HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1078 Dogwood Rd., Suite 104
Heber, CA 92249

Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

The District recognizes its obligation to provide equal access to those individuals with disabilities. Please contact the District (760-482-2440) two working days prior to the meeting with any special requests for reasonable accommodation including translation services. **COMUNÍQUESE CON EL DISTRITO SI SOLICITA SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN SOBRE UN TEMA PARTICULAR DE LA AGENDA. TODAS LAS SOLICITUDES DEBERÁN REALIZARSE POR ESCRITO DOS DÍAS HÁBILES ANTES DE LA JUNTA.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by President Delfino Matus at 6:02pm.

2. **ROLL CALL:** All those present included President Delfino Matus, Director Tony Sandoval, Director Helen Diaz-Molina, Director Sarah Curry, General Counsel Steve Walker, General Counsel Mitchell Driskill, General Manager Madeline Dessert, Finance Manager Luis Carrazco, Clerk of the Board Jacob Bermudez

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** President Matus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Director Curry motioned to approve the agenda. Director Diaz-Molina seconded the motion. Motion Carried. AYES: Director Curry, Director Sandoval, Director Diaz-Molina, President Matus. / NOES: 0

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Salvador Placencia expressed concerns about the proposed rate structure and the elimination of the 15,000-gallon allocation. He also raised concerns about the number of protests received and the number required to prevent adoption of the proposed rates.

Diahna Garcia-Ruiz expressed concerns about the condition of the District's assets and questioned how they had been allowed to deteriorate to their current state. She stated that a lack of accountability undermines the community's trust in the Board.

Sergio Apolinar stated that a 30% rate increase is substantial and expressed uncertainty about how the funds are being used. He also raised concerns about the financial projections and the allocation of funds within the budget.

Ernesto Gutierrez expressed concerns that the Board had not addressed questions he raised at the previous Board meeting. He also questioned whether the meeting minutes had been posted and made available to the public in a timely manner before the current meeting.

Maria Elena Fierro asked questions about the proposed rate structure and rates. She expressed concerns that many families would have difficulty affording the proposed increases.

Diana Plascencia asked whether the purpose of the previous meeting was to present Option B of the rate study.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Director Curry motioned to approve the consent agenda. Director Diaz-Molina seconded the motion. Motion Carried. AYES: Director Curry, Director Sandoval, Director Diaz-Molina, President Matus / NOES: 0

   A. Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting on September 17, 2026

B. Approval of the Minutes for the Special Meeting on October 6, 2026

C. Approval of Demands for September 2026

7. REPORTS:

A. President and Director's Comments

B. Operations Report for September 2026 – Presented with no additions

C. General Manager's Report – Presented with no additions

D. Grants Update – Presented with no additions

8. NEW BUSINESS: Discussion and Possible Action

A. Adopt Resolution Number 2026-18 Setting Monthly Water and Sanitary Sewer Rates Within the Heber Public Utility District Service Area – General Manager
PUBLIC COMMENT: Diahna Garcia-Ruiz requested clarification about the service fees for McCabe Cove and asked whether those fees would differ from those charged to other customers.
Salvador Plasencia expressed concerns about the proposed rate structure and the elimination of the water allotment. He also expressed concerns that the Board had not addressed the questions he raised during public comment.

Director Sandoval motioned to approve and Adopt Resolution Number 2026-18 Setting Monthly Water and Sanitary Sewer Rates Within the Heber Public Utility District Service Area. Director Diaz-Molina seconded the motion. Motion carried. AYES: Director Sandoval, Director Diaz-Molina, President Matus / NOES: Director Curry

B. Adopt Second Reading Ordinance Number 2026-19 Adopting the Water Service Capacity Fees – General Manager Director Sandoval motioned to Waive and Adopt Second Reading Ordinance Number 2026-19 Adopting the Water Service Capacity Fees. Director Diaz-Molina seconded the motion. Motion carried. AYES: Director Curry, Director Sandoval, Director Diaz-Molina / NOES: 0

C. Adopt Second Reading Ordinance Number 2026-20 Adopting the Water Service Impact Fees - General Manager Director Sandoval motioned to Waive and Adopt Second Reading Ordinance Number 2026-20 Adopting the Water Service Capacity Fees. Director Diaz-Molina seconded the motion. Motion carried. AYES: Director Curry, Director Sandoval, Director Diaz-Molina / NOES: 0

D. Adopt Second Reading Ordinance Number 2026-21 Adopting the Sanitary Sewer Service Capacity Fees – General Manager Director Sandoval motioned to Waive and Adopt Second Reading Ordinance Number 2026-21 Adopting the Sanitary Sewer Service Capacity Fees. Director Diaz-Molina seconded the motion. Motion carried. AYES: Director Curry, Director Sandoval, Director Diaz-Molina / NOES: 0

E. Adopt Second Reading Ordinance Number 2026-22 Adopting the Sanitary Sewer Service Impact Fees – General Manager Director Sandoval motioned to Waive and Adopt Second Reading Ordinance Number 2026-22 Adopting the Sanitary Sewer Service Impact Fees. Director Diaz-Molina seconded the motion. Motion carried. AYES: Director Curry, Director Sandoval, Director Diaz-Molina / NOES: 0

F. Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Amendment– Finance Manager identified and error in the presentation, will bring back to the November Board of Director's meeting with the correction.

Director Sandoval motioned to table Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget Amendment and bring back at the next board of director meeting. Director Diaz-Molina seconded the motion. Motion carried. AYES: Director Curry, Director Sandoval, Director Diaz-Molina / NOES: 0

G. Discussion and Possible Action to Fill a Vacancy on the Heber Public Utility District Board of Directors for an Unexpired Term Ending December 2028– General Manager Direction was given to staff.

H. Information Only: 1st Quarter Budget Review – Finance Manager – Presented with no additions

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Fall Fiesta will be Held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at Tito Huerta Park.

10. CLOSED SESSION: The Board Entered closed Session at 7:42pm.
To ensure privacy during Closed Session, we will observe the following procedures:

- The Board President will enter Closed Session. Members of the public will exit the boardroom.

A. Potential Litigation (Government Code § 54956.9(d)
B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code § 54957) – General Manager

No reportable action was taken.

The Board exited closed session at 9:13pm

11. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:14pm