

**WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE  
OF JANUARY 26, 2026**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Director Gracie Torres called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. on Monday, January 26, 2026, in the Western Municipal Water District Training Room, 14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, California.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call of the Board of Directors was taken by Administrative Assistant Candice Haro. The following Board members were in attendance:

**Director's Present**

Director Brenda Dennstedt  
Director Gracie Torres

Director Brenda Denndstedt arrived at 9:31 a.m.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Members of the public may address the Committee regarding any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee; however, no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Comments shall be limited to matters not listed on the agenda. Members of the public may comment on any matter listed on the agenda at the time that the Committee considers that matter. Each individual's comment is limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes; however, the Presiding Officer reserves the right to reduce the amount of time each individual can speak in order to ensure all members of the public have an opportunity to comment.

None.

**4. CONSENT**

Consent Calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial and are to be acted upon by the Committee by one motion, without discussion. If any Committee member, staff member, or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar for further discussion, it will be moved to the first item on the Action Agenda.



**Western Water | The Finance Committee Meeting  
February 23, 2026**

**A. Approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole**

Committee members approved the minutes of the November 17, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting of the whole, with no changes.

**5. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA**

(If any) In accordance with Section 54954.2 of the Government Code, upon determination by a two-thirds vote of the legislative body, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present that there is a need to take action, and the need to take action arose after the agenda was posted.

None.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE MADE TO THE FULL BOARD**

The following items on the Agenda call for discussion and action by the Committee. All items are placed on the Agenda so that the Committee may discuss and take action on the item, if the Committee is so inclined.

**A. Receive and File the Operating Budget to Actual Report Through September 30, 2025**

This item was presented by: Daisy Banuelos, Rates Manager

Committee Recommendation: Forward Item 6A to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

**B. Receive and File the October and November 2025 Cash Disbursement Reports**

This item was presented by: Spencer Melendez, Accountant II

Committee Recommendation: Forward Item 6B to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

**C. Adopt a Resolution to Update the Purchasing and Contract Authority of the General Manager**

This item was presented by: Krystal Ranieri, Purchasing and Contracts Manager

Committee Recommendation: Forward Item 6C to the full Board of Directors for consideration, with revisions as to the following:

Adopt Resolution No. 3369, to update the purchasing and contract authority of the General Manager to \$200,000.

**D. Approve the Renewal of the Western Municipal Water District Microsoft Enterprise Agreement for Software Licensing**

This item was presented by: Michael Mouser, Information Services Director

Committee Recommendation: Forward Item 6D to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

**E. Authorize the General Manager to Implement Cost Saving Recommendations from Procure America**

This item was presented by: Allison Clark, Senior Management Analyst

Committee Recommendation: Forward Item 6E to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

**F. Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Master Service Agreement Extension with Paymentus**

This item was presented by: Allison Clark, Senior Management Analyst

Committee Recommendation: Forward Item 6F to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

**7. REPORTS**

The following agenda items are reports. They are placed on the Agenda to provide information to the Board and the public. There is no action called for in these items

**A. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

None.

**B. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER/ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

1. Rate Litigation Update

Richard R. Aragon, Chief Financial Officer/Assistant General Manager, reported that there was a water rate case last summer (Patz vs. San Diego (City)) where the court disallowed treating residential and wholesale customers differently due to their different usage levels, rendering the City's residential tiered-rate structure a violation of Proposition 218 of the California Constitution. However, as of December 2025, the California Court of Appeal in an LA Department of Water & Power (LADWP) case, upheld LADWP's tiered water rate structure declaring they are

**Western Water | The Finance Committee Meeting  
February 23, 2026**

constitutional and not in violation of Proposition 218, which contradicts the first case's findings. Per legal counsel's review, our current rate structure complies based on the second case from December 2025. Mr. Aragon advised the Committee that there is potential for Supreme Court review.

Mr. Aragon announced that the Section 155 Trust has been created and funded as of last week.

**B. DIRECTORS REPORTS AND REQUESTS**

None.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

A. Monday, February 23, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Committee, Director Gracie Torres adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.