

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
March 17, 2026**

PRESENT

Jim Hickle	President
Jim Piva	Vice-President
Princess Norman	Secretary
Jacob Zoria	Treasurer

ABSENT

Casey Lynch Director at Large

A. PUBLIC SESSION

A.1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

The Regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ramona Municipal Water District was called to order by President Hickle at 6:01 p.m. at the Ramona Community Center, 434 Aqua Lane, Ramona, County of San Diego, State of California. President Hickle led the Board and members of the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board Secretary called roll.

A.2. Consideration of Non-Agenda Items Which Arose Subsequent to the Posting of the Agenda

General Manager Erica Wolski stated an email came in as a public communication on March 16, 2026. She stated it was emailed to the Directors and copies were also provided to the Directors at the meeting. The communication has been saved in appropriate District files. She also stated that if after researching it, she found it relevant, she would place it on the agenda in the near future.

Vice-President Piva joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

A.3. Adoption of Agenda for the Regular Meeting of March 17, 2026

MISC MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA (Norman/Zoria)

AYES:	Hickle, Norman, Piva, Zoria
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Lynch

A.4. Opportunity for Members of the Public to Address the Board on any Subject within its Jurisdiction but not on the Agenda

Patty Estrada and Debbie Foster spoke to the Board regarding the tentative merger with the Ramona Cemetery District and Steve Powell spoke to the Board regarding District fees for new

construction and handed out an information sheet.

A.5. Announcements and/or Informational Reports from Board and/or Staff

A.5.a. General Manager Information Report and Staff Activity for February 2026

None.

A.5.b. Committee Reports

A.5.b.-1 Ad Hoc Reports

Regarding the Recycled Water and Potable Water Growth Committee, General Manager Wolski spoke about the Barona Pipeline project and said the Barona construction contract will be awarded soon. She also said they are working on a website called “Barona Pipeline.org” to keep the public informed of construction traffic impact in their area. She also said Barona wants to have a groundbreaking ceremony in honor of the project.

Regarding the Proposition NN Committee, Director Norman reported that the committee is progressing as planned and is nearing readiness to advance the ballot measure to public outreach. The committee anticipates submitting the proposed ballot language to the Registrar of Voters by August in preparation for the November election.

President Hickle reported that the Ramona Cemetery District ad hoc committee is currently in the initial stages of formation.

A.5.c.-2 Liaison Reports

Regarding the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), Director Norman reported that the draft Urban Water Management Plan is currently available for public review through mid-April. She stated that the preliminary plan indicates the Water Authority is confident the region will have a sufficient water supply through 2050, largely due to the diversification of water resources. She also noted that a memorandum of agreement was presented to explore whether federal agencies and other interested parties would allow water districts to sell desalinated water across state lines. Director Norman further emphasized the importance of monitoring the impacts of actions by the Metropolitan Water District (MET) and noted that a 9.5% MET rate increase is anticipated in the near future. She stressed the importance of SDCWA delegates to the MET board, being proactive to help maintain the lowest possible water rates in our area over the next few years.

Regarding the Leadership Council, Director Piva reported that wineries in the region are now permitted to host live music pursuant to an ordinance adopted by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. He also noted that the Sheriff’s Department is taking a proactive approach within the community and will be in the process of building a new patrol station in the near future.

Regarding the Ramona Unified School District Board, Director Zoria reported that Stacy Elkhorn, a teacher at Hanson Lane Elementary School, was recognized as the district’s “Employee of the Year.”

A.5.c.-3 Committee Meeting Reports

General Manager Wolski gave a brief update on the previous Parks and Recreation Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and spoke briefly about securing a host for the temporary skatepark that will tentatively start in April.

B. Ministerial Items

B.1. Consent Calendar

(All matters on the Consent Calendar are to be approved by one motion unless a Board Member requests separate action on a specific item)

Director Piva pulled Items B.1.c. and B.1.f. for discussion.

B.1.a. Adoption of the Board Meeting Minutes for February 17, 2026

Recommendation: To adopt the Minutes for February 17, 2026.

B.1.b. Acceptance of Monthly Financial Report – January 2026

Recommendation: No staff recommendation.

B.1.d. Possible Action To Approve A Notice Of Unrecorded Grant Agreement For APN 281-424-01-00

Recommendation: Respectfully recommend that the Board authorize the General Manager to execute and record the attached Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement.

B.1.e. Authorization to Award a Contract for Construction Management and Inspection Services for the 16-Inch Water Transmission Main Project and Julian Road Waterline Replacement Project

Recommendation: Staff respectfully recommends the Board authorize the General Manager to award a contract for construction management and inspection services for the 16-in Transmission Main Project and the Julian Road Waterline Replacement Project to Valley Construction Management in the amount of \$419,000.

B.1.g. Authorization for the General Manager to Sign and Submit the Attached Comment Letter on the County of San Diego's Capital Budget and Impact on the Skatepark

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board authorize the General Manager to sign and submit the attached letter regarding the Ramona Skatepark and the County of San Diego's capital budget.

M\S\C MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR MINUS ITEMS B.1.C & B.1.F. (Norman/Hickle)

AYES: Hickle, Norman, Piva, Zoria
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Lynch

B.1.c. Review and Find That the Proposed Minor Improvements at the Ramona Junior Fair Are Exempt From CEQA

Recommendation: Respectfully recommend that the Board find the proposed minor improvements at the Ramona Junior Fair exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to direct staff to prepare and file a Notice of Exemption (NOE).

General Manager Wolski briefly explained the item and the reason a Notice of Exemption (NOE) is required. She gave a listing on the projects that will be started. Board discussion followed about the cost of the minor improvements.

MISC MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM B.1.C. (Piva/Hickle)

AYES: Hickle, Norman, Piva, Zoria
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Lynch

B.1.f. Authorization to Award a Contract District-Wide Asphalt Patch Work for Restoring Pavement After Water-Related System Maintenance

Recommendation: Staff respectfully recommends the Board authorize the General Manager to award a contract for District-wide asphalt patch work to Joe's Paving Co., Inc.

General Manager Wolski briefly introduced the item, explaining that additional funding is needed this year due to an increased amount of asphalt patching associated with a higher volume of District projects. She also mentioned the possibility of establishing a three-year on-call asphalt service contract beginning next year. Water Operations Manager, Joe Lomeli explained the process. Board discussion followed the project costs and whether other local companies had been notified.

MISC MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM B.1.F. (Piva/Zoria)

AYES: Hickle, Norman, Piva, Zoria
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Lynch

C. Public Hearing/Bid Openings

C.1. Public Hearing on Job Vacancies, Recruitment, and Retention Pursuant to Government Code Section 3502.3.

Recommendation: Staff respectfully recommend that the Board conduct a public hearing and receive a report on vacancies in District positions, recruitment, and retention pursuant to Government Code Section 3502.3.

Tim Clement, Administrative Services Manager, delivered a presentation on the state-mandated report, explaining the requirement for all public agencies to present this report once per fiscal year before adopting a budget. His presentation covered current vacancies, recruitment activities, recruitment processes, challenges, and retention efforts. With no public speakers present, President Hickle closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m. The Board engaged in a brief discussion about the improvement of team engagement. No action or motion was required for this item.

D. Agenda Items which Anticipate Possible Input from Members of the Public
(This space on the agenda is reserved in the event a member of the public is scheduled to address the Board)

E. Agenda Items which Anticipate Possible Input from Other Agencies/Consultants
(This space on the agenda is reserved in the event another agency/consultant is scheduled to address the Board)

F. Agenda Items which Anticipate Possible Input from Staff

F.1. Consideration to Adopt an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 7.88 of the District Legislative Code

Recommendation: Staff respectfully recommends the Board adopt the attached ordinance to approve the proposed changes to the Legislative Code’s Billing and Collection Procedures Generally.

Chief Financial Officer Joseph Spence introduced the item and explained the proposed code changes and the rationale behind them. A brief discussion followed, during which the Board asked about the various payment options available to customers and reviewed the appeals process.

MISC MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM F.1. (Hickle/Norman) [Ordinance No. 26-492]

AYES: Hickle, Norman, Piva, Zoria
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Lynch

F.2. Adoption of a Resolution Approving the New Mission Statement and Approving an Ordinance Repealing Prior Mission Statement Language in the Legislative Code

Recommendation: Staff respectfully recommends the Board:
1. Accept a resolution formally adopting the proposed Mission Statement for the Ramona Municipal Water District; and 2. Approve the accompanying ordinance repealing the prior mission related language from the Legislative Code.

Chief Financial Officer Joseph Spence introduced the agenda item, explaining the reason for repealing the existing mission statement and presenting the proposed new statement, including why formal codification is not necessary. Board members then engaged in discussion regarding the intended use of the new mission statement and where and how it would be applied and complimented the General Manager on the new mission statement.

MISC MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION FORMALLY ADOPTING THE NEW MISSION STATEMENT AND APPROVE THE ORDINANCE REPEALING THE PRIOR MISSION RELATED LANGUAGE FROM THE LEGISLATIVE CODE (Piva/Zoria) [Resolution No. 26-1627 and Ordinance No. 26-493]

AYES: Hickle, Norman, Piva, Zoria
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Lynch

President Hickle adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Directors at 7:34 p.m. for a brief recess.

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:45 p.m.

G. Closed Session - NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

G.1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION

Government Code section 54956.9 (d)(1) (1 case)
Case No. 25CU016064C

Closed Session ended at 8:15 p.m. Legal Counsel reported that for item G.1., discussion with direction was given and no reportable action taken.

H. Remaining Agenda Items

H.1. Directors' Reports of Reimbursed Meetings

Pursuant to Legislative Code Section 2.08.140, members of the Board who receive reimbursement from the District for their actual and necessary expenses for attending meetings outside the District shall either prepare a written report to be submitted at the next subsequent Board meeting or make a verbal report during the next regular Board meeting. The report shall detail the information that may be of benefit to the District that was presented at the meeting.

None.

H.2. Future Agenda Items

None.

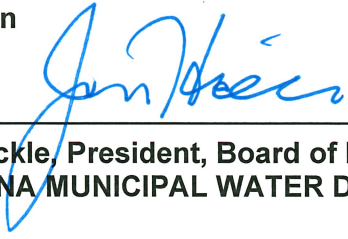
I. Closing Agenda Items

I.1. Date and Time for the Next Regular Meeting

April 21, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

President Hickle adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ramona Municipal Water District at 8:16 p.m.

Adjourn



**Jim Hickle, President, Board of Directors
RAMONA MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**

