

HILMAR COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 7, 2026

Members Present – Jim Jones, David Anderson, and Jim Gerdes.

Members Absent – Frank Hilliard and Tony Salvador Jr.

Public in Attendance – None.

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Action Items

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion to approve Bills Payable: April 2026 was made by David Anderson and seconded by Jim Gerdes. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion to approve the continuation of the emergency order the Board approved at the July 31, 2023, Board meeting, based on the conditions continue as per Resolution 565, was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion to approve the extension of the Conditional Can and Will Serve Notice for Bloss Woods (Woods Investment, LLC., John Dennis) was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 589: A Resolution to Accept the Water and Wastewater Rate Study, Announcing the Intent to Adopt Ordinance 2026-01 to Adjust Monthly Charges and Rates for Water, and Wastewater, and Calling for a Public Hearing was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 590: A Resolution Approving the Cross-Connection Control Program of the Hilmar County Water District, Adopted Pursuant to the California Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook was made by David Anderson and seconded by Jim Gerdes. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 591: A Resolution Indicating Board Authorization and Support of General Manager Curtis Jorritsma’s Candidacy to serve as Board Member of the California Special District Association was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion to approve the Agreement for the 2025-2026 Audit with Robert W. Johnson an Accountancy Corporation in the amount of \$12,750.00 and Additional Service of Preparing the State Controller Financial Transaction Report in the amount of \$600.00 was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 3-0.

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The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Jim Jones.

Consent Items – A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent items.

Public Forum – None.

District Manager’s Report –

Curtis Jorritsma noted that our water loss ratio was higher than usual. We believe this may be due to a combination of pumping to waste when bringing Well #7 back online and the use of three hydrant meters across three separate projects. He also provided the TSS and BOD levels, and nitrate levels, as stated below:

	Nitrates Well 6	Nitrates Well 7	Nitrates Well 8*	Nitrates TID Yard	TSS WWTF	BOD WWTF
3/3	0.99	Offline	-	0.94	21.8	30.0
3/10	0.98	20.20	-	0.92	31.5	40.0
3/17	0.95	17.70	-	18.60	45.2	47.0
3/24	1.26	14.20	-	11.40	40.4	32.0
3/31	1.10	9.62	ND	9.56	-	-
Average:				8.28	34.73	37.25

* - Well 8 is not active on the system yet.

Curtis reported that the average flow at the WWTF was .316MG and the maximum flow was .364MG.

Curtis informed the Board Well #8 is not online yet. We are still waiting for the remaining Title 22 results. Results should be here no later than April 10th. Department of Drinking Water is ready to issue permits once all the results have been submitted. We will need two consecutive Bac-T tests prior to putting the well online. All preliminary results received up to this point are within safe limits. We are planning to have the final walk through on April 20th.

Curtis reported that the contractor for the Caltrans Signal Project at Geer and Lander was boring conduit beneath our sewer force main, and during the pullback they clipped the bottom of our pipe. Fortunately, our Echo station was offline, so there was only minimal flow in the line. Cody and the field staff did an excellent job assisting with the repair of the break.

Curtis informed the Board that Special District Week is April 5th to April 12th.

Curtis reported that we are working with two customers in reference to one stating dirty water and other is regarding water smell. Regarding the dirty water, we are installing a filter system at the meter to help identify where the sediment is coming from. As far as the smell is concerned, we have conducted lab testing and are waiting for the results.

Curtis also reported that we had a customer come into the office with a letter they had received in the mail. The letter was from HomeServe. It was in reference to optional protection for water or sewer line repair costs. The customer thought this was coming directly from HCWD. We informed him it had nothing to do with us.

Curtis stated that Mr. Stuart Spencer, Legal Counsel, provided a memo to Curtis in response to him inquiring about Board Members not attending meetings. At the District level, we don't have rules regarding this. State law does say if a Board member does not attend 3 months of meetings and is disengaged from their role, it could be grounds for dismissal. Mr. Stuart Spencer stated that it is up to the Board when it becomes evident a Board member is not participating for an extensive period of time. Curtis stated that Mr. Hilliard is very much involved with what is happening in the District and has conversations with Curtis to stay informed about the happenings of the District. Mr. Jones stated that Mr. Hilliard and Mr. Salvador are both great assets to the Board.

Director Reports – Mr. Jim Jones inquired how the street sweeper service has been. Curtis stated we have not had any customer complaints.

Action Items –

- A) The bills that are due to be paid in April were presented. A motion was made and seconded to pay the bills presented.
- B) Curtis stated the Board approved Resolution 565 – Finding an Emergency and Authorizing Abbreviated Emergency Procedures for Construction of a New Well on July 31, 2023. As part of this process, the Board needs to analyze the situation and determine if the situation still constitutes an emergency. After a brief discussion, the Board determined the conditions warrant to continue with an emergency order. A motion was made and seconded to continue with the emergency order.
- C) Curtis presented the request to extend the Conditional Can and Will Serve Notice for Bloss Woods (Woods Investment, LLC., John Dennis). Mr. Dennis has requested the extension to include the additional 5-acre parcel adjacent to the current property. This extension will add an additional 19 lots to the notice for a total of 77 EDU's. Once Well #8 comes online we anticipate we will have capacity for all the projects we currently have CC&W Serve Notices. A motion was made and seconded to extend the Conditional Can and Will Serve Notice.
- D) Curtis presented Resolution No. 589: A Resolution to Accept the Water and Wastewater Rate Study, Announcing the Intent to Adopt Ordinance 2026-01 to Adjust Monthly Charges and Rates for Water, and Wastewater, and Calling for a Public Hearing. Curtis informed the Board this resolution calls for a public hearing on the proposed changes to the District's water and sewer service rates, and to hear and consider all comments and protests thereto. We will need to post the notices at three public places, mail to each customer and post it on our website at least 45 days prior to the public hearing. We will be holding the public meeting on Tuesday, May 26th at 5:30 p.m. at the Hilmar Grange Hall. Curtis also stated there's never a good time to have a rate increase but the longer we disregard a rate increase the costs of operating continue to rise. Our rates are very competitive with other local districts. A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution No. 589.
- E) Curtis presented Resolution No. 590: A Resolution to Approve the Cross-Connection Control Program of the Hilmar County Water District, Adopted Pursuant to the California Cross-connection Control Policy Handbook. This program insures we have policies in place to protect our system. The plan has been sent to the State. We will need to implement inspections in the future. We could potentially have a staff member go through the training to be able to conduct the inspections in-house. A motion was made and seconded to Adopt Resolution No. 590.

- F) Curtis presented Resolution No. 591: A Resolution Indicating Board Authorization and Support of General Manager Curtis Jorritsma’s Candidacy to serve as Board Member of the California Special District Association. This resolution lets the Board be aware of Curtis’ participation on the Board for CSDA. A motion was made and seconded to Adopt Resolution No. 591.
- G) Curtis presented the proposed agreement for the 2025/2026 Audit with Robert W. Johnson an Accountancy Corporation in the amount of \$12,750.00, and an Additional Service of Preparing the State Controller Financial Transaction Report in the amount of \$600.00. This firm has been preparing our annual audits and continues to provide a good service. Staff recommended approving the agreement. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agreement with Robert W. Johnson an Accountancy Corporation.

Discussion Items –

- A) Curtis reported that we’ve nearly finished drawing down the loan with Holman Capital. He is exploring refinancing options with the possibility of a better interest rate.
- B) Curtis reported the percolation testing was completed on March 24th at the Kapur Basin. We have not yet received results.
- C) Curtis provided the figures for the annual renewal of our liability and business auto insurance policy. The annual renewal premium reflects a 13% increase. The renewal doe include the value of the new property on Geer.

Mr. Jim Gerdes inquired into the new corporation yard building status. Curtis stated that the compaction test was conducted this morning and the grading for the fence has been completed. We are requesting quotes for the fence. We need to complete the septic tank installation and the partition wall in the shop.

Mr. Jim Jones inquired into the fence that was installed at the Lander Mills storm drain pond. Curtis stated it had been brought to his attention that there had been activity with dirt bikes and other motorized vehicles using the area as a playground. He figured it would be best to install the fence for liability reasons.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tonia Borgs

Approved by:

Jim Jones
Board Member

5-5-26
Date