JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING SUPPLEMENT

October 7 Board Action on the Joshua Tree Septic-to-Sewer Initiative

Supplemental material for Item 8C · November 18, 2026

Regarding page 4 of the November 2026 *Meter Reader*

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San Bernardino County asked the District to take a position on continued Phase I planning and feasibility work for the Joshua Tree Septic-to-Sewer Initiative. At its September 28 special meeting, the Board considered two draft resolutions, one expressing support and one expressing non-support. The Board then asked staff to prepare a third resolution expressing qualified support and bring it back for consideration.

On October 7, the Board considered the qualified support resolution, No. 26-1100. It would have supported continued Phase I planning while preserving the District's authority over matters affecting its responsibilities and seeking meaningful District participation and regular updates. The motion to adopt the resolution as amended failed, with two directors in favor and three opposed.

After the vote, the Board agreed by consensus to direct staff to draft a letter to the County Supervisor's office and return it for Board consideration and approval. In discussing the draft, directors proposed asking for a written agreement defining the County's and District's roles, a meaningful role for the District in shaping the Phase I scope of work, and regular public updates to the Board.

On October 9, two days after the Board meeting, the County informed the District that, after reviewing the October 7 meeting, it had decided to end the initiative as presented and move in a different direction. In her letter, Supervisor Dawn Rowe said the County saw insufficient Board support for a County-led initiative. The County also said it remained open to future collaboration. Staff did not prepare the draft letter after the County withdrew the initiative.

The District's Wastewater Strategy is expected to come before the Board for deliberation at an upcoming meeting.

Source Material

October 9 letter from County Supervisor Dawn Rowe, November 10 Water & Growth Committee packet, pp. 5–6.

September 28 approved minutes, item 7A. October 7 approved minutes, item 7B.

October 7 meeting transcript excerpts, 1:47:01–1:52:37 and 1:57:41–1:58:04.