



Mission Statement

“To provide reliable water and sewer service in a safe, cost effective environmentally sound manner in accordance with community needs.”

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
IDYLLWILD WATER DISTRICT
25945 Highway 243
Idyllwild, CA 92549**

April 15, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

President Schelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

President Schelly, Vice President Priefer, and Director Davis, Director Olson, and Director Stamper. Also in attendance were General Manager Rojas, and Chief Financial Officer Shouman.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Peter Szabadi mentioned that he presumed there would be opportunities for public comment throughout the meeting as topics came up.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial, to be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. If any Board member, staff member, or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, it shall be removed so that it may be acted upon separately.

A. MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting: March 18, 2026

B. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. Income statement for month ending March 2026 and the ninth months ending March 31, 2026
- b. District warrants for March 2026
 - Check #19438-19490 = \$246,782.91
 - Gross Payroll = \$84,965.00
 - Federal/State PR taxes = \$8,620.00
 - LAIF Transfers = \$0
 - Transfers/charges = \$430.00



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C. OPERATIONS REPORT

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Olson mentioned to Mr. Shouman that he was doing a great job with the financials, noting that both the water and sewer departments are under budget and that the District is already nine months into the fiscal year. He also stated that the 6% water loss was outstanding.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

A motion was made by Director Olson to approve the Consent Calendar and Director Stamper seconded.

AYES

Director Stamper
Director Davis
Director Olson
Vice President Prierer
President Schelly

NAYS

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

Motion approved

INFORMATION

2. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

The General Manager will update the Board on accomplishments, challenges that have occurred, and key performance metrics.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Davis asked about the repair that had been completed on a water line and commented that he felt a band clamp was more like a “band-aid” on the line. He asked Mr. Rojas whether welding in a replacement piece has been considered instead. Mr. Rojas stated that the District currently does not have a certified welder.

Vice President Prierer asked whether this was the first band clamp placed on the line. Mr. Rojas responded that it was and explained that if the line requires three or four band clamps, the District would replace the line.

Vice President Prierer also asked about the new mini excavator and whether staff felt it had been useful. Mr. Rojas explained that it has been very beneficial because it allows staff to work in small or tight areas and does not take up as much room. He noted that during the recent leak



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repair, the mini excavator allowed one lane of traffic to remain open, and staff did not have to shut down the road.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Szabadi inquired about the loan for the sewer plant. Mr. Rojas responded that it is a low-interest loan, approximately 1.5% to 2%, and mentioned that the District is still in the process of obtaining approval for it.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. ANNUAL MIDDLE SCHOOL POSTER AND ESSAY CONTEST

The Board will discuss the District’s sponsorship of the Annual Middle School Poster and Essay Contest with Idyllwild School, including contest details, timeline, and recognition of student participants. Winners will be announced at the May 20th Board Meeting.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Olson stated that he was looking forward to the results of the contest and mentioned that he is always impressed with the students’ attention to detail.

Director Stamper mentioned that it was a wonderful opportunity to give it back to the community.

Vice President Prierer agreed with the comments made by Director Olson and Director Stamper.

President Schelly asked Mrs. Wheeler about the California Special District Transparency review and whether it had been mentioned that the District’s website included information regarding the contest. Mrs. Wheeler responded that it has and confirmed that positive comments had been made about the District’s website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

4. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH DUDEK FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN OF THE NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

The Board will consider approval of an agreement with Dudek to provide engineering design services for the new wastewater treatment facility, including preparation of a



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Basis of Design Memorandum, 75% design submittal, and final plans, specifications, and cost estimates.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Olson asked whether Dudek was the same firm previously used by the District. Mr. Rojas responded that they were not. Director Olson stated that was good and expressed confidence that Dudek would complete the project on time. Director Olson also asked about the estimated lifespan of the plant when it was originally built. Mr. Rojas responded that the estimated lifespan was 40 to 50 years and that the plant is now approximately 60 years old.

Director Davis asked whether the funding had changed from a grant to a loan. Mr. Rojas responded yes, and explained that if grant funding becomes available in the future, those funds could be applied toward paying down the loan.

Director Davis then asked whether the \$800,000 coming out of the sewer funds was being paid by approximately 500 sewer customers. President Schelly clarified that the funds had accumulated over the years. Director Davis questioned whether the project was really worth it. Mr. Rojas and President Schelly explained that the wastewater treatment plant is very old and that staff is struggling to locate replacement parts.

Vice President Prierer asked Director Davis what he meant by asking whether it was “really worth it.” Director Davis explained his concern that the plant is currently operating at only about 50% of its capacity. Mr. Rojas then explained that if the plant were to fail, it would be catastrophic for the District.

President Schelly expressed that the Board has been placed in a position where, out of caution and responsibility, they need to address the situation proactively. He stated that the current plant is not expected to last another 60 years and noted that the costs continue to increase the longer the District waits to address the issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Freitas asked what the District planned to do with the old sewer plant and whether it would be torn down or added onto. President Schelly explained that the current plan is to utilize a hybrid approach by incorporating some new components while continuing to use certain existing portions of the plant. President Schelly also explained that much of the electrical equipment is very old and that many of the businesses that manufactured replacement parts are no longer in business. He noted that technology and industry standards have changed over time, making it increasingly difficult to locate parts needed for repairs and maintenance.

Mr. Szabadi stated that there were substantial changes within the agreement and strongly recommended that legal counsel review the document. He expressed concern that the contract appeared to be open-ended and encouraged the Board to obtain a professional review before agreeing to the terms.



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A motion was made by Director Olson to approve the Agreement with Dudek for Engineering Design of the New Wastewater Treatment Facility and was seconded by Director Stamper.

AYES

**Director Stamper
Director Olson
Vice President Prierer
President Schelly**

NAYS

Director Davis

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

Motion approved

5. CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO CAST SPECIAL DISTRICT SELECTION COMMITTEE BALLOT FOR THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCO)

The Board will review and consider the 2026 Special District Selection Committee ballot for the election of the Regular Special District Member to the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) – Western Region, and authorization for the Board President or designated Board member to complete, sign, and submit the ballot.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Stamper asked for clarification regarding the item, and President Schelly explained its purpose.

President Schelly cast his vote and recommended Larry Smith as the number one candidate. Vice President Prierer mentioned that Steve Corona had sent emails regarding the matter and agreed that Larry Smith would be a good choice for the number one position. However, she also stated that she believed Steve Corona should be ranked second and thought it would be a good idea for the third and fourth positions to remain within the water industry.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Larry Smith spoke and provided background information about himself and explained why he was running for LAFCO. He also thanked the Board for their support.

President Schelly made a motion to cast the ballot as indicated, and Director Olson seconded the motion.

AYES

**Director Stamper
Director Davis
Director Olson
Vice President Prierer**

NAYS

ABSTAIN

ABSENT



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President Schelly

Motion approved

DIRECTORS COMMENTS

President Schelly spoke about the Fourth of July Parade and shared an entry form regarding participation jointly with the other local water districts. He stated that he wanted to follow up and participate in the event.

President Schelly also mentioned that the Board would like to recognize Danny Campbell for receiving his WWTP Grade 4 Certification and successfully passing the examination, as well as Nathan Seely for completing 1,800 hours at the wastewater treatment plant.

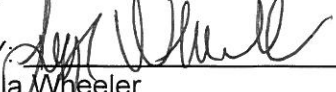
President Schelly also inquired about the recent rain totals and the rain gauge displayed on the District sign.

ADJOURNMENT

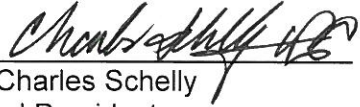
The Board Adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

The next Board meeting will be a Special Board Meeting held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The following meeting will be a Regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., both will be held at the Idyllwild Water District Boardroom, 25945 Hwy. 243, Idyllwild, CA 92549.

Idyllwild Water District

BY: 
Tyla Wheeler
Board Secretary

Idyllwild Water District

BY: 
Dr. Charles Schelly
Board President

