

**RUBIDOUX COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, February 5, 2026

REVISED

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Brandon Thomas, Assistant General Manager
Jaelyn Makarzec, Director of Engineering
Miguel Valdez, Director of Operations
Kirk Hamblin, Director of Finance and Administration, Via
Zoom
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
Ross Leja, RCSD Customer
George Ruiz, RCSD Customer
Israel Corona, Jurupa Unified School District Student
Tim Voigt, Fire Chief, Riverside County/CAL Fire
Robert Fish, Division Fire Chief, Riverside County/CAL
Fire
Eric Sauerwein, Battalion, Riverside County Fire/CAL
Michael, Via Zoom
Miguel Rubalcava, RCSD Customer

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, February 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 – Assistant General Manager

ITEM 3. ROLL CALL –Assistant General Manager

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

ITEM 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Minutes for January 15, 2026, Regular Meeting**
- B. Consideration to Approve the February 6, 2026, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers**
- C. DM 2026-05: Receive and File Statement of Cash Asset Schedule Report Ending December 2025**

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Director Murphy requested to pull ITEM 5B from the Consent Calendar.

Director Skerbelis made a motion for approval of the Consent Calendar ITEM 5A and ITEM 5C, Director Altamirano seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

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

ITEM 6. CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED INFORMATION

A. Riverside Press Enterprise Article Recent Rainstorms Wipe Out Drought

The article reports that a series of strong winter storms brought unusually heavy rain and snow across California, dramatically easing the state’s long-running drought conditions. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, most of California’s drought classifications including severe drought have been eliminated following these storms, marking a significant shift from prior conditions. The storms have recharged reservoirs and boosted Sierra Nevada snowpack, which is key for water supplies later in the dry season. Reservoir storage levels are well above average for this point in winter following this persistent period of precipitation. Officials now describe California as “officially drought-free” in many areas thanks to these weather systems a rare designation not seen in decades. However, the article also notes that continued storm activity and sustained precipitation will be important to maintain water security through the rest of the year,

especially because warmer temperatures could cause more precipitation to fall as rain rather than snow, affecting longer-term water storage.

ITEM 7. REPORTS

A. Operations Report -None

B. Emergency and Incident Report

Chief Voigt introduced CalFire/Riverside County Fire Chief Robert Fish. Fish recently served as deputy chief for East County Operations, managing a territory extending from Beaumont to Blythe, supervising Cal Fire operations in 10 of the 19 municipalities that contract with the county for emergency services. The county has contracted with Cal Fire for fire protection services since the 1940s. Fish was tentatively selected by Cal Fire Chief Joe Tyler earlier this year to lead the county fire department.

Director Altamirano commented on the City's funds for the safety services. She asked for staff to follow up with the City and the study conducted for a new fire station.

C. General Manager and Staff Reports / Updates

The Assistant General Manager, Thomas, shared with the Board information regarding attendance at the annual Western Water Retail Meeting scheduled for January 19. He also informed the Board that the District will be participating in the annual Meet the Machines outreach event on March 14, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. He then shared details about the 11th Annual Community of Businesses event, scheduled for February 24 at 5 p.m. Next, he updated the Board on the Board Governance workshop, tentatively scheduled for March 12 or March 26 at 4 p.m. After discussion, March 12 was selected as the preferred date. Lastly, he shared that former Board of Director Forest F. Throwbridge passed away on January 23, 2026.

Director Trueba shared information on the upcoming Chamber of Commerce luncheon, scheduled for Thursday, February 12, at noon.

Director Altamirano shared that the next District 4 Councilwoman Sanchez Town Hall is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Eddie Dee Smith Senior Center.

D. Committee Reports – None

E. Jurupa Unified School District

JUSD Israel Rodas shared with the Board the early February achievements. Andrew Ortigo received a full ride scholarship to Boston University with a 4.4 GPA. Pedley Elementary conducted their Safe Space Program. Measure E has helped assist JUSD schools.

ITEM 8. ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

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

<https://www.rcsd.org/2026-02-05-board-of-directors-board-meeting>

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Director Murphy had a couple of questions regarding the following invoices, El Rod Fence Company, Hach Company and Minuteman Press.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

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

A. DM 2026-06: Consider Project Costs and Approval of Task Orders for Well 4 and Well 6 Rehabilitation

BACKGROUND:

The Rubidoux Community Services District (“District”) Wells 4 and 6 are active groundwater production wells that support the District’s potable water system.

Wells 4 and 6 are the sole sources of raw water for the Anita B. Smith Water Treatment Facility (“Smith Plant”), a critical component of the District’s water treatment infrastructure that provides treatment for nitrates and PFAS compounds, two primary constituents regulated under Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) standards. Collectively, Wells 4 and 6 and the Smith Plant account for approximately 40 percent of the District’s potable water production.

Both wells are aging assets and have remained in service for extended periods without comprehensive rehabilitation. While available operational and maintenance data indicate that Wells 4 and 6 continue to operate reliably, proactive rehabilitation is warranted at this time to maintain performance, preserve capacity, and reduce the risk of unplanned outages.

This work is consistent with the District’s adopted Well and Booster Maintenance Program and advances the Board of Directors’ (“Board”) Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2025|2026 budget directive to strategically rehabilitate potable and non-potable well infrastructure in support of long-term asset

management objectives. As an industry standard, potable wells require periodic rehabilitation, typically every five years, based on factors such as water quality conditions, pumping rates, well age, aquifer characteristics, and observed declines in performance or efficiency.

Rehabilitation of Wells 4, 6, and 8, as well as non-potable Wells 11 and 14, is included in and approved under the District's FY 2025|2026 Water Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Budget.

The rehabilitation of Wells 4 and 6 continues the District's well rehabilitation program initiated with the Board-authorized rehabilitation of Well 8 pursuant to Director's Memorandum 2025-116. As of the date of this Director's Memorandum, the Well 8 project is progressing as planned, and staff anticipates reporting on its results at an upcoming Board meeting.

Discussion

The proposed rehabilitation of Wells 4 and 6 will be coordinated with planned rehabilitation work at the Smith Plant, allowing the District to efficiently manage downtime associated with the facility's sole raw water supply.

Rehabilitation of Wells 4 and 6 was originally budgeted in the District's FY 2025|2026 Water CIP Budget at \$125,000 per well (Attachment 1). While the full extent of rehabilitation will not be known until inspection is completed, the work must be executed within narrow outage windows driven by coordination with the Smith Plant upgrades, treatment plant dependency, and overall project sequencing. Accordingly, the rehabilitation will follow the same Board-approved process used for Well 8 and will be performed under the General Pump pricing schedule approved by the Board through acceptance of the Jurupa Community Services District ("JCSD") piggyback contract pursuant to Director's Memorandum 2025-100. Staff is therefore seeking authorization to amend the FY 2025|2026 Water CIP Budget to ensure sufficient funding is available to complete the rehabilitation of Wells 4 and 6.

Budget Considerations

Pursuant to Director's Memorandum 2025-116, the Board authorized project costs of \$187,000 for the rehabilitation of Well 8, which included pump removal and inspection, down-hole video inspection, brush and bail, chemical treatment, and installation of a new motor. While a comparable level of rehabilitation is not anticipated for Wells 4 and 6, staff recommends amending the FY 2025|2026 Water CIP Budget in a similar manner to provide flexibility should additional work be required based on inspection findings. Specifically, staff proposes increasing the budget allocation for each well from \$125,000 to \$200,000.

The proposed budget amendments are as follows:

Water CIP Budget Line 3 – Well 4 Rehabilitation: Increase from \$125,000 to \$200,000.

Water CIP Budget Line 4 – Well 6 Rehabilitation: Increase from \$125,000 to \$200,000.

The additional \$150,000 in requested appropriations will be funded from the District's Water Fund Unrestricted Reserves, which are projected to have a fiscal-year end balance of

approximately \$5.8 million. Use of reserves for this purpose is appropriate, consistent with the District's reserve and asset management policies, and will not materially impact the District's overall financial position, particularly given the critical nature of this infrastructure.

As detailed in Attachments 2 and 3, proposals for Wells 4 and 6 include a minimum scope consisting of pump pull, inspection and reinstallation, well casing brush and bail, and a down-hole video survey, at a cost of \$28,230 per well. Should inspection results or down-hole video findings indicate the need for additional rehabilitation or treatment, staff will be authorized to issue task orders, supported by documented inspection findings and consistent with the Board-approved General Pump pricing schedule, up to the amended budget amount of \$200,000 per well.

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Director Skerbelis moved to approve an amendment to the FY 2025/2026 Water Capital Improvement Project Budget to increase the rehabilitation budgets for Well 4 and Well 6, as follows:

- 1. Water CIP Budget Line 3 – Well 4 Rehabilitation: Increase from \$125,000 to \$200,000.**
- 2. Water CIP Budget Line 4 – Well 6 Rehabilitation: Increase from \$125,000 to \$200,000.**
- 3. Funding Source: Appropriate an additional \$150,000 from the District's Water Fund unrestricted reserves to fund the revised budget amounts.**

The motion further authorized the General Manager to issue task orders for the rehabilitation of Well 4 and Well 6 under the Board-approved Jurupa Community Services District piggyback contract with General Pump, in accordance with the approved pricing schedule and not to exceed the amended budgeted amounts. Director Altamirano seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

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

- B. DM 2026-07: Rejection of Bids Received Under Prior Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Specifications and Authorization to Rebid Using Approved Revised Specifications**

BACKGROUND:

The Rubidoux Community Services District (“District”) is pursuing the conversion of approximately 5,000 existing water meters to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) as part of its ongoing efforts to improve water use efficiency, reduce system water loss, and comply with evolving state regulatory requirements. This project is a budgeted capital improvement previously authorized by the Board and is supported by \$1.5 million in grant funding.

Following issuance of the original AMI bid solicitation, the District received bids that were responsive to the technical specifications in effect at that time. Subsequent to receipt of those bids, District staff identified the need to revise the AMI technical specifications to incorporate additional functionality, including acoustic leak detection, to better support compliance with California’s *Making Conservation a California Way of Life* framework and the State’s increasing focus on water loss accountability.

The *Making Conservation a California Way of Life* framework establishes long term water use efficiency standards that require permanent and measurable reductions in water use and water loss. Water utilities are expected to quantify distribution system losses, proactively identify leaks, and demonstrate ongoing reductions through data driven tools such as AMI systems equipped with acoustic leak detection capabilities.

On December 18, 2025, the Board of Directors (“Board”) approved revisions to the District’s Approved Materials List and Technical Specifications for AMI, as documented in Directors Memorandum (“DM”) 2025-117 (Attachment 1). The revised specifications expand functional requirements, including systemwide leak detection capabilities, and increases warranty requirements (to include battery life and accuracy). Staff anticipates that broader warranty terms for meters one inch and smaller, which represent the majority of the District’s installed meter population, will reduce long-term replacement and lifecycle costs.

As a result of the Board-approved revisions, the original AMI bids, which were responsive to the prior specifications, no longer align with the District’s currently approved standards. Consistent with the District’s Procurement Policy, Section 1040.3.1 (Attachment 2), which provides that “at its discretion, the Board of Directors may reject any bids presented and readvertise,” staff recommends formally rejecting all bids (Attachment 3) submitted under the prior specifications. The project will then be rebid using the revised specifications approved by the Board pursuant to DM 2025-117.

Upon Board authorization, the AMI project will be rebid through PlanetBids in accordance with District procurement requirements. The rebid will open in February 2026 and remain open for a minimum of 60 days, providing vendors sufficient time to review the revised specifications and submit competitive proposals that meet grant requirements.

Staff expects more than one bidder.

Budget Consideration

The AMI project remains within the previously approved budget. Staff time associated with rebidding the project is expected to be minimal, as the revised solicitation will utilize a

substantial portion of the prior bid documents. Limited consultant support may be required to assist with administration of the rebid process. No additional budget appropriation is requested as part of this action.

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Director Murphy had several comments on this matter. He shared that his meter was not reading accurately, so it was replaced by the District three days later. After the change, he discovered that his hot water heater had burst. As he began receiving his bills, he noticed that his usage rate had increased and that the pipes under his house had burst.

He brought this issue to the attention of the General Manager and received an email on 11/24 stating: "I asked Martha to compile a 10-year report of meter-change complaints to identify whether any patterns exist. While I do not yet have the data, I want you to know this concern is taken very seriously and is actively being researched."

Director Murphy explained that the process he uses at home is to keep his hot water turned off, so his hot water meter is normally not connected. He does not believe it is appropriate to change meters for thousands of people. In this bid, the engineer indicated that approximately 250 people about 1 in 20 will experience personal property damage.

He does not believe it is appropriate to change these meters if they cause damage to private property, especially if the goal is to reduce water consumption. Director Murphy stated that he would like to see the research he was told about on 11/24 before casting a vote. He also wants staff to know that he is not happy with the damage done to his property and plumbing.

Director Altamirano moved to approve the rejection of all bids received for the AMI project that were submitted under the prior technical specifications. Authorize the General Manager to rebid the AMI project using the revised AMI technical specifications previously approved by the Board. Director Skerbelis seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes – 4 (Trueba, Skerbelis Leja, Altamirano)

Noes – 1 (Murphy)

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

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

Director Murphy would like to include the following statement to the minutes:

Pursuant to Board Policy Section 12 Members of the Board of Directors paragraph 5

Directors may request for inclusion into minutes brief comments pertinent to an agenda item only at the meeting that item is discussed (including, if desired, a position on abstention or dissenting vote).

Dissenting Vote Statement for inclusion in the minutes

I, RCSD Director Bernard Murphy am opposed to the AMI metering for two reasons. The probability of damage to the existing plumbing under existing homes is excessive. The expenditure is not economically justifiable.

ITEM 9. DIRECTORS COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

Director Altamirano would like to comment on the Town Hall meeting scheduled for February 10. She thanked the staff for all their work and congratulated Brian on the birth of his baby.

Director Skerbelis and Director Trueba had no comments.

Director Murphy provided the following request for the next scheduled Board meeting:

Pursuant to Board Policy Section 17. Board Meeting Agenda Paragraph 1

The General Manager shall prepare an agenda for each regular and special meeting of the Board of Directors. Any Director may contact the General Manager and request any item to be placed on the agenda at least five days prior to the date of the meeting.

Include on the next agenda the following:

The approximate percentage of the cost for:

The Main Campus construction/remodel

The Reverse Osmosis Plant

BY

Existing Rate Payers

Developer Fees

Include in this format

| Item of work | Developer Fees | Existing Rate Payers |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Main Campus construction/remodel | ___% | ___% |
| Reverse Osmosis Plant | ___% | ___% |

Director Altamirano would like to revise page 15 of the Board Policies and Procedures to prohibit Directors from making short-notice requests to staff.

Director Leja shared that the Jurupa Area Recreation and Park District will host Purple Power this Saturday, February 7, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Skyview Event Center. She would also like to add an agenda item, after the General Manager returns, to keep items on the Consent Calendar also if they can begin the discussion on updating the Board Policies and Procedures.

5 MINUTE RECESS: 4:55 PM

ITEM 10. DM 2026-08: CLOSED SESSION – Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957(b)(1): Evaluation of District General Manager

BOARD DELIBERATION / ACTION

Start Close Session at 5:00 p.m. Resume at 5:14 p.m.

No reportable action.

ITEM 11. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT

President Leja adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.