

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

December 10, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Vista Irrigation District was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at the offices of the District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, California.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Sanchez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Directors present: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie and Sanchez.

Directors absent: None.

Staff present: Brett Hodgkiss, General Manager; Ramee Ogilvie, Secretary of the Board; Lesley Dobalian, Director of Water Resources; Randy Whitmann, Director of Engineering; Frank Wolinski, Director of Operations and Field Services; Shallako Goodrick, Director of Administration; and Elizabeth Xaverius, Administrative Assistant. General Counsel Elizabeth Mitchell of Burke, Williams & Sorensen was also present. Breona Paz, Customer Service Supervisor, Yolanda Gomez, Senior Customer Service Representative, and Susan Montgomery, Senior Accountant, were present for agenda items 7 and 8. Brent Reyes, Management Analyst, was present for agenda items 12 and 13.

Other attendees: Friends and family members of Yolanda Gomez and Susan Montgomery were present for agenda items 7 and 8. LaVonne Peck of the San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority was present via teleconference.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Kuchinsky led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

25-12-127	<i>Upon motion by Director MacKenzie, seconded by Director Kuchinsky and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez), the Board of Directors approved the agenda as presented.</i>
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**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No public comments were presented on items not appearing on the agenda.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

25-12-128	<i>Upon motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director MacKenzie and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez), the Board of Directors approved the Consent Calendar, including Resolution No. 2025-35 approving disbursements.</i>
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A. Minutes of Board of Directors meeting on November 19, 2025

The minutes of November 19, 2025 were approved as presented.

B. Resolution ratifying check disbursements

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-35**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Vista Irrigation District does hereby approve checks numbered 78641 through 78754 drawn on US Bank totaling \$3,924,008.74**

**FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors does hereby authorize the execution of the checks by the appropriate officers of the District.**

**PASSED AND ADOPTED unanimously by a roll call vote of the Board of Directors of Vista Irrigation District this 10th day of December 2025.**

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**7. RESOLUTION HONORING RETIRING VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEE SUSAN MONTGOMERY**

See staff report attached hereto.

Director of Administration Shallako Goodrick spoke about Susan Montgomery and expressed her sincere appreciation for her 20 years of exemplary service as a Senior Accountant to the District. She said that Susan has played an integral role in the District receiving the Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for 18 consecutive years. Ms. Goodrick said that Susan will be sincerely missed. The Board thanked Susan for her hard work and dedication to the District and its customers and congratulated her on her retirement.

25-12-129 *Upon motion by Director Kuchinsky, seconded by Director Miller, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2025-36 honoring Susan Montgomery for 20 years of service to the District and its customers by the following roll call vote:*

*AYES: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None*

*Resolution No. 2025-36 is on file in the official Resolutions book of the District.*

**8. RESOLUTION HONORING RETIRING VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEE YOLANDA GOMEZ**

See staff report attached hereto.

Customer Service Supervisor Breona Paz spoke about Yolanda Gomez and expressed her sincere gratitude and appreciation for her 27 years of outstanding customer service to the District. She said that Yolanda started her career as a temporary Receptionist/Cashier; she was hired as a Customer Service Representative and was promoted to Senior Customer Service Representative where she brought a high level of professionalism to the Customer Service department and consistently achieved the most favorable outcomes for both the customer and the District. Ms. Paz said that Yolanda will truly be missed. The Board thanked Yolanda for her 27 years of dedication and service to the District and its customers and congratulated her on her retirement.

25-12-130      *Upon motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director Kuchinsky, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2025-37 honoring Yolanda Gomez for 27 years of service to the District and its customers by the following roll call vote:*

*AYES:            Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez*  
*NOES:            None*  
*ABSENT:        None*  
*ABSTAIN:        None*

*Resolution No. 2025-37 is on file in the official Resolutions book of the District.*

At 9:22 a.m. President Sanchez announced that the Board would take a short break for some refreshments. The Board returned to regular session at 9:41 a.m.

## **9.      DIVISION REPORTS**

See staff report attached hereto.

Director of Engineering Randy Whitmann provided status updates on the Pechstein roof replacement and Pechstein II reservoir projects, the Vista flume replacement project and the main replacement program.

Director of Operations and Field Services Frank Wolinski provided a brief update on the installation timeline for the pump and motor for the new Lake Henshaw resort well.

Director of Water Resources Lesley Dobalian said that the two design options for the Lake Henshaw oxygenation pilot study (pilot study) are being reviewed and that the operational timeline for the pilot study will depend on the option selected. She noted that the harmful algal blooms technical team, including representatives from the San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority, met recently and were provided an update on the pilot study.

## **10.     REVISIONS TO COMPENSATION SCHEDULE**

See staff report attached hereto.

Ms. Goodrick said that the revisions to the compensation schedule reflected salaries being adjusted by 5.83% effective January 1, 2026, in accordance with labor agreements covering calendar years 2025 through 2027, and one job title being changed.

Ms. Goodrick provided clarification about the salary ranges presented in the compensation schedule and the Board took the following action:

25-12-131      *Upon motion by Director MacKenzie, seconded by Director Miller, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2025-38 approving revisions to the Compensation Schedule effective January 1, 2026 by the following roll call vote:*

*AYES:            Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez*  
*NOES:            None*  
*ABSENT:        None*  
*ABSTAIN:        None*

*Resolution No. 2025-38 is on file in the official Resolutions book of the District.*

**11. REMOTE TRAINING SITE WARNER SPRINGS**

See staff report attached hereto.

Ms. Dobalian said that the United States Department of the Navy (Navy)'s lease and license agreements (agreements) for the Remote Training Site Warner Springs (RTSWS) expire on December 31, 2025. She said that the federal government shutdown delayed the Navy's ability to negotiate the terms of successor agreements; the Navy is requesting to extend the term of the existing RTSWS agreements on a month to month basis through June 30, 2026 while the District and the Navy develop successor agreements. Ms. Dobalian said the monthly payments for the lease and license (\$6,158.51 and \$11,321.22, respectively) are based on the 2025 monthly payments adjusted for inflation based on San Diego Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

25-12-132 *Upon motion by Director MacKenzie, seconded by President Sanchez and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez), the Board of Directors authorized the General Manager to extend the lease and license agreements with the United States Department of the Navy for the Remote Training Site Warner Springs on a month to month basis through June 30, 2026.*

**12. 2026 SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST**

See staff report attached hereto.

Management Analyst Brent Reyes reviewed the Public Affairs Committee's suggested changes to the 2026 scholarship contest including limiting the contest to students that live within the District's service territory.

Public Affair Committee members Kuchinsky and MacKenzie discussed some of the challenges of the scholarship application review process and noted that the recommended changes should improve the process.

25-12-133 *Upon motion by Director Kuchinsky, seconded by Director MacKenzie and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez), the Board of Directors approved the updated 2026 scholarship program application packet.*

**13. ANNUAL REPORT AND NEWSLETTERS**

See staff report attached hereto.

Mr. Reyes stated that over the years the District's annual report has transitioned from a printed financial report to an online publication with summary financial information, articles and demographic data. He said that the annual report requires a considerable amount of staff time and has little return on investment as an outreach tool. Mr. Reyes stated that at its November meeting the Public Affairs Committee discussed and recommended eliminating the production of the annual report in favor of producing additional editions of the District's newsletter.

25-12-134 *Upon motion by Director MacKenzie, seconded by Director Sanchez and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez), the Board of Directors approved producing additional editions of the District newsletter in lieu of an annual report.*

**14. LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

See staff report attached hereto.

After a brief discussion, the Board took the following action:

25-12-135	<i>Upon motion by President Sanchez, seconded by Director MacKenzie and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez), the Board of Directors selected Mike Sims of Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District, James Gordon of Deer Springs Fire Protection District, Erica Wolski of Ramona Municipal Water District, Lindsay Leahy of Valley Center Municipal Water District, Albert C. Lau of Santa Fe Irrigation District, Kimberly Thorner of Olivenhain Municipal Water District and Dave McQuead of Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District to fill expiring seats on San Diego LAFCO Special Districts Advisory Committee and authorized the Board President to cast the District's vote accordingly.</i>
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**15. MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**

See staff report attached hereto.

Director Miller referred to the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) November 20, 2025 Summary of Formal Board of Directors' Meeting and said that it was a relatively quiet meeting.

**16. MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

See staff report attached hereto.

Directors Nuñez, Miller, MacKenzie and President Sanchez reported on their attendance at the San Diego Chapter California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Quarterly Meeting where they heard a presentation by Mark Stuart, President and CEO of the San Diego Foundation.

Directors Miller, MacKenzie and President Sanchez reported on their attendance at the 2025 Fall Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Conference, each highlighting various sessions attended and presentations heard. President Sanchez also reported on his attendance at meetings of the ACWA Energy and Federal Affairs committees.

President Sanchez reported on his attendance of the ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Association Membership Summit where he heard various presentations related to the Summit's theme of "The Board's Blueprint: Risk Transfer Strategies for Sustainable Water Operations."

Director Nuñez advised the Board that he plans to attend the Vista Chamber of Commerce (Vista Chamber) Business Mixer tonight. President Sanchez and Director Nuñez asked for authorization to attend the Vista Chamber State of the Community Luncheon event on January 26, 2026.

President Sanchez stated that ACWA Committee appointments will be announced before the end of the year and that he extended an invitation to ACWA President Ernie Avila to visit the District.

25-12-136 *Upon motion by Director MacKenzie, seconded by Director Kuchinsky and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez), the Board of Directors authorized Directors Sanchez and Nunez to attend the Vista Chamber of Commerce State of the Community event on January 26, 2026.*

**17. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS AND/OR PRESS RELEASES**

See staff report attached hereto.

President Sanchez commented that the Assistant Superintendent of the Vista Unified School District, Shawn Loescher, would like to come to an upcoming Board meeting to share the progress on the Bobier Elementary project and thank the District and Board for its support and collaboration on said project. Mr. Hodgkiss indicated that Mr. Loescher was welcome to speak to the Board during Oral Communications at any future Board meeting.

**18. COMMENTS BY DIRECTORS**

Director Kuchinsky commented that he enjoyed the Employee Appreciation Event held the previous day and said that he truly appreciates the presentations honoring employees. He emphasized that staff are the face and the heart of the District, noting that he continually receives positive feedback from customers regarding interactions with District staff.

Director Nuñez said that he commends the District for promoting a positive culture for its employees and said that it shows in the interactions that he has had with them.

**19. COMMENTS BY GENERAL COUNSEL**

Ms. Mitchell informed the Board about Senate Bill 827, a new law effective January 1, 2026, that mandates local government officials, certain appointees, and key staff complete at least two hours of financial training every two years. She noted that elected officials currently in office have until January 1, 2028 to complete the training.

**20. COMMENTS BY GENERAL MANAGER**

Mr. Hodgkiss thanked the Board for their attendance and participation in the Employee Appreciation Event and wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**21. ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

The Board took the following action:

Director MacKenzie nominated Director Miller to be President for 2026.

25-12-137 *Upon motion by Director MacKenzie, seconded by Director Sanchez and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez), the Board of Directors elected Director Miller as President for 2026.*

Director Miller nominated Director MacKenzie to be First Vice President for 2026.

25-12-138 *Upon motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director Nuñez and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez), the Board of Directors elected Director MacKenzie as First Vice President for 2026.*

25-12-139

*Upon motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director MacKenzie and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie, and Sanchez), the Board of Directors approved Ramee Ogilvie as Secretary of the Board, Elizabeth Xaverius and Brett Hodgkiss as Assistant Secretaries of the Board, Shallako Goodrick as Treasurer, and Branden O'Donnell and Brett Hodgkiss as Assistant Treasurers for 2026.*

**22. CLOSED SESSION TO CONDUCT PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION – GENERAL MANAGER**

At 11:04 a.m. the Board went into Closed Session to conduct the performance evaluation of a public employee pursuant to Government Code section 54957.

At 12:01 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session and there was no reportable action.

**23. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 12:02 p.m. President Sanchez adjourned the meeting to January 7, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.



Patrick H. Sanchez, President

ATTEST:



Ramee Ogilvie, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT