

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9, 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, JoAnn Vierra, Harrison Hughes, Bridget Saito/G. Saito & Co., CPAs. Also in attendance: Alison Lechowicz/LT Municipal Consultants
- 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 08/12/26
Motion By: Director Peranick **Second By:** Director Valdez
Directors Peranick, Valdez & Rodriguez voted in favor to accept the minutes of 08/12/26 meeting as presented. Directors Dutcher & Silva were not yet present at this meeting.
 - 5.2** Bills Payable for July & August 2026 as presented.
Motion By: Director Valdez **Second By:** Director Peranick
Directors Valdez, Peranick, Rodriguez, Dutcher & Silva voted in favor to accept the Bills Payable lists for July & August 2026 as presented.
- 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.** Alison Lechowicz/LT Municipal Consultants presented the Proposed Water Rate Study to the Board, reviewed the information and answered questions. They are recommending a \$200,000 annual water rate increase for the next 5 years, which is about a 3% increase per year and will keep the District's rates lower than the City of Fresno's rates while still covering the increased costs in operations. General discussion ensued, with the Board asking Jason what the increase has been in the water being pumped by the District's wells. Jason will obtain that information and report back. The Board also asked about the Restricted Funds account and where the money in that account came from. JoAnn informed that she had sent the information to everyone in earlier this year, and she will update the numbers and email it to the Board. Director Dutcher stated that it's difficult to see the District's rates raising to within \$1 of the City of Fresno's rates when the District doesn't have the same resources as the City of Fresno. He states that the District has a lot of expense to service 2,500 customers, and suggested that the Board should be considering consolidating with the City of Fresno. He stated that other districts in the area don't have the option to tie into a much larger system such as the City of Fresno, and that taking into consideration the long-term costs to deliver services he believes it should be considered. Director Dutcher also stated that he would be happy to start the conversation with LAFCO and the City of Fresno, if that was the Board's wish. Director Rodriguez & Director Valdez informed that LAFCO has no authority over a consolidation. Director Dutcher stated he would not move forward with a Rate Study unless the Board seriously discussed consolidating with the City of Fresno. Director Peranick stated something of that nature could take a very long time, and the District needs to do something now, not later. Neal stated that the proposed rates are below the City of Fresno, the District is operating at a slight deficit and his opinion is that it's rational to adopt the Rate Study to go into effect on January 1, 2027. He states that the City of Fresno is

transitioning from well water to surface water, which is more expensive for them. and a lot of the City's wells are contaminated. Because of this, he doesn't think that the City is showing a profit with their water enterprise.

Alison indicated that if the Rate Study is to be implemented by January 1, 2027 the Board would need to make a decision by the October board meeting, in order to provide the notifications which are legally required prior to the implementation of the increased rates. She also informed that the District is losing revenue each month that the rate increase is not in effect.

Director Valdez motioned that a Special Board meeting be held on 09/30/26 to make a decision.

Director Peranick seconded. All of the board members agreed, and a Special Board meeting will be held on 09/30/26, at which time a decision will be made regarding the Rate Study. The District will reach out to Alison at that time to inform her of the decision.

- 8.2 Harrison Hughes reported that the Planning Application Project for Well #5 & 10 is still in process. He is working with JoAnn to obtain some additional information that's required and once that's been submitted, he hopes that a determination will be made on whether the District will receive funding. He informs that there is funding available and once the District is approved, we should get funded for the initial stage of the project. Overall, it will be a several million dollar project by the time it's completed.

Regarding the subject of backup generators for the District's well sites (continued from last months' meeting):

Harrison has spoken with P & P's Municipal Engineers--who do a lot of well site projects. They indicate that although natural gas generators can be used, they have never utilized natural gas generators--only diesel generators. Harrison also talked with some Operations & Maintenance people, who state that they typically see only diesel generators in use. They do not recommend trying to use a 3rd party to provide backup generator service. While there could be issues with either type of generator, the general consensus is that in order to be completely independent, a diesel generator is what is used. They would be stationary, and the District would be strategic as to where they would be placed in order to best serve the needs of the District. An average cost for diesel generator would be around \$100,000 and that cost would double for a natural gas generator. General discussion continued regarding the District's options, and what would be done in the event of a disaster. Harrison stated there also may be funding available for the placement of backup generators, and he's reached out to SWRCB regarding whether there are funding sources available.

- 8.3 Bridget Saito provided cash flow information. She is still working with JoAnn on streamlining the District's processes and will continue with that. She reported that, after speaking with JoAnn, the \$2,600 deposit into the Restricted Funds account was for a meter that was ordered for a construction project on Herndon. The property owner originally paid the connection fees but did not include the cost for the meter. JoAnn will check on whether the District used the \$2,600 to actually pay for the meter or whether it was paid for from the General Checking account, and will transfer the money from the Restricted Funds account for the cost of the meter if not already done.

- 8.4 Resolution 2026-04 Amending the PCWD Conflict of Interest Code

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 2026-04 Amending the PCWD Conflict of Interest Code

Neal explained the COI code and informed that this is updated every couple of years, it's a standard boilerplate code. Director Silva inquired regarding what changes were made and stated she would have liked to see the old code to see what changes were made. Neal informed that the only change was that one position was created for a Consultant.

Motion by: Director Peranick

Second by: Director Dutcher

All voted in favor to adopt Resolution 2026-04

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 Board has been provided with information about the District’s Projected Revenue from FYE 06/30/26 vs. the Actual Revenue. This information is provided as an FYI for the Board. Regarding the 2026-27 Proposed Budget, Director Dutcher suggested that it would be prudent to increase the budgeted amount for G/L 1.5660-Legal/Accounting to allow for anticipated costs for the ongoing litigation with the City of Fresno. After general discussion, it was decided to increase the budgeted amount from \$60,000 to \$80,000. This would change the total budget from \$3,469,500.00 to \$3,489,500.00. JoAnn will make the changes and email the amended Budget to the board. Director Peranick motioned to accept the amended budget for 2026-27; Director Silva seconded. All voted in favor to accept the amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Jason informed that the backhoe has arrived, there are a couple of things that it needs (mirrors, turn signals, etc.) and that it was inspected & found to be in good condition. Discussion was had regarding selling the old backhoe and how to proceed with that.

11.2 Attorney’s Report: Neal stated that on July 22, the Board authorized the filing of an appeal from the order denying the District’s installment payments with the City of Fresno, and that he in fact did file the appeal on August 26 and that is a reportable action. Neal informed that Board President Rodriguez will be out of the State during the time of the October 14 regular Board meeting and proposed that the regular meeting be moved to October 7, 2026. All 5 board members were in agreement, and the meeting date will be changed to October 7.

11.3 Board President's Report: NONE

11.4 Director’s Report(s): NONE

12. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.
Motion By: Director Dutcher Second By: Director Peranick
All voted in favor to adjourn

13. CLOSED SESSION: NONE
14. RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION: NONE
15. ADJOURNMENT: NONE

APPROVED BY:	SUBMITTED BY:
 DAVID RODRIGUEZ BOARD PRESIDENT	 JOANN VIERRA DISTRICT SECRETARY