



**BOARD PRESIDENT**

*John P. Powell Jr.*

**DIVISION 3**

**VICE PRESIDENT**

*Castulo R. Estrada*

**DIVISION 5**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**January 28, 2025**

[www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org)

**DIRECTOR**

*John Aguilar*

**DIVISION 1**

**DIRECTOR**

*Anthony Bianco*

**DIVISION 2**

**DIRECTOR**

*Peter G. Nelson*

**DIVISION 4**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President John Powell, Jr., called the regular meeting of the Coachella Valley Water District Board of Directors to order at 8:02 a.m., on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at the office of the District in Coachella, California.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Board President John Powell, Jr.  
Vice President Castulo Estrada  
Director Anthony Bianco  
Director Peter Nelson

Absent: Director John Aguilar

Staff Present: General Manager Jim Barrett  
General Counsel Jeff Ferre  
Clerk of the Board Sylvia Bermudez

**3. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

In accordance with the section 54954.2 of the Government Code additions to the agenda require a two-thirds vote of the legislative body, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, which makes the determination that there is a need to take action, and the need to take action arose after the posting of the Agenda.

A. Items removed or continued from the Agenda

B. Emergency items added to the Agenda

C. Changes to the order of the Agenda



**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment.

**5. SPECIAL PRESENTATION & RECOGNITIONS**

A. Employee Recognition for January 2025

***Anniversaries***

- Marcos Ayala, Canal Water Technician I, 20 Years
- Chris Flores, Operations Supervisor, Stormwater, Canal, & Drainage, 20 Years (*not attending*)

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- A. Administration – Approve American Public Works Association (APWA) membership dues in the amount of \$1,033.00 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
- B. Administration – Accept and file the Secretary's Report of Written Instruments Accepted and Recorded during the month of November 2024
- C. Administration – Accept and file the Secretary's Report of Written Instruments Accepted and Recorded during the month of December 2024
- D. Administration – Accept and file the General Manager's Report of Authorizations, Executions and Acceptance of Documents for November 2024
- E. Administration – Accept and file the General Manager's Report of Authorizations, Executions and Acceptance of Documents for December 2024.
- F. Administration – Accept and File the General Manager's Report of Activities for November 2024
- G. Administration – Accept and File the General Manager's Report of Activities for December 2024
- H. Clerk of the Board – Minutes of the January 14, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Coachella Valley Water District Board of Directors



## COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

*Established in 1918 as a public agency*

- I. Engineering – Approve Task Order No. 12 to the Professional Services Agreement with Black & Veatch in the amount of \$49,998 for additional engineering design services for the Young's Farmland NPW Pipeline and WRP 7 Phase 1 Non-Potable Water Improvements Project and authorize the General Manager to execute Task Order No. 12.
- J. Finance – Authorize staff to publish a public notice of accumulated unclaimed monies through June 30, 2021, up to the amount of \$23,721.87, for the purpose of returning unclaimed monies to the originating fund
- K. Finance – Approval of Resolution No. 2025-02, authorizing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Grant Application for the Avenue 66 Trunk Sewer Project
- L. Human Resources-Risk – Approve and authorize the General Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Ramp Health, LLC for Onsite Wellness Coaching and Nutrition Counseling Services in the amount of \$129,996 to provide onsite wellness coaching services and virtual nutrition counseling to CVWD employees

***On a motion by Director, Peter Nelson second by Vice President, Castulo Estrada***, the board approved the Consent Calendar, items 6A through 6L.

Approved by the following roll vote:

**Ayes:** Powell, Estrada, Bianco, Nelson

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Aguilar

**Motion Passed:** 4-0

### **7. ITEM(S) PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION**

### **8. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A. **Conduct Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Resolution of Necessity to Commence an Eminent Domain Proceeding to Acquire 5.781 Acres of Vacant Land, Located in the Unincorporated Area of Thousand Palms in Riverside County, California, Portions of APNs 651-130-057, 651-140-013, 651-140-014, 651-140-015, and 651-140-016**  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**



Staff recommends that the Board of Directors conduct a public hearing and approve Resolution 2025-03, entitled A Resolution of Necessity of the Board of Directors of the Coachella Valley Water District ("CVWD") for the Acquisition by Eminent Domain of a Fee Interest within Certain Real Property located in the Unincorporated Area of Thousand Palms in Riverside County California, and identified as portions of Assessor Parcel Nos. 651-130-057, 651-140-013, 651-140-014, 651-140-015, and 651-140-016, for the Thousand Palms Flood Control Project ("Project"); Authorize Legal Counsel to commence an eminent domain proceeding to acquire portions of Assessor Parcel Nos. 651-130-057, 651-140-013, 651-140-014, 651-140-015, and 651-140-016 (collectively, the "Subject Property") for the Thousand Palms Flood Control Project; Authorize the General Manager to execute any and all documents in the name of the Coachella Valley Water District needed to commence and process an eminent domain proceeding to acquire portions of Assessor Parcel Nos. 651-130-057, 651-140-013, 651-140-014, 651-140-015, and 651-140-016 for the Thousand Palms Flood Control Project; Authorize the following expenditures, for a total cost of \$122,700:

***On a motion by Board President, John Powell second by Vice President, Castulo Estrada,*** the board tabled and continued the matter to the February 25, 2025 Board meeting and directed staff to provide additional information for the February 25 meeting.

Approved by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Powell, Estrada, Bianco, Nelson

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Aguilar

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

## 9. ACTION CALENDAR

### Clerk of the Board

- A. **Review of current Board committee assignments and update for the 2025 year**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** It is recommended the Board President review the current committee assignments and update for the upcoming 2025 calendar year. Additionally, it is requested the Board discuss the current meeting per diem of \$223 and provide direction to staff for potential updates.



**On a motion by Director, Peter Nelson second by Director, Anthony Bianco**, the board approved updates to the committee assignments for the 2025 year to include the following updates:

1. removed Director Powell and added Director Estrada to the Golf & Water Task Force
2. added Director Powell as a member and Director Estrada as an alternate to the Finance Committee
3. added Director Nelson as an alternate to the Legislative Committee

No action was taken related to the meeting stipend at this time.

Approved by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Powell, Estrada, Bianco, Nelson

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Aguilar

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

- B. **Local Community Contributions and Sponsorship Policy**  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Review the draft policy and provide feedback and direction for staff to return with a final policy for adoption.

No action taken; Direction to staff to revise the policy and bring back to the board.

### Engineering

- C. **Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Special Domestic Water System Installation Agreement with the Desert Recreation District.**  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Special Domestic Water System Installation Agreement with the Desert Recreation District.

**On a motion by Director, Anthony Bianco second by Director, Peter Nelson**, the board approved and authorized the General Manager to execute a Special Domestic Water System Installation Agreement with the Desert Recreation District.

Approved by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Powell, Estrada, Bianco, Nelson

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Aguilar

**Motion Passed: 4-0**



**Finance**

- D. **Adopt the District's 2025 Investment Policy and Approve Resolution No. 2025-04**  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approve Resolution 2025-04, adopting the District's 2025 Investment Policy.

*On a motion by Board President, John Powell second by Director, Peter Nelson*, the board approved Resolution No. 2025-04, a Resolution adopting the District's 2025 Investment Policy.

Approved by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Powell, Estrada, Bianco, Nelson

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Aguilar

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

**Service & Communication**

- E. **Adoption of the CVWD Legislative & Policy Platform for 2025-2026**  
**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Staff requests Board adoption of the District's biennial Legislative and Policy Platform.

*On a motion by Director, Peter Nelson second by Vice President, Castulo Estrada*, the board adopted

Approved by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Powell, Estrada, Bianco, Nelson

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Aguilar

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

**10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND REPORTS**

- A. Written Communications to the Board as filed
- I. Written Communications January 15 – January 28, 2025
- B. Reports to be Filed – None
- C. Informational Presentations to the Board
- I. Presentation of Chandler Investment Performance Report for quarter ended December 31, 2024



- II. Quarterly update of Enterprise Resource Planning (Workday) and Utility Billing Customer Information System (SpryPoint) implementations.

## **11. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A. Board General Comments**

- Director Nelson reported that it has been a dry year; however, early snowfall in the Colorado Water Basin was well above 100%. He also mentioned that the State Water Project reservoir levels are high, and the State Water Project is operating at 15% capacity. Additionally, Director Nelson informed about an Executive Order issued by President Trump, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide a plan for releasing more water.
- Director Bianco reported on the State Water Board's mandates regarding check valves and the obligation for CVWD to oversee the installation of double-check valves.
- Director Estrada had no report.
- Director Powell had no report.

### **B. Board Requests for Future Agenda Items – None**

## **12. BOARD MEETING REPORTS**

### **A. Meetings and Conference Reports**

- i. November 14, 2024, Colorado River Board Meeting (Director Estrada)  
\*\*Did not attend
- ii. November 18, 2024, Agua Caliente Mediation Meeting (Director Estrada)
- iii. November 19, 2024, CVWD Chromium-6 Pipe Rig Tour (Director Estrada)
- iv. November 20, 2024, Disadvantaged Community Infrastructure Task Force Meeting (Director Estrada) \*\*Did not attend
- v. December 4-6, 2024, Colorado River Water Users Annual Conference (Director Estrada)
- vi. December 4, 2024, Colorado River Board Meeting (Director Estrada)





- vii. December 7, 2024, Employee Appreciation Dinner (Director Estrada)
- viii. December 9, 2024, Agua Caliente Mediation Meeting (Director Estrada)
- ix. January 15, 2025, Colorado River Board Meeting (Director Nelson)
- x. January 15, 2025, Six Agency Committee Meeting (Director Nelson)
- xi. January 15, 2025, Disadvantaged Community Infrastructure Task Force Meeting (Directors Powell and Estrada) \*\*Did not attend
- xii. January 16, 2025, Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Directors Aguilar and Estrada) \*\*continue to 2/11 for Director Aguilar
- xiii. January 21, 2025, Board Study Session (Powell, Bianco, Aguilar)
- xiv. January 23, 2025, Meeting to discuss the Thousand Palms and Berger Projects (Directors Powell and Estrada)

#### **Additional Meetings Reported**

- xv. December 13, 2024, Meeting with Salton Sea Authority Executive Director (Director Estrada)
- xvi. January 9, 2024, Meeting with Salton Sea Authority Executive Director (Director Estrada)
- xvii. January 10-12, 2025, Water Education for Latino Leaders, Untap Fellowship class of 2025 (Director Estrada)
- xviii. January 15, 2025, Agua Caliente Principals Meeting (Directors Powell and Estrada)
- xix. January 17, 2025, ACWA Region 9 Tour of the Mission Springs Water District Water Reclamation Plant (Director Nelson)
- xx. January 17, 2025, Meeting with Salton Sea Authority Executive Director O'Dowd in preparation for the upcoming meetings with California Natural Resources Agency's new Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy, Joe Shea (Director Estrada)
- xxi. January 20, 2025, California Farm Water Coalition Meeting (Director Nelson)
- xxii. January 24, 2025, Zoom Meeting Agua Caliente - Presentation on Memorandum of cooperation (Directors Powell and Estrada)
- xxiii. January 27, 2025, Presentation meeting with the Thermal Oasis Community Council to update on several projects in the area (Director Estrada)





- B. Approval of per-diem for meetings reported

***On a motion by Director, Peter Nelson second by Director, Anthony Bianco***, the board approved per diem for meetings reported.

Approved by the following vote:

**Ayes:** Powell, Estrada, Bianco, Nelson

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Aguilar

**Motion Passed: 4-0**

### 13. REPORTS

- A. General Manager, Jim Barrett, had no report.
- B. Counsel, Jeff Ferre reported on the recent decision of the Delta Stewardship Council that DWR's proposed geotechnical activities for the Delta Conveyance Project are not covered actions requiring approval by the Delta Stewardship Council.
- C. Departments – None

### 14. CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION  
Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9 (a) Name of Case: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians v. Coachella Valley Water District, et al., Case No. 5:13-cv-00883-JGB (SPx)
- B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION  
Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9 (a) Name of Case: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians v. Coachella Valley Water District, et al., Case No. 5:20-cv-00174-JGB-SPx
- C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957  
Title: General Manager

### 15. RECONVENE

- A. Report out of Closed Session



Board President John Powell convened the meeting to Open Session and announced there were no reportable actions.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Board President Powell adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the District's Palm Desert office.

DRAFT