

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2026
DISTRICT OFFICE**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Director Rodriguez (Board President), Director Valdez, Director Peranick, Director Dutcher, Director Silva, Neal Costanzo, Jason Franklin, Julia Razo, Harrison Hughes, Bridget Saito/G. Saito & Co., CPAs
3. **AGENDA CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** To better accommodate members of the public or inconvenience in the order of presentation, items on the agenda may not be presented or acted upon in the order listed. Additions to the Agenda may be added only pursuant to California Government Code Section 54954.2 (b).
4. **POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Any Board member who has a potential conflict of interest may now identify the item and recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the matter.
5. **CONSENT CALENDAR:** All items listed under the Consent Calendar category are considered routine. The complete Consent Calendar will be enacted by one motion by roll call vote. For purposes of discussion, any Board member may have an item removed from the Consent Calendar and made part of the regular agenda. The Board can then approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar.
 - 5.1 Consideration and approval of the regular meeting minutes of the Board of Directors of 07/08/26
Motion By: Director Dutcher **Second By:** Director Silva
All voted in favor to accept the minutes of 07/08/26 meeting as presented.
 - 5.2 Bills Payable for July 2026 as presented.
Bills payable for July 2026 were not available—will be provided at the September Board Meeting.
6. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: NOTICE(S) TO THE PUBLIC:** At this time, any member of the public may address the Board of Directors regarding any item not on the meeting agenda over which the Board has jurisdiction. No action or discussion will be taken on any item not on the agenda. Issues raised will be referred to the General Manager for review. Members of the public shall limit their remarks to five (5) minutes.
7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE**
8. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 8.1. Harrison Hughes informed that the Planning Application for Wells 5 & 9 is still in progress. The Environmental Report was reviewed & accepted, and Harrison will be coordinating with JoAnn regarding what's needed to complete the Financial Package portion. He states that it will still be several months before the State approves the Planning Application.
Director Dutcher inquired regarding whether any District wells have emergency power backup, in the event of a power outage. Harrison replied that the none of the wells have that capability and there is no State funding currently available for it. They have estimated a cost of approximately \$95,000 per site to add backup generators, power and site improvements—and that's just for construction costs & not including design/Engineering, etc. General discussion ensued regarding the District's well capabilities in the event of a partial or complete power outage. Director Dutcher inquired regarding how many kilowatts a site needs for the size of the District wells & Harrison stated he was uncertain, but could check on it and report back. Director Dutcher's thinking is that as an interim solution, perhaps the District could look into having PG & E bring in natural gas to the well site(s) and the District could utilize a Generac-type of generator for backup. His concern stems from the incidents at several water systems across the US which have had their systems hacked and/or compromised recently. Jason informed that all of the District controls are manual and totally autonomous from each other & there are no electronic controls. The well are checked daily for operations and troubleshooting.
Additional discussion continued, with the Board expressing general concern regarding the District's system vulnerability & noted that other area water systems have backup measures in place. Jason informed that the District would need 2 or 3 well sites running in order to provide adequate service to our area in the event of an outage. Director Rodriguez suggested that the District could perhaps contract with an outside vendor to obtain emergency power if needed. Director Dutcher informed that the cost of a Generac-type generator for something that serves a 200-amp

home is around \$6,000 retail, plus the cost of the infrastructure for the gas lines, etc. and that might be a more immediate solution that would be less costly to the District.

8.2 Bridget Saito provided a basic Cash Flow report to the Board and answered general questions

9. **DEFERRED BUSINESS:** NONE

10. **CORRESPONDENCE:** NONE

11. **BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS:**

11.1 Manager's Report

11.1.1 2026-27 Proposed Budget & Projected Revenue

Jason informed that the costs for Backhoe purchase and Elections have been added as line items in the budget. Director Dutcher inquired regarding FYE 06/30/26 Projected Revenue and billing & stated they would like information about how close we were in our projections. Director Dutcher also stated that he was not entertaining the idea of the District purchasing a Backhoe.

Director Dutcher motioned to continue with the 2025-2026 budget levels for another month.

Director Peranick seconded.

All voted in favor to continue with 2025-2026 budget levels for another month.

11.1.2 Update on District Backhoe Purchase:

Jason informed that he has found a backhoe through an equipment broker in Texas. It's a 2024 Kubota with only 230 hours of use. It can be purchased and shipped here for approximately \$54,000. The same model brand new would cost around \$77,000 in Fresno. It's diesel-fueled and California CARB-compliant. Director Dutcher inquired regarding financing/leasing options; Director Peranick informed that in his recent experience the interest rates are 6-7.5% , making it less costly for the District to just buy the equipment outright. Discussion continued regarding which bank account to fund the purchase of the backhoe, with the outcome being that the LAIF account could possibly be utilized for funding the purchase.

Director Peranick motioned to give Jason the go-ahead to purchase the backhoe upon inspection by a third party. Director Dutcher seconded.

All voted in favor to give Jason the go-ahead to purchase the backhoe upon inspection by a third party.

11.2 Attorney's Report: From the July 22 continued meeting, the Reportable Action was to file the suit which is listed in Closed Session for this meeting.

11.3 Board President's Report: NONE

11.4 Director's Report(s): NONE

12. **ADJOURNMENT:** Adjourned to Closed Session at 6:15 p.m.

Motion By: Director Silva **Second By:** Director Valdez

All voted in favor to adjourn to Closed Session.

13. **CLOSED SESSION:**

13.1 Pending Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9

Pinedale County Water District v. James A. Kus, Fresno County Clerk & Registrar of Voters

FCSCT Case No. 26CU02177

14. **RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION:** 7:02 p.m..

14.1 Reportable Action: None

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** Reconvened meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Motion By: Director Dutcher **Second By:** Director Peranick

All voted in favor to adjourn.

APPROVED BY:

SUBMITTED BY:

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
BOARD PRESIDENT

JOANN VIERRA
DISTRICT SECRETARY