

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, APRIL 13, 2026:**

*A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, April 13, 2026, 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, Assistant General Manager Rogers 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  
Cynthia Sanchez, Secretary  
Debbie Dino, Assistant Secretary

**Others Present:**

Scott Rogers, Assistant General Manager  
Paul Early, General Counsel  
Viridiana Iguaran, Finance Manager  
Wendell Wall, Facilities Manager  
Joe Marcinko, Operations Manager  
James Stanton, Information Technology Manager  
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director  
Curtis Cobb, Operations Supervisor  
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 approved by the Board of Directors present 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) Legislative Updates. (Public Affairs Director Shay/Representatives for Antelope Valley State Legislators)**

Public Affairs Director Shay introduced Mr. Thomas Moreno, Representative for Senator Valladares, who provided a brief update on SB 1161 concerning California Air Resources Board (CARB) transparency and accountability and stated that Senator Valladares continues to prioritize public safety, affordability, opportunity, and good governance through transparency.

Public Affairs Director Shay then introduced Ms. Isla Garcia, Representative for Assemblymember Carrillo, who presented memorial resolutions to Director Dino in honor of

her late husband and former Palmdale Water District Director, Vincent Dino. Ms. Garcia also provided brief updates on AB 2310 regarding penalties for illegal dumping and AB 1808 concerning mitigation fees under the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act.

**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 March 23, 2026.**

**6.2) Payment of Bills for April 13, 2026.**

**6.3) Approval of Revisions to Sections 1 through 2.13.2 of the Employee Handbook. (No Budget Impact – Human Resources Director Garcia/Personnel Committee)**

**6.4) Approval to Expand the Current Salary Range Structure from Nine Steps to Twelve Steps. (No Budget Impact – Human Resources Director Garcia/Personnel Committee)**

**6.5) Approval to Increase Standby Pay under Section 3.10.1 of the Employee Handbook and to Authorize Related Budget Adjustments. (\$25,000.00 – Not-to-Exceed – Non-Budgeted – Human Resources Director Garcia/Personnel Committee)**

**6.6) Approval to Ratify Contract Amendment with Turbine Repair Services, LLC for Hydroelectric Turbine Repairs and Authorize Related Budget Adjustments. (\$21,300.00 – Not-To-Exceed – Non-Budgeted – Capital Project No. 25-612 – Facilities Manager Wall)**

President Mac Laren-Gomez announced the items included in the Consent Calendar, and following a recommendation by General Counsel Early to amend Agenda Item No. 6.6 to include amendment review and approval by General Counsel, it was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Dino, and unanimously carried by the Board members present to approve the Consent Calendar items, as amended.

**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) Consideration and Possible Action on Election of Special District Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Voting Member. (No Budget Impact – General Manager LaMoreaux)**

After a brief discussion it was moved by Director Dino, seconded by Director Sanchez, and unanimously approved by the Board of Directors present to vote for Vera Robles DeWitt as the candidate for the Election of Special District Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Voting Member.

**7.2) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Contract Change Order No. 1 with SoCal Scada Solutions for Additional Radio Replacements and Upgrades and**

**Authorization of Related Budget Adjustments. (\$69,780.00 – Non-Budgeted – Capital Project No. 24-616 – Information Technology Manager Stanton)**

Information Technology Manager Stanton provided an overview of additional radio locations that were offline during the project discovery phase and are now required for inclusion in the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) network upgrade after which it was moved by Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Kellerman, and unanimously carried by the Board of Directors present to approve Contract Change Order No. 1 with SoCal SCADA Solutions for additional radio replacements and upgrades and to authorize related budget adjustments in the amount of \$69,780.00.

**7.3) Consideration and Possible Action to Authorize the General Manager to Approve Additional Funding for Geotechnical Services with Geocon West, Inc. for the Palmdale Ditch Conversion Project. (\$150,000.00 – Budgeted – Capital Project No. 21-613 – Engineering Manager Bader)**

Assistant General Manager Rogers provided an overview of the additional geotechnical work required for the Palmdale Ditch Enclosure Project, and after a brief discussion of the project timeline, it was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously approved by the Board of Directors present to authorize the General Manager to approve additional funding for geotechnical services with Geocon West, Inc. for the Palmdale Ditch Conversion Project in the amount of \$150,000.00.

**7.4) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Hypochlorite Tank Repairs at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant and Authorization of Related Budget Adjustments. (\$85,000.00 – Not-to-Exceed – Non-Budgeted – Operations Manager Marcinko)**

Operations Manager Marcinko provided an overview of the deteriorating fiberglass resin in the hypochlorite tank discovered during the 2026 winter maintenance shutdown of the Water Treatment Plant, followed by discussion of alternative options and the complexity of a full tank replacement.

General Counsel Early then requested that the item be amended to include a condition requiring contract review and approval by General Counsel, after which it was moved by Director Kellerman, seconded by Director Sanchez, and unanimously carried by the Board members present to approve the hypochlorite tank repairs at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant, as amended, and to authorize related budget adjustments in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00.

**7.5) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Chiller Equipment Purchase and Installation for the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant and Authorization of Related Budget Adjustments. (\$67,000.00 – Not-to-Exceed – Non-Budgeted – Capital Project No. 26-605 – Operations Manager Marcinko)**

Operations Manager Marcinko presented a recommendation to purchase a chiller to reduce the hypochlorite solution temperature, thereby decreasing degradation of the hypochlorite tank fiberglass resin and noted that the original hypochlorite generator design included a space for chiller equipment, after which it was moved by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Dino, and unanimously carried by the Board members present to approve the chiller equipment purchase in the not-to-exceed amount of \$67,000.00.

**7.6) Consideration And Possible Action on Approval of Contract Amendment with Weber Water Resources for the Rehabilitation of Wells 2A and 3A and Authorization of Related Budget Adjustments. (\$135,500.00 – Not-To-Exceed – Non-Budgeted – Capital Project Nos. 26-600 and 26-601 – Facilities Manager Wall)**

Facilities Manager Wall provided an overview of the proposed amendment, including the installation of hydraulic patches identified through casing inspection during the rehabilitation of Wells 2A and 3A, and after discussion regarding the expected longevity of the repairs, potential future patching, and long-term solutions, it was moved by Director Sanchez, seconded by Director Dino, and unanimously carried by the Board members present to approve a Contract Amendment with Weber Water Resources for the rehabilitation of Wells 2A and 3A and to authorize related budget adjustments in the not-to-exceed amount of \$135,000.00.

**7.7) 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 2026 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 – March 24. (Director Dino, Board Liaison/President Mac Laren-Gomez, Alt.)**

Director Dino reported that on March 24, she attended the AVEK Board Meeting and highlighted their generous donation to her Kids Feeding Kids Program.

**2) Personnel Committee Meeting – March 30. (Director Kellerman, Chair/President Mac Laren-Gomez/Director Dino, Alt.)**

Director Kellerman reported that on March 30, he attended the Personnel Committee Meeting where they approved leadership training for Level III staff members and discussed and recommended the consent calendar approved this evening.

**3) Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting – April 4. (Director Wilson/Director Kellerman, Alt.)**

Director Wilson reported that on April 4, he attended the Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting where they discussed their new ice machine and rental boat purchase, as well as the financial cost of the clay pigeon clean-up.

**4) Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Association (AVSWCA) Meeting – April 9. (President Mac Laren-Gomez/Director Wilson/Director Kellerman, Alt.)**

President Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on April 9, she attended the AVSWCA Meeting where they discussed the legislative tour that was held on April 1, as well as the issues Littlerock Irrigation District is experiencing with illegal dumping and water theft.

**b) General Meeting Reports of Directors.**

Director Kellerman reported on his attendance at the All-Hands Employee Meeting and Luncheon on March 26, the Personnel Committee Meeting on March 30, the AVSWCA Legislative Tour on April 1, the Special Districts of North Los Angeles County (SDANLAC) Luncheon on April 2, the Littlerock Ad Hoc Committee Meeting on April 8, a Board Briefing on April 9, and the Palmdale Water District (PWD) Regular Board Meeting on April 13.

Director Wilson reported on his attendance at the PWD Regular Board Meeting on March 23, the Palmdale Fin & Feather Club Meeting on April 4, and a Board Briefing on April 9.

Director Sanchez reported on her attendance of a CSDA on-demand webinar titled Building Tomorrow: Mastering Capital Project Financing for Special Districts on March 30, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Palmdale School District's Expanded Learning Opportunities Center (ELOC) on April 3, the Water Ambassadors Academy on April 8, and a Board Briefing on April 9.

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported on her attendance at the Watermaster Meeting on March 25, the Personnel Committee Meeting on March 30, the AVSWCA Legislative Tour on April 1, and Agenda Review Briefing on April 1, the SDANLAC Luncheon on April 2, the Littlerock Ad Hoc Committee Meeting on April 8, the Water Ambassadors Academy on April 8, and a Board Briefing on April 9.

Director Dino reported on her attendance at the PWD Regular Board Meeting on March 23, the AVEK Board Meeting on March 24, the All-Hands Employee Meeting and Luncheon on March 26, the Personnel Committee Meeting on March 30, a CSDA on-demand webinar on April 1, the SDANLAC Luncheon on April 2, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Palmdale

School District's ELOC on April 3, a Board Briefing on April 9, and the PWD Regular Board Meeting on April 13.

**8.2) Report of General Manager.**

**a) Department Activity Updates:**

**1) Information Technology Department. (IT Manager Stanton)**

Information Technology Manager Stanton provided a detailed overview of department activities, including strategic infrastructure initiatives, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) modernization, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) transformation and data enablement, enterprise IT operations, security and resilience efforts, end-user systems and facilities technology, and the submission of an application for the Cal OES Cyber Security Grant.

**8.3) Report of General Counsel.**

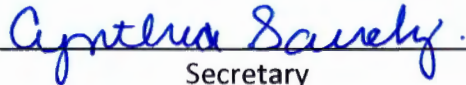
General Counsel Early stated that he has no report this evening.

**9) Board Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

**10) Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

  
Secretary