



May 20th, 2025

Western Hills Water District
Minutes of the Special Meeting of
The Board of Directors

1. Roll Call of Closed Session 5:30 p.m. adjourned at 6:45 p.m.
M. Kovich, M. Oliver, M. Davies, and J. Frederick. M. George Johnson was absent. In Attendance by teleconference were District Counsel Lemmo and Special Counsel Neasham
2. Motion to approve published agenda
Unanimously approved by Board members in attendance
3. Public Comments on Closed Session Items/Motion to adjourn to Closed Session
No public comments. No attendees from Public.
4. Closed session ended
Closed session items 4 (A), (B), and (C) discussed and concluded
5. Reconvened Open Session 7:00 p.m.
Roll call was taken M. Kovich, M. Davies, M. Oliver, J. Frederick, M. George Johnson absent. Approximately 95 in person attendees. Approximately 85 virtual attendees.
6. Reportable Actions Taken During Closed Session
No reportable action. Director Kovich gave a brief presentation update on the water crisis with Kern County Water Agency and other State Agencies.
7. Public Comment on Agenda Items
There were no public comments

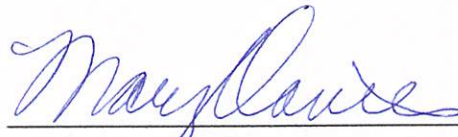
8. Agenda Items

Question and Answer session conducted. Public comments as noted.

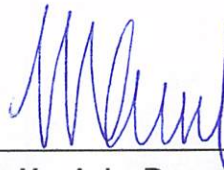
- **James Stewart:** Questioned the rate study relating to the PID pipe. The reserve. The fraud/civil lawsuits.
- **John Alavarez:** What is the status of the Commercial Owners Associations and the water charges currently not being paid. Question to understand the Prop 218 process. Question and comment about the WHWD lawsuits.
- **Dave Soetelo:** Stated he supported the rate increase and asked if the rate increase failed how long can he stay in his home.
- **Dan Jenkins:** How much equity does the CFD property. Kovich said there is no equity.
- **Dave Childrean:** Asked about timing on the lawsuit. Attorney Neasham said there is no time frame and certainly will not be within 6 months.
- **Kevin Halverson:** Asked when rate study letter was mailed. Kovich confirmed May 14th.
- **Natasha Gibson:** Asked if rate increase pays for past Kern arrearages and voiced her concern how the debt was incurred when she has paid her personal water bill on time.
- **Bobby Rastrullo:** Expressed is frustration because the DG HOA was not financially supporting WHWD.
- **Cliff Girard:** Stated we need water and not to protest the water rate increase.
- **Riley Carroll:** Commented on how Kern should re-negotiate the water contract.
- **Verity Harding:** Expressed the opinion that \$568 is a rate where many will not be able to afford.
- **Lisa Gunn:** Asked why cannot void the Kern/WHWD contract? Kovich suggested she read the contract.
- **Jessica Browning:** Asked when the original Kern shut off notice letter was published. Kovich replied the same day it was received.
- **Jennifer Hamilton:** Expressed her disappointed a renegotiated contract had not been achieved.
- **Doug Moore:** Stated that Kern County Water Agency is not Kern County.
- **Dan Anderson:** Asked about if the water was shut off would the sewer still function. Kovich said he did not know.

At 9:07 p.m. Director M. Kovich motioned to adjourn the public meeting. M. Oliver 2nd, Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:



Mary Davies, Secretary of the Board



Mark Kovich, Board President