

1 MINUTES OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF
2 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT HELD ON
3 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026, AT 6:30 P.M., AT THE DISTRICT BOARD ROOM.
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6 DIRECTORS PRESENT:

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- 8 Rick Brubaker, President
- 9 Ginny Mercer, Vice-President
- 10 Drew Battles, Director
- 11 Pete Suggs, Director
- 12 Louise Wilkinson, Director
- 13

14 STAFF PRESENT:

- 15
- 16 Martha Slack, General Manager
- 17 Scott Russell, Lead Water Operator
- 18

19 ALSO PRESENT:

- 20
- 21 Bradley Frost, Lot Owner
- 22

23 ABSENT:

- 24
- 25 No absences
- 26

27 Agenda Item #1 – Public Comment. Attendee Brad Frost introduced himself and said that he is
28 in the process of building a residence in the community. He also stated that he has public utility
29 experience in water and wastewater. Having no further comments, we moved to Agenda Item #2.

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31 Agenda Item #2 – Approval of Excused Absences. No absences.

32
33 Agenda Item#3 – Review and Approve the 2024/2025 Audited Financial Statements. We
34 attempted to reach our auditor, Michael Fink from Fechter & Associates, but our phone in the
35 conference room was not working. We tried to hold the conference call on speaker cell phone
36
37 with very poor reception. It was determined we would postpone and reschedule a zoom meeting
38
39 at our next Board meeting. The current audit has many formatting changes due to GASB
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41

1 changes and we would like to get a better understanding from the auditor.

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4 Agenda Item #4 – Manager’s Report. The General Manager presented the Manager’s Report
5
6 through January 16, 2026. A brief discussion followed.
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9 Agenda Item#5 – Update on cancelling the Lab Certification. Included in the board package was
10
11 a spreadsheet showing the potential cost savings benefit the to the District by cancelling
12
13 our lab certification and outsourcing our daily WWTP testing to Pace Analytical Laboratory.
14
15 District Staff have advised ELAP that we will not be renewing our Lab Certification when it
16
17 expires in April. Lab Director, Scott Russell presented examples of savings and potential
18
19 savings from future ever-increasing costly demands from ELAP.
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21
22 Agenda Item #6 – Approval of the Minutes of the Six Hundred and Seventy-Fifth Regular Board
23 Meeting Held on December 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the District Board Room. Vice-President
24 Mercer made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Six Hundred and Seventy-Fifth Regular
25 Board Meeting held on December 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the District Board Room, seconded
26 by Director Battles. The motion carried (4-0), Director Wilkinson abstained.

27
28 Agenda Item #7 – Presentation of the Special Tax and Bond Accountability Report Fiscal Year
29 2024/2025. The General Manager explained that this report is required annually in addition to
30 our Annual Administrative Report in response to Senate Bill 165 to demonstrate to the voters
31 that special taxes and bond proceeds are being spent on the facilities and services for which they
32 were attended.
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34
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1 Agenda Item #8 – Approval of the December Disbursement Reports. Director Wilkinson made a
2
3 motion to approve the December Disbursement Reports, seconded by Vice-President Mercer. A
4
5 brief question answer period followed. The Motion carried, (5-0).
6

7 Agenda Item #9 - Communications:

8 Staff: The General Manager advised the Directors that she will be out for surgery on
9 Monday and hopes to be back by Wednesday.

10 Directors: Director Suggs advised Directors and Staff that he would be out of town for
11
12 our next Board Meeting being held on February 18th. He asked if we could set up a
13
14 Zoom meeting so he could attend the conference with the Auditor. The General Manager
15
16 said that this would be possible. Director Battles informed the General Manager that he
17
18 has taken his house off the market and plans on staying in Lake California. He asked if
19
20 he could get the District Facilities tour now that he intends on staying, preferably on a
21
22 Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Lead Water Operator, Scott Russell told him that would
23
24 be fine, and Director Suggs said he would like to be a part of that tour.
25
26

27 Having no further business to discuss, Vice-President Mercer made a motion to adjourn the
28 meeting at 7:55 p.m., seconded by Director Wilkinson. The motion carried (5-0).
29

30 Sincerely,

31 
32

33 Martha Slack, General Manager

Addendum A
 Manager's Report
 January 16, 2026

Drought/Water Consumption/SGMA:

The new water year 2025/2026 began October 1, 2025. The new water year compares with the last two water years as follows:

Water Year	Jan. 13th Precipitation Received	Average Precipitation to Date	Percent of Average	Shasta Lake feet from Crest
2025/2026	18.67	14.32	130%	28.73
2024/2025	19.65	13.29	147%	36.38
2023/2024	10.77	13.71	79%	52.77

Shasta Dam is currently releasing 12,983cfs.

Consumption for the period 11/3/25 – 01/2/26 is 44.1% lower than 2013 consumption for the same period and year to date consumption is 26% lower than the year-to-date totals for 2013.

Current news reports indicate that California is out of a drought for the 1st time in 25 years. The current statewide snowpack is 71% of the average compared to 115% on the same date last year. The annual snowpack supplies approximately 30% of California's water needs.

Connections: We received 2 additional water/sewer connections since last reported. Fiscal year to date totals are:

Connections to Date 2025/26	#
Water 1" Meter	4
Water 1" Duplex	0
Water 2" Meter	0
Water 1" Landscape Meter	0
Water ¾" Landscape Meter	0
Normal Sewer/LPSS	3
Commercial Sewer	0

2025/2026 Budgeted Water = 7, Budgeted Sewer = 5

Field Crew:

- Sewer lateral repairs have been completed on Dinghy. Field crew worked alongside Solid Rock Tving the laterals to assure we got all of the necessary repairs done. I have attached a copy of the billing from Solid Rock Construction. Funds were transferred from the LAIF Sewer line repair/replacement fund and the Sewer Savings Account. I am very glad

this was completed before they increased the flows from Shasta Dam because the river has risen quite a bit.

- Meter reads.
- WWTP gate contractor will be out next week.
- Day Wireless will be out on January 22nd to adjust the radios to see if they work properly with the new Cat6 wire.
- One of the two new connection meters was installed.
- Lift Station #6 transfer switch may be here next week.
- Lift Station #3 pump has been pulled and sent to Industrial Electric for repair.

Pending Projects:

- Selection of survey sites for backflow surveys.
- Slide repair at the WWTP
- Possible sewer patch next week.

Regulatory:

The December Water and Wastewater Reports are included in the board package.

Solar Updates:

Solar updates period December 12, 2025 through January 12, 2026:

	<u>True-Up Month</u>	<u>Current Month Net Energy Usage</u>	<u>Cumulative Energy or Credits Dollar True-up</u>	<u>Cumulative Non-Bypassable Charges</u>
Office	August	\$963.79	\$1,223.13	\$ 0.00
WWTP	November	\$6,365.56	\$10,678.84	\$0.00
Well#6	February	\$132.80	\$(4,657.44)	\$4,677.49
Well#5	March	\$2,719.88	\$6.85	\$3,038.50

Admin:

- Availability bills mailed out 12/31/25.
- Metered billings 11/3 through 1/2/26 prepared and mailed.
- Updated rates in billing system to reflect year 3 of 5-year increases approved in rate study.
- Annual Comptroller's Report was filed 1/15/26.
- Training, Training, Training!
- Working on training manuals.

