

# Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rowland Water District September 9, 2025 – 6:00 p.m. 3021 Fullerton Road Rowland Heights, CA 91748

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

# **ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS**

President John Bellah Vice President Vanessa Hsu Director Robert W. Lewis Director Anthony J. Lima Director Szu Pei Lu-Yang

## **ABSENT:**

None

# **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Joseph Byrne, Legal Counsel, Best Best & Krieger Mike Ti, Three Valleys Municipal Water District Jody Roberto, Three Valleys Municipal Water District Sylvie Lee, Three Valleys Municipal Water District Erin LaCombe, CV Strategies Chris Palmer, California Special Districts Association

# ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT STAFF

Tom Coleman, General Manager Dusty Moisio, Assistant General Manager Myra Malner, Director of Finance Allen Davidson, Director of Operations Gabriela Palomares, Executive Services Manager

ADDITION(S) TO THE AGENDA - None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None.

## DIRECTOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION PURSUANT TO GOV. CODE §54953(f)

- Notifications Due to Just Cause None.
- Requests Due to Emergency Circumstances None.

#### 1. SPECIAL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

Mr. Chris Palmer of the California Special District Association presented the District with special recognition for successfully completing the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence program through the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF).

#### 2. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon motion by Director Lu-Yang, seconded by Director Hsu, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved as follows:

- 2.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held on August 12, 2025
- 2.2 Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting held on August 26, 2025
- 2.3 Demands on General Fund Account for August 2025
- **2.4** Investment Report for July 2025
- 2.5 Water Purchases for July 2025
- **2.6** California Reservoir Conditions (Motion passed 5-0)
- Board members took a moment to add September 23, 2025, Special Board meeting, and October 14, 2025, Regular Board meeting to their calendars.

#### 3. ACTION ITEMS

## 3.1 Review and Approve Directors' Meeting Reimbursements for August 2025

Upon review and discussion of the Meeting Reimbursement Report included in the Board packet, a miscalculation of Director Lima's total payment amount was brought to staff's attention. It was noted this adjustment will be reflected in October's deposit statement.

Upon motion by Director Lima, seconded by Director Lu-Yang, the Board unanimously approved the Directors' Meeting Reimbursement Report, as corrected. (Motion passed 5-0)

# 3.2 Claim for Damages Submitted by Eisenberg Law Group on Behalf of Sau Ha Wong

Board members reviewed and discussed the claim for damages submitted to the District on or about August 11, 2025, by Eisenberg Law Group on behalf of Sau Ha Wong included in the Board packet.

Following discussion, upon motion by Director Lu-Yang, seconded by Director Lima, the Board unanimously rejected the claim for damages submitted by Eisenberg Law Group on behalf of Sau Ha Wong and directed staff to send a formal notice of rejection to Eisenberg Law Group PC in care of Sau Ha Wong. (Motion passed 5-0)

3.3 Adoption of Resolution No. 9-2025, Joint Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, The Board of Trustees of the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District, Board of Directors of County Sanitation District Number 21 of Los Angeles County, the Board of Directors of the Rowland Water District, the Board of Directors of Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Approving and Accepting the

# Negotiated Exchange of Property Tax Revenues Resulting from Annexation of TR 82400 to County Lighting Maintenance District 1687

Upon motion by Director Lewis, seconded by Director Lu-Yang, the Board unanimously adopted Rowland Water District Resolution No. 9-2025, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Bellah, Hsu, Lewis, Lima, Lu-Yang

NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

(Motion pass 5-0)

# 3.4 Adopt a Proclamation Declaring Water Professionals Appreciation Week

Board members were asked to consider adopting a proclamation designating the week of October 4-12, 2025, as Water Professionals Week. General Manager Tom Colmen explained that this week aims to recognize the vital role water industry employees play in providing safe and reliable water to communities across California. RWD plans to honor its employees by featuring them on social media, issuing a proclamation, and organizing various recognition activities during this designated week.

Upon motion by Director Lu-Yang, seconded by Director Lima, the Board unanimously proclaimed the week of October 4-12, 2025, as Water Professionals Appreciation Week. (Motion passed 5-0)

# 3.5 Consider Approval of FY 2024/2025 Carryforward of Unexpended Capital Project Funding Board members were asked to authorize the carryforward of unexpended yet committed capital project funding amounting to \$5,306,793 at the end of FY 2024/2025. Director of Finance Myra Malner explained that carrying the funds forward to FY 2025/2026 budget would ensure continuity of ongoing capital improvement projects.

Upon motion by Director Lima, seconded by Director Hsu, the Board unanimously approved the carryforward of unexpended capital project funding from FY 2024/2025 in the amount of \$5,306,793, to FY 2025/2026 budget. (Motion passed 5-0)

# 3.6 Approve Additional Funds in the Amount of \$128,000 for Warehouse-Locker Room/Breakroom Remodel

Assistant General Manager Dusty Moisio provided an update on the remodeling project of the District's warehouse, locker rooms, breakroom, and laboratory. He requested the Board's consideration of an additional allocation of \$128,000 to cover expenses that were not included in the original project budget.

Upon motion by Director Lu-Yang, seconded by Director Hsu, the Board unanimously approved the allocation of \$128,000 for the Warehouse-Locker Room/Breakroom Remodel project. (Motion passed 5-0)

# 3.7 Approve FY 2024-2025 Overbudget for Total Expenditures

Director of Finance Myra Malner requested the Board's approval of \$74,808 to address expenditures that exceeded the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget.

Upon motion by Director Lu-Yang, seconded by Director Hsu, the Board unanimously approved additional expenditures in amount of \$74,808 exceeding the FY 2024-2025 adopted budget. (Motion passed 5-0)

# 3.8 Approve Additional Funds in the Amount of \$40,000 for Joint Water Line Control/Pressure Reducing Structure New Roof Replacement

Assistant General Manager Dusty Moisio presented a request for an additional allocation of \$40,000 for the Joint Water Line Control/Pressure Reducing Structure project to cover the cost of a new roof replacement.

Upon motion by Director Lu-Yang, seconded by Director Hsu, the Board unanimously approved additional funds in the amount of \$40,000 for the Joint Water Line Control/Pressure Reducing Structure new roof replacement. (Motion passed 5-0)

#### 4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – None.

#### 5. PUBLIC RELATIONS

# 5.1 Community Relations and Education Update

Executive Services Manager Gabriela Palomares reported on ongoing outreach activities including promotion of the Direct Install Program, which has generated 89 residential water use survey requests to date, with 46 surveys completed and eight qualified irrigation retrofits valued at up to \$650. She also advised that the Mini Solar Challenge will be held on October 7, 2025, and that participating teachers will receive a RWD special edition "water ambassador" t-shirt.

# 5.2 Communications Outreach (CV Strategies)

The Board received a report on recent communications outreach activities performed by CV Strategies. Ms. Erin LaCombe stated that the preparation of the Proposition 218 notice has been completed and that notification to customers of the November 4, 2025, Prop 218 public hearing for the proposed changes to water rates and service charges will meet statutory disclosure deadlines. Her report also included media coverage generated from recent press releases drafted on the District's behalf.

6. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, OR EVENTS (INCLUDING ITEMS THAT MAY HAVE ARISEN AFTER THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA) – Director Lewis noted his interest in attending ACWA's Regions 8, 9 and 10 Strategic Planning event scheduled for November 13 and 14, 2025.

#### 7. LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

General Manager Tom Coleman reported on the following legislative matters of interest to the District:

- SB 616 (Rubio) Community Hardening Commission: wildfire mitigation program.
- SB 72 (Caballero) California Water for All: California Water Plan amendments
- AB 259 (Rubio) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.
- SB 707 (Durazo) Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements.
- California Delta Conveyance Project

## 8. REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE – None.

# 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **9.1 Joint Powers Insurance Authority** Director Lu-Yang reported on administrative JPIA matters.
- **9.2** Three Valleys Municipal Water District Director Lima and Board President Bellah reported on the September 3, 2025, TVMWD Board meeting activities.

- 9.3 Association of California Water Agencies None.
- **9.4** Puente Basin Water Agency (PBWA) The next meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2025, at Rowland Water District.
- **9.5** Project Ad-Hoc Committee Director Lu-Yang reported that a Project Ad-Hoc Committee meeting was held on September 2, 2025.
- 9.6 Regional Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (GAC) None.
- 9.7 P-W-R Joint Waterline Commission None.
- 9.8 Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council (RHCCC) None.
- 9.9 California Special District Association (CSDA) SGV Chapter None.
- 9.10 Local Agency Formation Commission None.

# 10. OTHER REPORTS, INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMENTS

# 10.1 Finance Report

Director of Finance, Myra Malner, presented a year-to-date Financial Dashboard containing comparative graphs of Revenue and Expense by Category and Consumption by Class through July 2025 and answered questions posed by Board members.

# **10.2 Operations Report**

Director of Operations Allen Davidson provided an Operations report for the month of August 2025, explaining the Field Operations services listed below. He also presented additional Water Systems departmental updates such as leaks and fire hydrant data, and water quality results (total chlorine and nitrite).

Field Operations - August 2025

- Water Samples 216
- Site Inspections 66
- Service Orders Completed 469
- Meters Replaced 36
- Modules Replaced 26
- Dig Alerts 411
- Service Lines Replaced 9
- System Valves Replaced 1
- Air Releases Inspections 9
- Fire Hydrant Repairs 1
- Recycled Water Inspections 6
- 10.3 Project Update –Assistant General Manager Dusty Moisio presented photos of the Ashbourne CBS project. He reported that the rehabilitation work, which included construction of a new chemical building, repaving of the reservoir site, installation of an automated gate, replacement of electrical and chemical conduits, and security upgrades, was successfully completed within the budgeted cost of \$971,000.

10.4 Personnel Report – General Manager Tom Coleman reported on the status of the Customer Service Representative recruitment and advised that the individuals selected to participate in the internship program recently commenced their employment with the District.

#### 11. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – None.

#### 12. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Legal Counsel Joseph Byrne adjourned the meeting to closed session at 7:54 p.m. and announced that the purpose of the closed session and the provisions of the Brown Act authorizing the closed session were listed in the agenda as indicated below:

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel Anticipated Litigation Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 One case.
- b. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT [§54957] Title: Facility Maintenance Worker
- 13. Reconvene/Report on Closed Session 8:10 p.m.

Closed Session Announcements – It was reported by Legal Counsel that the Board was briefed on the facts and circumstances of the matters regarding closed session items (a) and (b), and no reportable action was taken on the matter.

General Manager's and Directors' Comments – None.

Future Agenda Item(s) – None.

Late Business – None.

Director Hsu adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Attest: /m/

TOM COLEMAN

Presiding Director **Board Secretary**