-11 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Adopting the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pure Water Antelope Valley Project and Authorizing Staff to File the Notice of Determination with the California State Clearinghouse. (No Budget Impact – Project No. 22-656 – Engineering Manager Bader)

Engineering Manager Bader provided a brief overview of the proposed Resolution after which it was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Dino, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve Resolution No. 25-11 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Adopting the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Pure Water Antelope Valley Project and Authorizing Staff to File the Notice of Determination with the California State Clearinghouse.

Resolution No. 25-11 is hereby made a portion of the minutes of this meeting.

7.3) Consideration and Possible Action to Issue a Letter of Support for the Canyons to Desert Resource Conservation District's Monarch Butterfly, Pollinator Rescue, and Habitat Restoration Program Proposition 4 Grant Application. (No Budget Impact – General Manager LaMoreaux)

General Manager LaMoreaux introduced Mr. Neal Weisenberger from the Canyons to Desert Resource Conservation District after which Mr. Weisenberger provided an overview of Proposition 4 Grant Funding and the proposed Monarch

Butterfly, Pollinator Rescue, and Habitat Restoration Program, including the desired site locations and project costs, after which it was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to issue a letter of support for the Canyons to Desert Resource Conservation District's Monarch Butterfly, Pollinator Rescue, and Habitat Restoration Program Proposition 4 Grant Application.

7.4) Consideration and Possible Action to Direct Staff to Investigate Hosting a Native Pollinator Garden for the Canyons to Desert Resource Conservation District's Monarch Butterfly, Pollinator Rescue, and Habitat Restoration Program. (No Budget Impact – General Manager LaMoreaux)

Following a brief discussion, it was moved by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Kellerman, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to direct staff to investigate hosting a Native Pollinator Garden for the Canyons to Desert Resource Conservation District's Monarch Butterfly, Pollinator Rescue, and Habitat Restoration Program.

7.5) Consideration and Possible Action to Approve and Authorize the General Manager or His Designee to Execute Amendment No. 7 (SWP #25-818) to the Agreement for the Supply and Conveyance of Water Under the Dry Year Water Purchase Program between the Department of Water Resources and Palmdale Water District. (No Budget Impact – Resource and Analytics Director Bolanos)

Resource and Analytics Director Bolanos provided a brief overview of Amendment No. 7 (SWP #25-818) to the Dry Year Water Purchase Program Agreement, which secures an additional water source in critically dry years, extends the agreement with the Department of Water Resources through 2050, and establishes an opt-out option every five years, after which it was moved by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Kellerman, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve and authorize the General Manager or his designee to Execute Amendment No. 7 (SWP #25-818) to the Agreement for the Supply and Conveyance of Water Under the Dry Year Water Purchase Program between the Department of Water Resources and Palmdale Water District.

President Mac Laren-Gomez called a recess at 6:47 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 6:50 p.m.

7.6) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Resolution No. 25-12 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District to Approve Reimbursement of Funds Financed through the State Water Resources Control Board for the Design and Construction of the Pure Water Antelope Valley Project in an Amount up to \$207 Million. (No Budget Impact – Assistant General Manager Rogers)

Assistant General Manager Rogers provided an overview of Resolution No. 25-12 which is required for the District to apply for project funding through State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), and after a brief discussion of the CWSRF loan advantages, it was moved by Director Dino, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve Resolution No. 25-12 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District to Approve Reimbursement of Funds Financed through the State Water Resources Control Board for the Design and Construction of the Pure Water Antelope Valley Project in an Amount up to \$207 Million.

Resolution No. 25-12 is hereby made a portion of the minutes of this meeting.

7.7) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Resolution No. 25-13 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Authorizing the General Manager or His Designee to Sign and File, For and on Behalf of the District, a Financial Assistance Application for a Financing Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board for the Design and Construction of the Pure Water Antelope Valley Project. (No Budget Impact – Assistant General Manager Rogers)

Assistant General Manager Rogers provided a brief overview of Resolution No. 25-13 after which it was moved by Director Dino, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve Resolution No. 25-13 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Authorizing the General Manager or His Designee to Sign and File, For and on Behalf of the District, a Financial Assistance Application for a Financing Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board for the Design and Construction of the Pure Water Antelope Valley Project.

Resolution No. 25-13 is hereby made a portion of the minutes of this meeting.

7.8) Consideration and Possible Action on Adopting the Categorical Exemption for the Alpine Springs Mobile Home Park Project. (No Budget Impact – Assistant General Manager Rogers)

Assistant General Manager Rogers reviewed the exemptions identified through the environmental survey for the Alpine Springs Mobile Home Park water system improvements after which it was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to adopt the Categorical Exemption for the Alpine Springs Mobile Home Park Project.

7.9) Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the 2025 Salary Survey Analysis Recommendations. (\$115,000.00 – Not-to-Exceed – Annual Budget Impact – Human Resources Director Garcia/Personnel Committee)

Human Resources Director Garcia presented the 2025 Salary Survey Analysis, which utilizes the 75th percentile pay scale from 13 comparable agencies, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, to support improved recruitment and retention, after which it was moved by Director Dino, seconded by Director Kellerman, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve the 2025 Salary Survey Analysis recommendations in the not-to-exceed annual budget impact amount of \$115,000.00.

7.10) Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the 2026 Operating Budget. (Finance Manager Iguaran/Finance Committee)

Finance Manager Iguaran provided a detailed review of the proposed 2026 Operating Budget, including operating revenues based on projected sales of 15,000 acre-feet of water; non-operating revenues; operating and non-operating expenses; personnel costs, including a 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA); the consolidated profit and loss; individual department budgets; the 2026 rate increase and verified rate adjustment parameters; and the 2026 District calendar, and after clarification that the personnel expenses do not include the 2025 Salary Survey recommendations and that a capital projects budget will be presented for consideration in early 2026, it was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve the 2026 Operating Budget.

7.11) Consideration and Possible Action on Authorization of the Following Conferences, Seminars, and Training Sessions for Board and Staff Attendance within Budget Amounts Previously Approved in the 2025 Budget:

a) None at This Time.

There were no conferences, seminars, or training sessions to consider.

8) Information Items:

8.1) Reports of Directors:

a) Standing Committees; Organization Appointments; Agency Liaisons:

1) Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) Meeting – November 25 & December 9. (Director Dino, Board Liaison/President Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt.)

Director Dino reported that on November 25 and December 9, she attended the AVEK Board Meetings where the Board discussed the 2026/2027 Justin G. Lane Memorial Scholarship Endowment for Antelope Valley College students and requested that the District consider establishing a similar scholarship program for students pursuing careers in the water industry.

2) Finance Committee Meeting – November 25 & December 9. (Director Wilson, Chair/Director Kellerman/Director Sanchez, Alt.)

Director Wilson reported that on November 25 and December 9, he attended the Finance and Special Finance Committee Meetings where they discussed the 2026 Operating Budget approved this evening.

3) Personnel Committee Meeting – December 8. (Director Kellerman, Chair/President Mac Laren-Gomez/Director Dino, Alt.)

Director Kellerman reported that on December 8, he attended the Personnel Committee Meeting where they discussed and recommended the items approved this evening under the Consent Calendar.

4) Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association (AVSWCA) Meeting – December 11. (President Mac Laren-Gomez/Director Wilson/Director Kellerman, Alt.)

President Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on December 11, she attended the AVSWCA Meeting where a presentation was provided on Article 21 Water and discussions were held regarding the Littlerock Creek Recharge Project, grants opportunities, and participation in a 2026 legislative tour.

b) General Meeting Reports of Directors.

Director Kellerman reported that on November 24, he attended the Palmdale Water District (PWD) Regular Board Meeting; that on November 25, he attended the Finance Committee Meeting; that on December 1-4, he attended the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Fall Conference; that on December 6, he attended the PWD Holiday Event; that on December 8, he attended the Personnel Committee Meeting; that on December 9, he attended the Special Finance Committee Meeting; that on December 11, he attended a Board Briefing; that on December 11, he also attended the AVSWCA Meeting; and that on December 15, he is attending the PWD Regular Board Meeting.

Director Wilson reported that on November 24, he attended the PWD Regular Board Meeting; that on November 25, he attended the Finance Committee Meeting; that on December 6, he attended the PWD Holiday Event; that on December 9, he attended the Special Finance Committee Meeting; that on December 10, he attended the All-Hands Employee Meeting and Luncheon; that on December 11, he attended a Board Briefing; and that on December 11, he also attended the AVSWCA Meeting.

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on November 24, she attended the PWD Regular Board Meeting; that on December 1-4, she attended the ACWA Fall Conference; that on December 6, she participated in PWD's Float for the Antelope Valley Chambers of Commerce (AVCOC) Christmas Parade and received many compliments on the District's float; that on December 6, she also attended the PWD Holiday Event; that on December 8, she attended the Personnel Committee Meeting; that on December 9, she attended the AVEK Board Meeting; that on December 10, she attended the All-Hands Employee Meeting and Luncheon and has noticed a positive shift in employee camaraderie; that on December 11, she attended a Board Briefing; that on December 11, she also attended the AVSWCA Meeting; and that on December 15, she attended a Public Water Suppliers Meeting.

Director Dino reported that on November 24, she attended the PWD Regular Board Meeting; that on November 25, she attended the Finance Committee Meeting; that on November 25, she also attended the AVEK Board Meeting; that on December 1-4, she attended the ACWA Fall Conference; that on December 8, she attended the Personnel Committee Meeting; that on December 9, she attended the Special Finance Committee Meeting; that on December 9, she also attended the AVEK Board Meeting; that on December 11, she attended a Board Briefing; that on December 15, she is attending the PWD Regular Board Meeting; and that on December 16, she will be attending the AVEK Board Meeting.

8.2) Report of General Manager.

a) Department Activity Updates:

1) Resource and Analytics Department. (Resource and Analytics Director Bolanos)

Resource and Analytics Director Bolanos provided a detailed update of the Resource and Analytics Department's current and projected activities including community outreach and school presentations by the Water-Use Efficiency team, residential and commercial rebates, completion of required monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting, grant agreements and amendments, the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan update, booster and energy site evaluations, coordination of the AVSWCA legislative tour, staff participation in the Delta Conveyance Advocacy event, water supply transfers, sales and recharge, and the initial State Water Project Table A allocation of 10%.

2) Review of 2024 Water Loss Audit. (Resource and Analytics Director Bolanos)

She then distributed a handout and reviewed the results of the 2024 Water Loss Audit including the District's reported water loss of 6.5%.

General Manager LaMoreaux commended staff on a variety of accomplishments followed by a brief discussion of the teamwork displayed through the design and construction of the District's float for the AVCOC Christmas Parade.

8.3) Report of General Counsel.

Assistant General Counsel Ziegler extended holiday greetings on behalf of Aleshire & Wynder.

9) Board Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.

Director Dino requested that staff coordinate a future presentation by Dianne Knippel, Executive Director of AVC Foundation, regarding scholarship endowments.

There were no further requests for future agenda items.

10) Adjournment.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Cynthia Sanchez

Secretary