



## Meeting Minutes

### Waterworks District (WWD) 37 – Mile High Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

**Date & Time:** Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Pine Ridge Elementary School

**1. Introductions**

- CAC Members: John Whitacre and Bill Johnson
- Fresno County: AJ Lucas and Elena Cotta
- Community Members: John & Susan Hughes, Paul & Vicki Casares, Erik Brengelman, Warner Dozier, Alan Haynes, Dennis Lewallen, Barry Burke

**2. Approve July 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

- John indicated that the CAC would like to meet next week to approve minutes for both meetings.

**3. FY 2024-25 – 2nd Quarter Financials**

- **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Expenditures-**

Community members had the following questions/requests:

- Why is \$600 spent on memberships with only \$300 budgeted?
  - The membership fees are for Underground Service Alert (USA). It's usually a \$300 annual fee. Elena suggested that they may have mistakenly charged an additional fee for sewer. A.J. will look into the extra charge and send an email with an update.
- Dennis would like a more detailed breakdown of the budget.
  - A.J. informed him that a report can be pulled with more detailed information, but it would still be unclear exactly what all of the charges are for. In order to see a clear, detailed version of all of the charges, we would have to look up each individual line of charges from that report, which would be very time-consuming and expensive for the district. A.J. offered to provide that detailed expense report for the district and allow them to request specific lines they wanted looked up.

- Erik asked if there was anyone checking that staff were actually working on WWD 37 projects for the time that they're charging.
  - John replied that he regularly sees Mike working in the district. Erik doesn't doubt that the field staff are working, but he questions the office staff time charged to WWD 37. A.J. explained that he records the amount of time being spent on each district in a notebook as he's working throughout the day. A.J. and Elena also explained that breaks are charged to administrative time, which is a prorate. There are also other prorates that time gets charged to. For example, when working on a cross-connection control program that affects all water districts, time will get charged to an all-water prorate that charges each water district. Those prorates are split by the number of connections each district has.
- John W. asked whether there were any opportunities for savings.
  - A.J. replied that there are not many clear opportunities for savings, however, in FY 2024-25 the Prop 218 was done, which cost the district a significant amount of money for staff time dedicated to the district. Those costs won't be a factor in the next few years. Elena added that Jennifer Cavala, a previous analyst for the district, was a senior staff analyst, so having A.J. as the analyst saves the district some money as well.
- John H. asked a question about the cost and usage prices of the water.
  - A.J. explained that there is a base fee that everyone pays, and there is a usage fee on top of that. Dennis added that the new monthly rates include a base fee of \$117.90 and \$3.46 per 1,000 gallons for the first 6,500 gallons. Over 6,500 gallons the cost is \$5.76 per 1,000 gallons. This was to ensure that revenue catches up to expenditures and pays back the held charges of about \$17,000.
- Residents wanted to see a clearer version of their bill so they can work on saving water.
  - Elena informed them of Eye On Water, where residents will be able to log on to the website and view their account and usage once the Water Desk has input their transponder numbers into the system. Elena will check to see if Eye On Water has the transponders have been entered and let them know if they can begin using the App. or view their usage online (eyeonwater.com).
- A.J. explained that the total number shown on the expense report is not the full amount spent for the year. The report only shows expenses paid from the account, up to the year's budget. There are additional expenses that are held charges because they were unable to be paid.
  - Community members would like to see a breakdown of the additional charges. A.J. will provide this.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Revenues-**

- Erik asked about the property taxes on the revenue sheet. A.J. and Elena explained that that is revenue coming into the district and that the supplemental taxes are for a change in ownership or construction that changes the value of a property.

#### 4. Recent Repairs and Improvements

- A discussion was held about the pump replacement. John W. mentioned that after speaking to Shaver Lake Construction, he was told that it was more cost-effective to replace the pump than to repair it.
- Erik had a concern about spending so much money on Well 6 when it can't be used consistently.
  - A.J. explained that when Well 5 was down, Well 6 did not produce enough water to keep up with demand. The County decided to replace the pump while the Well 5 pump was being replaced so that if Well 5 went down again for a longer period of time, Well 6 would be able to better keep up with demand. It cost more than expected because when the vendor was replacing the pump, they found that the pipes were rotted, requiring replacement and driving up the cost.
  - John W. also explained that purchasing a pump to keep as a backup would use up the pump's shelf life because of the rubber gaskets and seals that will eventually go bad even if it's not in use.
- Residents expressed concern about having to pay for the main line repair from the PG&E break.
  - A.J. explained that the County can't pay for any WWD 37 expenses. A.J. had reached out to PG&E about paying for the repair and PG&E replied that they would not pay for the repair because they put in a request to have the lines marked and the County made an error in not marking the line.
  - Community members wanted to look into other options for paying for the repair, including: insurance, sending a letter to PG&E, contacting Steve White, contacting Nathan Magsig, going to small claims court, and taking legal action against PG&E.
    1. Elena explained that it would be up to Steve White to take any legal action, but that we could look into what the insurance covers. Steve White is aware of this issue, but Elena will ask about whether there are options available for reimbursement.
  - Elena explained that to avoid this happening again, a field staff supervisor has been brought into the office to more directly supervise some administrative tasks, including USA tickets. The supervisor will double check that the lines are marked correctly.
- Community members wanted to look at vendors other than Shaver Lake Construction for repairs to find more competitive pricing.

- Elena explained that depending on the contract language, we may need to go to Shaver Lake Construction first. We will look into the contract and provide a copy of the contract to the CAC.
- A question came up about asking for estimates from vendors for projects.
  - A.J. and Elena explained that usually the County would obtain an estimate, but for an emergency repair, we would only get the invoice after the repair has been completed.
- Community members would like the County to look into ground-piercing radar to identify pipes for future projects.
- John W. wants to know whether Ponderosa paid for the repairs about 5 years ago when they were putting in fiber optic and they broke the line multiple times.
  - A.J. will look into this.

#### 5. Comments/Other Items

- The CAC would like a list of addresses to mail communications.
  - A.J. will provide this.
- A.J. explained that while WWD 37 is owned by the community, it is managed by the County. While the County wants input from the advisory committee and will take the community's desires into account in decision-making, the County will ultimately make the decisions in running the system.

#### 6. Next Meeting Date

- The CAC will meet Thursday, October 16, 2025 at John Whitacre's house to approve the minutes from July 10 and October 9 and have them posted.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting will take place Thursday, January 8, 2026.

**Requests for disability-related modification or accommodation needed in order to participate in the meeting must be made to the County of Fresno Resources Division at (559) 600-4259 no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.**