

**Ivar Amen**  
*President, Division 4*

**Garrett Wallis**  
*Vice President, Division 3*

**Ronnean Lund**  
*Director, Division 1*

**Audie Butcher**  
*Director, Division 2*

**Matt Arrowsmith**  
*Director, Division 5*

**Daniel Ruiz**  
*General Manager*

# BOARD MEETING

## Approved Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

1887 Howard Street, Anderson (Council Chambers)

**1. Call To Order** at 6:00 pm by President Amen

**Directors Present:** Ivar Amen, Garrett Wallis, Ronnean Lund, and Matt Arrowsmith

**Directors Absent:** Audie Butcher

**Staff Present:** Dan Ruiz, Ben Duncan, Terri White, Shawna Bell

**2. Flag Salute** was led by community member **Steve McCarley**

**3. Public Participation**

Time is set aside for members of the public who wish to address the Board regarding matters within the District's jurisdiction. Individuals are requested to limit comments to a maximum of three minutes.

Patricia Haman - Reported ongoing flooding and fence damage at her property caused by conditions along the irrigation ditch during the 2025 irrigation season. Bank repairs required removing approximately 50 feet of her fencing, and she stated that inadequate temporary fencing led to the loss of two sheep. She submitted a \$600 compensation claim on December 14, 2025, but has not received a response. Ms. Haman expressed frustration with the handling of the issue but noted appreciation for recent piping improvements along the ditch. She requested an update on the status of her claim.

Board members will be reviewing Patricia Haman's claim during closed session.

Tammy Weisberg - Addressed the Board regarding long-standing flooding issues on her property and a street culvert she reports has been malfunctioning for more than a decade. She stated that despite multiple attempts by ACID to repair the problem, irrigation water continues to flood her property during irrigation season, not during rain events. She reported that the severe rains in December and January did not cause flooding at her home, which she documented with photos, and asserted that ACID irrigation water entering the seasonal runoff ditch is the source of the problem. Ms. Weisberg also raised concerns about tree loss on her property, which she believes has been caused by prolonged saturation from ditch leakage. She requested that ACID identify and repair the underlying ditch issue, enforce its rules regarding irrigators allowing water to escape onto neighboring properties, and stop attributing the problem to rain or county drainage. She emphasized that she has been reporting the issue for three years and is seeking a permanent resolution.

#### 4. Consent Items

- a. Payroll: Approve the Payroll Check Register for December 2025
- b. Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) & Automated Clearing House (ACH) – Approve transactions for the Payroll Periods 12/15/2025 and 12/31/2025
- c. Voided and/or missing checks for December 2025

Director Lund made the motion to approve Consent Items; Vice President Wallis, seconded the motion. No questions or comments. Vote 4-0 passed unanimously.

#### 5. Regular Business Items

- a. Minutes – Approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on 12/11/25 & 1/8/2026 and Special Meeting 12/19/25

Vice President Wallis made the motion to approve all minutes; Director Lund seconded the motion. No questions or comments. Vote 4-0 passed unanimously.

- b. Financial Status Report for Year-to-Date through December 31, 2025

The Board reviewed the year-end Financial Status Report. Directors asked questions regarding several budget variances, and staff provided explanations, including:

- Revenues: Higher-than-budgeted revenues were primarily due to increased interest earnings.
- Regular Salaries: Overall salaries came in under budget due to turnover and the use of temporary staff. Savings also reflected the unfilled Assistant General Manager position.
- Maintenance Agreements: Costs included IT service contracts (e.g., Obsidian, Wake Up), USA Dig notification services, and software updates.
- Permits and Fees: Exceeded budget.
- Accounting & Taxes: Increase attributed to LAFCO fees.
- Safety Incentive Awards: Line item exists, but no awards have been issued for several years.
- Personnel Supplies & Equipment: Included annual purchases of work shirts, hats, and safety-related items. The Board discussed whether ongoing uniform purchases should be reviewed as policy.
- Engineering Services: Related to project planning and early-stage engineering work.

Director Lund made the motion to approve the Financial Status report; Vice President Wallis, seconded the motion. No questions or comments. Vote 4-0 passed unanimously.

- c. Cash Disbursement Journal for December 2025

Director Arrowsmith made the motion to approve the Cash Disbursement report; Vice President Wallis, seconded the motion. No questions or comments. Vote 4-0 passed unanimously.

#### 6. New Business Items

- a. Review and Consider Approving Replacement to Lateral 29.2 Pipeline

Staff presented a proposal to replace approximately 1,000 feet of severely leaking pipeline on Lateral 29.2. The existing overhang pipe is failing due to age and damage. After evaluating alternatives, staff recommended installing an HDPE fused siphon line for long-term durability, along with replacing an additional section with 24" PVC and adding a new concrete box at the connection point. Vestra confirmed the hydraulic capacity will meet operational needs.

Board Discussion and Comment-Director Lund agreed this needs to be done with the understanding that the district must remain mindful of its overall budget.

Director Lund made the motion to approve the Replacement to Lateral 29.2 Pipeline; Director Arrowsmith, seconded the motion. No questions or comments. Vote 4-0 passed unanimously.

**b. Review and Approve 2026 Operating Budget**

Staff presented the 2026 Operating Budget, noting updates made following the Board's December direction. Several 2025 capital project expenditures were reclassified to the 2025 budget year, reducing the 2026 capital request by approximately \$1 million. Staff also outlined revenue refinements, including separating application fees from water sales for clearer tracking, updating CVP and base supply projections, and incorporating anticipated FEMA/Cal OES reimbursements. Staff confirmed that the line item labeled "LAFCO taxes/assessments" represents the District's required annual LAFCO fees.

Staff and the Board discussed canal maintenance needs, fencing, equipment cover, and potential office expansion. The preliminary operating budget showed an estimated deficit of \$139,000, though staff noted this represents spending authority, not a spending requirement.

**Board Discussion and Comments –**

- The Board discussed whether to keep the Assistant GM position funded pending Personnel Committee direction, and that property tax backup figures were updated to match the most recent receipt.
- Question about permit fee spike in 2025 for LAFCO membership billing.
- Discussion about canal maintenance line item intended as a buffer for emergencies.
- Board member concern about the \$350k buildings line and whether the equipment shade structure and office expansion were necessary; staff agreed to research modular office options.

Prior to approval, the Board requested a reduction in interest revenue assumptions for Q4 2026 to account for likely capital project spending. Interest revenue was adjusted from \$730,000 to \$710,000.

Director Lund made the motion to approve the 2026 Operating Budget with mentioned updates; Vice President Wallis, seconded the motion. No questions or comments. Vote 4-0 passed unanimously.

**c. Report on Shady Lane 42" Pipeline Inspection (Presentation)**

Staff provided an update on the condition of the 42-inch Shady Lane pipeline. Multiple leaks were identified along the line, including cracking under a commercial driveway that has been driven over for decades. Video inspection revealed separation at joints, water infiltration, and a major longitudinal crack extending approximately 60–68 feet beneath the Safeway delivery access driveway. Pipe lining was evaluated but deemed infeasible due to active water infiltration and structural degradation.

A new access manhole is being designed to allow proper inspection and repair of the leak area. The section under the commercial driveway presents the greatest risk; utilities in the area (gas, electric, city water, and irrigation) complicate excavation, but failure of this segment could be catastrophic.

**Board Discussion and Comment-**

- The Board discussed options for protecting the pipe after repairs, including reinforcing the driveway slab or installing a protective cap.
- Discussion that pipe is unreinforced old concrete and slab is possibly unreinforced.
- Safeway landowner would be responsible for above-ground driveway improvements after ACID repairs.

Staff was directed to continue advancing the engineering and planning work due to the urgency of the situation. Staff will collaborate with the engineer to finalize designs for the manhole repair and the driveway pipe replacement and will present the proposed above-ground improvements to the property owner.

**d. Review and Consider Approving Contracted Services for District Spray Program**

Staff presented options for contracted spraying of the District's facilities. Proposals were received from Pacific Ag Drones and Washburn Ag, both providing per-acre application pricing of roughly \$32,800 for a 60-foot average swath. Drone application was discussed as a potential benefit for laterals running through many private properties, though concerns were raised regarding drift, spray accuracy, and effectiveness on canal banks. Washburn Ag has sprayed for the District in prior years and is familiar with system access constraints.

Board discussion and comment-

- Discussion about pre-emergent chemicals (effectiveness, timing, tree impacts).
- Discussion of organic farms and potential mapping opt-outs (communication via text alerts).

Vice President Wallis made the motion to approve to proceed with contracted spraying services, up to \$36,000. Director Arrowsmith seconded the motion. No further questions or comments. Vote 4-0 passed unanimously.

## 7. Other Business

### a. General Manager Report

The GM updated the Board via written report herein attached to the Board packet.

#### Offseason Work Budget Tracker

Tabled for another time due to time constraints

### b. Operations Manager Report

The Operations Manager provided an overview of extensive offseason maintenance and construction work completed by both contractors and District staff. Contractor projects included major canal cleaning and bank reconstruction on multiple reaches of the Main Canal, Crowley Gulch, Greengate to Ludwig, and Panoramic/Locust segments; significant pipeline replacements on Laterals 29 and 33; and progress on the NRCS lateral project near Gas Point. Additional contractor work included ditch rehabilitation along several laterals and the pickup ditch.

District staff completed multiple pipe replacements, slide-gate upgrades, headwall installations, and ongoing support for contractor activities. Crews also performed extensive tree removal, vegetation clearing, and canal restoration in coordination with Cal Fire and Sugar Pine crews along numerous reaches, and segments through the City of Anderson and Redding. Staff addressed erosion, gopher damage, drainage issues, and emergency repairs following winter storms.

The report emphasized the considerable progress made across the system and noted the need for continued inspection of valve standards due to age-related deterioration.

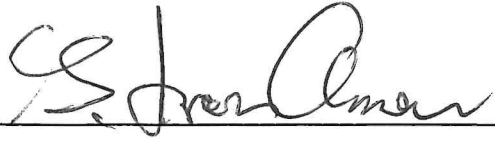
## 8. General Session adjourned at 8:39 pm, moved into closed session

## 9. Closed Session:

- Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation (Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1)). Consider the following liability claims:**
  - Patricia Haman
- Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Significant Exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(2).**
  - Two potential cases.
- Public Employee Employment and/or Performance Evaluation (Government Code § 54957)**
  - Title: General Manager & Operations Manager Evaluation

Direction given to general counsel and General Manager by the board.

10. Closed Session Adjourned at 9:45 pm

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. J. Almer", written above a horizontal line.

Signature

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Date