

**RUBIDOUX COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, March 5, 2026**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Diana Leja
Hank Trueba Jr.,
John Skerbelis
Bernard Murphy
Leslie Altamirano

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Laddusaw, General Manager
Brandon Thomas, Assistant General Manager
Jaclyn Makarzec, Director of Engineering
Miguel Valdez, Director of Operations
Martha Perez, Customer Service / Accounts Payable
Manager
Melissa Trujillo, Human Resources Generalist / Safety and
Facilities Coordinator

VISITORS (SIGNED IN): John Harper, RCSD Legal Counsel, Via Zoom
Lucy Alcalá, Deputy Riverside County Sheriff
Ross Leja, RCSD Customer
Michael G., Via Zoom
Israel Corona, JUSD Student Liaison

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rubidoux Community Services District was called to order by President Leja at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026, held in person and via teleconference at the District's Administrative Office, 3590 Rubidoux Boulevard, Jurupa Valley, California.

ITEM 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – General Manager

ITEM 3. ROLL CALL – General Manager

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

ITEM 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Minutes for February 19, 2026, Regular Meeting
- B. Consideration to Approve March 6, 2026, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers
- C. **DM 2026-15:** Acknowledgement of Chino Desalter Authority (CDA) Operating Cost and Purchase Authorization – Supply Option D to Amendment No. 1 (Inter-Agency Operating Agreement for the Use of the JCSD-RCSD Jewel Street Booster Station and Pipeline Interconnection)

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Director Murphy requested to pull ITEM 5A through 5C from the CONSENT CALENDAR and add the ITEM 5A through 5C to ITEM 8. ACTION/ DISCUSSION ITEMS.

ITEM 6. CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED INFORMATION – None

ITEM 7. REPORTS

- A. **Operations Report** – None
- B. **Emergency and Incident Report** – None
- C. **General Manager and Staff Reports / Updates**

General Manager Laddusaw informed the Board of Directors that the next IAC meeting is scheduled for March 27. He also noted that the upcoming Meet the Machines event will take place on March 14, and the Chamber of Commerce luncheon is scheduled for March 12. In addition, he shared photographs from the recent Business Dinner attended by several Board members and staff. He also provided an update on the status of the next Trash Committee meeting. Lastly, he reported that the first Budget meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 2 at 2:30 p.m.

The Director of Engineering informed the Board that the geotechnical services contract was awarded to Converse Consultants. The consultant has proceeded expeditiously and has completed all required samples. The first report is anticipated to be received on Monday, with additional reports to follow. Several projects currently in the design phase are dependent on this data. Once the reports are received, they will be shared with the other project consultants.

The Director of Operations, Miguel, presented information regarding the 2025 failed backflows.



Failed Backflows 2025 – 69 Total

	3/4"	1"	1.5"	2"	2.5"	3"	6"	8"	10"	Total
Fire	7	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	1	16
Domestic	6	11	4	15	1	0	0	0	0	37
Irrigation	0	3	2	10	1	0	0	0	0	16

D. Committee Reports – None

E. Jurupa Unified School District

Israel Corona, JUSD Student Liaison, shared updates with the Board of Directors. He shared the Women’s basketball team from Patriot High School has been doing. He announced the Teachers of the Year: Alexandra Wrangle, Elementary School Teacher of the Year; Krystal Dicen, Middle School Teacher of the Year; and Heather Macintosh, High School Teacher of the Year. Eight students were also recognized for their achievements in the Sign Language program. In addition, GATE program students visited the AP students’ classroom. Mr. Rojas further reported that Measure E funds have been used for the demolition of the old theater and the renovation of the building into a new theater for students.

ITEM 8. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 5A. Approval of Minutes for February 19, 2026, Regular Meeting

The Minutes for February 19, 2026, Regular Meeting can be viewed here:
<https://www.rcsd.org/2026-02-19-board-of-directors-board-meeting>

Director Murphy clarified staff’s position on the attendance of the Sheriff at the District’s public meetings.

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Director Murphy made a motion to approve Minutes for February 19, 2026, Regular Meeting, Director Altamirano seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

- Ayes – 5 (Trueba, Altamirano, Murphy, Skerbelis Leja)**
- Noes – 0**
- Abstain – 0**
- Absent – 0**

Result: Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

ITEM 5B. Consideration to Approve March 6, 2026, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers

March 6, 2026, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers can be viewed here:

<https://www.rcsd.org/2026-03-05-board-of-directors-board-meeting>

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Director Murphy made a motion to approve March 6, 2026, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers, Director Skerbelis seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – 5 (Trueba, Altamirano, Murphy, Skerbelis Leja)

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

Result: Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

ITEM 5C. DM 2026-15: Acknowledgement of Chino Desalter Authority (CDA) Operating Cost and Purchase Authorization – Supply Option D to Amendment No. 1 (Inter-Agency Operating Agreement for the Use of the JCSD-RCS D Jewel Street Booster Station and Pipeline Interconnection)

BACKGROUND:

The Rubidoux Community Services District (herein “RCSD” or “District”) and the Jurupa Community Services District (“JCSD”) are parties to the Inter-Agency Operating Agreement for the Jewel Street Booster Station and pipeline interconnection, dated July 28, 2014. The interconnection provides operational redundancy and regional supply reliability by allowing delivery of potable water between the agencies under defined supply conditions.

In 2022, the parties approved Amendment No. 1 to update pricing provisions and reflect evolving supply conditions (Attachment 1). The amendment addressed inflationary cost pressures, the District’s significant investment in additional groundwater treatment facilities, the incorporation of imported water supplies into the District’s portfolio, and equitable cost allocation for non-local supplies. Amendment No. 1 reaffirmed the principle of equivalent pricing for local groundwater and equitable sharing of costs for imported or other purchased supplies, including water from the Chino Basin Desalter Authority (“CDA”). At that time, Exhibit B reflected a CDA Operating Cost of \$1,017 per acre-foot (FY 2021|2022).

Section 6 of the Agreement establishes multiple supply options. Supply Option A prioritizes delivery of local groundwater when available. Supply Option D provides that, when sufficient local groundwater is not available under Supply Option A, RCSD may purchase CDA water from JCSD at JCSD’s adopted CDA Operating Cost.

JCSD’s adopted FY 2025|2026 CDA Operating Cost is \$1,275 per acre-foot.

Discussion

The cumulative change from \$1,017 to \$1,275 per acre-foot represents an approximate 25 percent increase since adoption of Amendment No. 1.

Section 6 of the Agreement provides that in the event an annual adjustment greater than five percent is required for Supply Option D, such change requires consideration and approval by each party's Board of Directors. The Agreement references "annual adjustment," which is interpreted as a year-over-year change rather than a cumulative increase since adoption of the amendment.

Attached documentation reflects the year-over-year progression of the CDA Operating Cost. (Attachment 2)

While the purchase of water from JCSD is not the District's preferred supply option, the interconnection remains a critical reliability and redundancy asset. The District is currently advancing well rehabilitation projects and treatment plant upgrades, during which temporary production constraints could occur. Although staff does not anticipate the need to purchase CDA water from JCSD, the District must ensure system reliability and operational flexibility should unforeseen conditions arise.

In circumstances where JCSD is only able to provide CDA water under the Agreement, such as groundwater production constraints, treatment plant outages, demand fluctuations, or regulatory limitations, RCSD would be required to purchase water at the adopted CDA Operating Cost. Board acknowledgement of the current FY 2025|2026 cost is therefore a procedural requirement of the Agreement and preserves the District's ability to exercise Supply Option D if needed.

This action does not amend the Agreement and does not obligate the District to purchase any specific volume of water.

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Director Murphy made a motion to approve the FY 2025|2026 Chino Basin Desalter Authority (CDA) Operating Cost of \$1,275 per acre-foot under Supply Option D of the Inter-Agency Operating Agreement with Jurupa Community Services District. Authorize the General Manager to purchase CDA water from Jurupa Community Services District under Supply Option D as needed to support operational reliability. District staff shall report any CDA water purchases to the Board of Directors at the next regular Board meeting following such purchase, Director Trueba seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – 5 (Trueba, Altamirano, Murphy, Skerbelis Leja)

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

Result: Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

A. DM 2026-16: Consider California Special District Association Board of Directors Election Call for Nomination, Seat C – Southern Network For Term 2027-2029

BACKGROUND:

Rubidoux Community Services District ("District") is a member of the California Special Districts Association ("CSDA"), a nonprofit organization founded in 1969 to promote good governance and enhance local services through professional development, advocacy, and other support for independent special districts.

CSDA represents over 1,000 special districts across California, including water, irrigation, fire protection, park and recreation, police, healthcare, and community services districts. The association provides education and training, legal and legislative advocacy, funding assistance, insurance programs, and essential industry information to support district management and operations.

The District recently received correspondence from CSDA announcing a call for nominations for the CSDA Board of Directors Seat C in the Southern Network (Attachments 1 to 4). CSDA's governance structure consists of six regional networks, each with three board seats serving staggered three-year terms. The Southern Network's Seat C is up for election, currently held by Nikki Winslow, District Director of Altadena Library District. Ms. Winslow has declared her intention to seek re-election. The two other Southern Network representatives, Jo MacKenzie (Director, Vista Irrigation District) and Don Bartz (General Manager, Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District), are not up for re-election this cycle.

If any District Board Members are interested in seeking election for the Southern Network Seat C, the following timeline and actions are recommended:

- March 5, 2026 (tonight):
 - A. Discuss and determine if any Board Member is interested in being nominated for the CSDA Seat C – Southern Network.
 - B. If multiple Board Members express interest, select a preferred candidate.
 - C. Direct staff to prepare a resolution nominating the preferred candidate.

- March 19, 2026:
 - A. Consider and adopt the nomination resolution.
 - B. Allow the nominated candidate to complete the required candidate information sheet.

- C. Direct staff to submit the nomination resolution and candidate information to CSDA.

Commitment & Expectations

Board Members considering this opportunity should be aware of the following responsibilities:

- Attend approximately 4-5 CSDA Board meetings annually at CSDA’s Sacramento office.
- Participate in at least one CSDA committee, which meets 3-5 times per year in Sacramento.
- Attend, at minimum, CSDA’s Special Districts Legislative Days (spring) and CSDA Annual Conference (fall).
- Complete all four modules of CSDA’s Special District Leadership Academy within two years of election.

Nomination & Election Timeline

- **April 10, 2026** – Deadline for CSDA to receive candidate nominations.
- **June 9 - July 24, 2026** – Voting period.
- **July 31, 2026** – Successful candidates notified.
- **August 2026** – New CSDA Board Members introduced at the CSDA Annual Conference in Palm Desert, CA.

Board Members should review the attached CSDA correspondence dated February 9, 2026, for additional details regarding the nomination process.

Budget Considerations

Serving on the CSDA Board requires travel to Sacramento and attendance at key CSDA events. CSDA reimburses Board Members for expenses related to attending Board and committee meetings. However, costs for CSDA’s Special Districts Legislative Days, Annual Conference, and Special District Leadership Academy are not reimbursed by CSDA and will result in out-of-pocket expenses for the District.

Estimated costs to the District:

- **When both major CSDA events are held in Northern California:** \$4,700 per year
- **When one major event is in Southern California:** \$3,800 per year

- **One-time cost for CSDA Special District Leadership Academy: \$1,060**

If a Director is nominated to the CSDA Board Southern Network Seat C, these expenses will be included in the FY 2026|2027 budget as the budget will be adopted before the successful candidate is notified.

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Staff recommended that the Board of Directors consider the following actions:

- 1. Discuss and determine if a Board Member wishes to be nominated.**
- 2. Select a preferred candidate (if applicable) and direct staff to prepare a nomination resolution for consideration at the March 19, 2026, Board meeting.**

Following discussion, the Board indicated that there was no interest in pursuing the seat nomination at this time, and no Board Member expressed interest in being nominated. As a result, no candidate was selected and staff was not directed to prepare a nomination resolution.

- B. DM 2026-17: RCSD - Consider Casting a Ballot for the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) – Special District Regular Member – Western Region Election**

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) is comprised of seven members: two representing the County of Riverside, two representing cities within Riverside County, two representing special districts within Riverside County, and one public member. Each category includes one alternate, and commissioners serve four-year terms. Of the two special district members, one represents the western portion of the County and one represents the eastern portion. The Rubidoux Community Services District (“District”) is located within the western region.

On December 2, 2025, staff received correspondence from LAFCO announcing a vacancy for the Special District Regular Member – Western Region representative and issuing a call for nominations. The nomination period opened December 2, 2025, and closed February 2, 2026. The term of the vacant western region position will run from May 4, 2026 through May 6, 2030.

Any Board member was eligible to be nominated. At the regularly scheduled Board meeting on January 15, 2026, Director Altamirano expressed interest in the vacant position and was subsequently nominated by the Board. Director Altamirano is one of six candidates appearing on the ballot.

On February 23, 2026, staff received the full ballot package (Attachment 1), which includes election information, the ballot, and voting instructions.

LAFCO utilizes Instant Runoff Voting (“IRV”), which eliminates the need for a separate runoff election to achieve a majority vote. An example explaining the IRV process is included in Attachment 1. To complete the ballot, the Board must rank nominees in order of preference, using “1” for the District’s first choice, “2” for the second choice, and so forth. Ranking additional candidates does not negatively affect the District’s first-choice candidate; however, the Board may choose to rank only one candidate. For example, if the Board ranks Director Altamirano as its first preference, the number “1” would be marked next to her name, and the Board may either stop there or proceed to rank the remaining candidates.

Completed ballots must be received by LAFCO no later than April 23, 2026.

Staff is seeking direction regarding completion of the ballot and recommends the following action:

Special District Regular Member – Western Region

Director Altamirano was nominated by the Board for the vacancy on January 15, 2026. The Board should consider:

1. Ranking Director Altamirano as candidate “1”;

AND

2. Deliberating and ranking the remaining candidates, or leaving the remaining ballot unranked.

Budget Considerations

Participation in the LAFCO Special District Regular Member – Western Region position may result in minimal costs to the District. Such costs would be limited to travel, lodging, and incidental expenses incurred when attending LAFCO meetings, workshops, or related events. Any expenses would be reimbursed in accordance with the District’s existing travel and expense reimbursement policies and are anticipated to be accommodated within the current operational budget. No additional appropriations are requested at this time.

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Director Murphy made a motion to defer voting on the item to the April 2nd meeting. The motion failed.

Director Skerbelis then made a motion to rank Leslie Altamirano as the first choice candidate and Steve Pastor as the second choice candidate. Director Altamirano seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – 4 (Trueba, Altamirano, Skerbelis Leja)

Noes – 1 (Murphy)
Abstain – 0
Absent – 0

Result: Motion carried 4-1-0-0.

ITEM 9. DIRECTORS COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Director Murphy reported that he took his previous checks to the bank but was unable to cash them. He brought the checks to the office and requested the following information: the total number of individuals on payment plans and the total aggregated cost of those payment plans.

Director Altamirano congratulated GM Laddusaw on his new baby and thanked AGM Thomas for his work during GM Laddusaw's absence.

Director Leja agreed with Director Altamirano and shared that several directors and staff will be attending the WRCOG Women's Day Forum.

Directors Skerbelis and Director Trueba had no comments.

ITEM 10. DM 2026-14: CLOSED SESSION – Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957(b)(1): Evaluation of District General Manager

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Start Close Session at 4:38 p.m. Resume at 5:34 p.m.

No reportable action.

ITEM 11. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. (Special Board Meeting)

ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT

President Leja adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.