



AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022, AT 5:30 PM

ON MARCH 4, 2020, CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN CALIFORNIA AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AN EMERGENCY THAT REMAINS IN EFFECT AND FROM WHICH OUTBREAKS AND EXPOSURE CONTINUES TO PRESENT AN IMMINENT THREAT FOR SOME ATTENDEES. **THIS MEETING MAY BE ATTENDED IN PERSON AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE BOARDROOM AT 61750 CHOLLITA RD., JOSHUA TREE, CA 92284, BY PHONE, OR BY VIDEO CONFERENCE.**

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85091507074?pwd=ckNDWHJxZHJCaFJHZkFSSTF6ZWpBZz09>

Meeting ID: 850 9150 7074

Passcode: 140389

OUR MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

Mission Statement

To provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree's water - our vital community resource.

Vision Statement

To achieve excellence in all District endeavors.

Values

The community of Joshua Tree has entrusted the Board of Directors and employees of Joshua Basin Water District with its most valuable natural resource, its groundwater. As stewards of the community water supply, we oversee this critical natural resource to ensure current and future water reliability. Dedicated to this purpose, we embrace these important values:

- **Integrity** – To consistently earn our customers' trust by prioritizing the needs of the community...doing the right thing for the right reason.
- **Transparency** – To openly and honestly share information about our operations with the public.
- **Respect** – To treat the residents of Joshua Tree, and all those contacted in the course of business, with high esteem and regard.
- **Fiscal Responsibility** – To manage all resources as if they were our own, whether revenues, assets, or water supply, in a conscientious and appropriate manner.
- **Accountability** – To take responsibility for our decisions and actions in managing this essential resource.

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

3. CEREMONIAL OATH OF OFFICE

PRESENTED BY: Sarah Johnson, General Manager – Barbara Delph and Tyler "Thomas" Short to take the oath of office. Mr. Short will take his board seat following certification of the election by the County of San Bernardino, which is currently anticipated to occur on December 8, 2022.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

This is the time set aside for public comment on any District related matter, whether appearing on the agenda or not. At the discretion of the Board President, however, comments on a particular Agenized item may be deferred until that item is heard. Please state your name and limit your comments to 3 minutes.

6. **STATE OF EMERGENCY FINDINGS – GOVT. CODE § 54953(e)**

On October 6, 2021, the Board, by majority vote, adopted Resolution No. 21-1035, making certain findings that (1) the State of Emergency declared by California Governor Newsom on March 4, 2020, relative to the COVID-19 Emergency, remains in effect; and (2) due to existing rate of community transmission and the small meeting space available to the District for in-person attendance, the provision of a unrestricted physical location for the District’s meetings could present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees. **It is recommended that the Board resolve by majority roll-call vote to extend the findings in Resolution No. 21-1035, modified to allow for optional in-person attendance for members of the Board and public, for an additional 30 days.**

7. **LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC INFORMATION STANDING COMMITTEE (LPIC)**

PRESENTED BY: Sarah Johnson, General Manager – Recommend the board considers changing the LPIC from a standing committee to an ADHOC when needed.

8. **UNITED WAY “H2O” LOW-INCOME PROGRAM**

PRESENTED BY: Anne Roman, Director of Finance– Receive information, reconsider the program, and consider adopting an increase from \$50 to \$100 annual credit per participant.

9. **PUBLIC OUTREACH REPORT**

PRESENTED BY: Kathleen Radnich, Consultant for Public Outreach - For informational purposes only on subjects not covered by the agenda and no action to be taken.

10. **GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT**

For informational purposes only on subjects not covered by the agenda and no action to be taken.

11. **DIRECTOR REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

For informational purposes only on subjects not covered by the agenda and no action to be taken. The Board may provide staff with requests for specific agenda items.

12. **FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS**

	DATE/TIME	ATTENDEE(S)
• Special JBWD Board of Directors Meeting	Dec 14, 2022 9:00 am	ALL
• JBWD Finance Committee	Dec 14, 2022 9:00 am	CANCELLED
• JBWD Water Resources & Ops Committee	Dec 14, 2022 10:30 am	CANCELLED
• MWA - Technical Advisory Committee	Dec 15, 2022 10:00 am	TBD
• Regular JBWD Board of Directors Meeting	Dec 21, 2022 5:30 pm	ALL

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

INFORMATION

The public is invited to comment on any item on the agenda during the discussion of that item.

Availability of agenda materials: Materials related to any item on this Agenda submitted to the District Board of Directors of Committee Members after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the District's office, 61750 Chollita Road, Joshua Tree, CA 92252, during normal business hours. All documents supporting this agenda are available on the District website www.jbwd.com, subject to the staff's availability to post the documents before the meeting.

Reasonable Accommodation: Any person with a disability, who requires accommodation to view the agenda or to participate in the public comment portion of the Board meeting, should direct such requests to Sarah Johnson, Secretary of the Board of Directors, at 760-366-8438. Please allow three business days for your request to be processed. Requests must be received at least seventy-two (72) hours before the scheduled meeting.

Disruptive Conduct: If any meeting of the District is willfully disrupted by a person or by a group of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of the meeting impossible, a meeting may be recessed or the person or persons willfully disrupting the meeting may be ordered to leave the meeting. Disruptive conduct includes addressing the Board or Committee without first being recognized, not addressing the subject before the Board or Committee, repetitively addressing the same subject, failing to relinquish the podium when requested to do so, or otherwise preventing the Board or Committee from conducting its meeting in an orderly manner. Your cooperation is appreciated.



Board of Directors Staff Report

MEETING DATE: December 7, 2022
 PRESENTED BY: Sarah Johnson, General Manager
 TOPIC: **CEREMONIAL OATH OF OFFICE**
 RECOMMENDATION: Barbara Delph and Tyler "Thomas" Short to take the oath of office. Mr. Short will take his board seat following certification of the election by the County of San Bernardino, which is currently anticipated to occur on December 8, 2022.

ANALYSIS:

Oath of Office

For the office of Joshua Basin Water District.

I, _____ do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter.

Signature _____

Term Expires _____

State of California

County of San Bernardino

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on,

This day _____ day of _____, 2022

By _____ proving to be on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person who appeared before me.

STRATEGIC PLAN ITEM:

2.11 – Continuously update administrative policies and procedures

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A



Board of Directors Staff Report

MEETING DATE: December 7, 2022
PRESENTED BY: Sarah Johnson, General Manager
TOPIC: **LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC INFORMATION STANDING COMMITTEE (LPIC)**
RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the board considers changing the LPIC from a standing committee to an ADHOC when needed.

ANALYSIS:

In an effort to create efficiency and reduce workloads, staff recommends that the board considers changing the LPIC meeting from a standing committee to an ADHOC that can be scheduled when needed. The last LPIC committee meeting was held on October 6, 2021.

STRATEGIC PLAN ITEM:

2.11 – Continuously update administrative policies and procedures

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

Board of Directors Staff Report

MEETING DATE: December 7, 2022
PRESENTED BY: Anne Roman, Director of Finance
TOPIC: **UNITED WAY “H2O” LOW INCOME PROGRAM**
RECOMMENDATION: Receive information, reconsider the program, and consider adopting an increase from \$50 to \$100 annual credit per participant.

ANALYSIS:

Since 2018, the District has contributed to a low-income customer assistance program called “H2O - Help2Others,” which is administered by the United Way of the Desert. The program currently offers a \$50 annual water bill credit to eligible applicants. In the four years since the program began, the District has budgeted for a total of \$39,900, needing to fund only \$13,300. As of 11/14/22, an unused balance of about \$4,500 remains, meaning we have expended only \$8,800 over four years.

This program is funded solely with non-water rate revenues, such as our share of Property taxes received from the County. However, recent legal review with AALRR indicates that this program *could* be considered a “gift of public funds” unless the Board deems there to be a legitimate “public purpose or benefit”. Arguably, it could be said that this program’s benefit may be to reduce bad debt, which is a burden to all ratepayers.

Participation in the program, despite various outreach, has remained relatively low. This fact, combined with anticipated water rate increases, leads us to propose an increase in the per participant credit amount. With a current average bill of \$80.05 (based on 6 units of usage), a \$100 credit would be more in line with the anticipated 5-year escalation of an average bill and may make the application effort more worthwhile for customers.

To date, the program has served about 150 customers, averaging approximately 37 per year. Without changing the current annual funding of \$6,650* committed to this program, an annual \$100 per participant credit would benefit 60 customers per year.

Staff recommends that the Board review this program and its “public benefit.” If the desire is to maintain the program, please consider increasing the annual credit per eligible participant from \$50 to \$100, without any change in the overall budget. Such an increase would become effective upon amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding between JBWD and the United Way of the Desert, as executed by the District’s General Manager.

*\$6,650 less \$650 United Way administrative fee.

STRATEGIC PLAN ITEM:

2.11 – Continuously update administrative policies and procedures

FISCAL IMPACT:

None anticipated. The current budget is maintained.