

**MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**  
**CITY OF EL PASO**  
**June 11, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held in person, Wednesday, June 11, 2025

**PSB MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bryan Morris, Chair  
Dr. Anna Gitter, Member  
Dr. Hector Ocaranza, Member  
Charlie Intebi, Vice-Chair  
Mayor Renard U. Johnson

**PSB MEMBERS ABSENT**

Stefanie Block-Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer  
Lane Gaddy, Member

**PSB EMPLOYEES PRESENT**

John E. Balliew, P.E., President and Chief Executive Officer  
Sol Cortez, Deputy General Counsel

**EPWATER EMPLOYEES PRESENT**

Ana Sanchez, Vice President of Financial and Management Services  
Gilbert Trejo, Vice President of Operations and Technical Services  
Adam Wickersham, Vice President of IT  
Art Duran, Chief Financial Officer  
Claudia Duran, Chief of Staff  
Stephanie Chacon, Utility Executive Secretary  
Melinda Becker, Assistant General Counsel  
Alberto Gomez, Utility Video Production Manager  
Alessa Contreras, Multimedia Design Specialist  
Robert Evans, Software Developer I  
Geoffrey Espineli, Engineer Division Manager  
Melinda Becker, Assistant General Counsel  
Adriana Castillo, Engineer Division Manager  
Elmer Beeler, Chief Support & Logistics Officer  
Sol Cortez, Deputy General Counsel  
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer  
Veronica Garcia, Senior Purchasing Agent  
Luz Elena Holguin, Utility Assistant Chief Financial Officer  
Gretchen Byram, Utility Senior Computer Media Specialist  
Gisela Dagnino, Utility Chief Operations Officer  
Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer  
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer  
Alejandro Vidales, Utility Land and Water Rights Manager  
Enrique Ochoa, Engineering Division Manager  
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications & Government Affairs Officer  
Bianca Arriaga, Utility Grants Program Manager  
Sergio Saenz, Utility Assistant Chief Information Officer  
Pablo Mejia, Capital Improvement Project Manager  
Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager  
Brenda Cantu, Utility Business and Customer Service Manager

Lidia Carranco, Utility Chief Customer Experience Officer  
Rose Guevara, Utility Purchasing & Contracts Manager

## **GUEST**

Elaine Sciarretta, Director of Account Management for HomeServe  
Ali Tomasic, HomeServe

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Bryan Morris at 8:30 a.m. A quorum of its members was present. After a moment of silence, those in attendance joined Mr. Gilbert Trejo in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**On a single motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Mayro Johnson, and unanimously carried, the Board took action on the following consent agenda items:**

- 1. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON MAY 14, 2025.**
- 2. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE CONSENT TO ASSIGNMENT OF A MASTER CONTRACT FOR BIOMONITORING TESTING SERVICES FROM BIO-AQUATIC TESTING, INC. TO EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING ECOTOXICOLOGY, LLC.**
- 3. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE ISSUANCE OF A MASTER CONTRACT TO INTRAWORKS INC. UNDER ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 24-7488 FOR THE PURCHASE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY EQUIPMENT FOR \$1,500,000.**
- 4. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN INCREASE TO ANNUAL CONTRACT CAPACITY OF THE CURRENT SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH FERGUSON ENTERPRISES, INC. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FOR NICOR READ RIGHT LIDS FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$4,320,000 FOR THE CURRENT CONTRACT YEAR.**
- 5. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED THE RATIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE USE OF KORTERRA, INC.'S KORWEB SOFTWARE APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,432.78 BEYOND THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENT/CEO AND APPROVED A NEW SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF THE SOFTWARE APPLICATION FOR LOCATE TICKET MANAGEMENT SERVICES PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022 (A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$100,000 WITH A TERM OF THREE YEARS AND AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR THREE YEARS FOR AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$100,000.**
- 6. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AMENDMENT NO. 4 OF THE ESRI ENTERPRISE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE INC., A SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER OF THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM SOFTWARE PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FOR AN ADDITIONAL THREE-YEARS WITH ANNUAL PAYMENTS OF \$325,000 FOR A TOTAL OF \$975,000.**
- 7. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A MASTER CONTRACT WITH SAFETY INSTRUMENTS EP THROUGH THE ESC REGION 19 COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. 25-7517 FOR GAS METERS, MONITORING EQUIPMENT, AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 AND AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR THE DURATION OF THE ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT TERM.**

**CONSENT (Continued)**

8. **CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED TWO RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD CHAIR, SECRETARY-TREASURER AND PRESIDENT/CEO TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO SUBMIT TWO GRANT APPLICATIONS TO REQUEST FUNDING FROM THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) UNDER THE FLOOD INFRASTRUCTURE FUND PROGRAM AND APPROVED EPWATER'S FUNDING COMMITMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO EVALUATIONS: 1. ARROYO DEBRIS PRIORITIZATION EVALUATION FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$70,000 WITH TWDB FUNDING 75% OR \$52,500, AND EPWATER CONTRIBUTING \$17,500; AND 2. FMP DEVELOPMENT FOR EL PASO WATER STORMWATER MASTER PLAN EVALUATION FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,288,000 WITH TWDB FUNDING 75% OR \$966,000 AND EPWATER CONTRIBUTING \$322,000; AND AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO PROVIDE AND SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRANT AGREEMENTS AND RECEIPT OF FUNDS FOR THESE PROJECTS.**
9. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE ESPERANZA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT – PART 2 PROJECT, WITH AECOM TECHNICAL SERVICES INC., FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR \$317,675.69 AND AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES IN AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$500,000.**
10. **CONSIDERED AND AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SUBSURFACE UTILITY ENGINEERING RFQ 14-25 TO COBB, FENDLEY & ASSOCIATES INC., COLLIER ENGINEERING & DESIGN INC., FRANK X. SPENCER & ASSOCIATES INC., H2O TERRA LLC, SOUDER, MILLER & ASSOCIATES, INC., SURVEYING & MAPPING, LLC, AND T2 UES, INC. FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000,000 FOR EACH FIRM WITH A TERM OF THREE YEARS.**
11. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE EPWATER METER REPLACEMENT AND SERVICE LINE INVENTORY – PART 2 PROJECT, WITH JOHNSON, MIRMIRAN & THOMPSON INC. FOR THE ADDITIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND INSPECTION SERVICES FOR \$950,000 AND AUTHORIZED FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL INSPECTION SERVICES FOR \$600,000.**
12. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1– BID NUMBER 31-23 FRED HERVEY WATER RECLAMATION PLANT – ACCESS ROAD TO DEL MAR CONTRACTING, INC. INCREASING THE CONTRACT TIME BY 724 DAYS AND THE CONTRACT PRICE BY \$516,756.15.**
13. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 1 - BID NUMBER SW71-24, JOHN T HICKERSON WWTP STORMWATER BASIN TO KARLSRUHER, INC. DBA CSA CONSTRUCTORS, INCREASING THE CONTRACT AMOUNT BY \$763,370.**
14. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 2 – BID NUMBER 20-23, BARRICADES AND TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES TO LEEDS CONSTRUCTION, INC. DBA TRAFFIC CONTROL SPECIALISTS, INCREASING THE ANNUAL CONTRACT VALUE BY \$172,961.30 FOR OPTION YEAR 1 OF THE CONTRACT.**

## REGULAR AGENDA

15. **CEO MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING UTILITY MANAGEMENT AND/OR OPERATIONS:**
  - **STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**
  - **ARMY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD**
  - **GALLONS PER CAPITA PER DAY 2024 UPDATE**
  - **WATER LOSS REDUCTION PROGRESS**
16. **MANAGEMENT REPORT:**
  - **BUSTAMANTE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION UPDATE**
  - **STRATEGY UPDATE –TOTAL WATER SUPPLY**
  - **ANNUAL STORMWATER PRESENTATION**
17. **PUBLIC COMMENT: THE PSB WILL PERMIT PUBLIC COMMENT ON SUBJECTS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT MAY NOT DELIBERATE ON THESE ITEMS IF NOT POSTED FOR DISCUSSION. THE CHAIR MAY IMPOSE REASONABLE TIME LIMITS FOR EACH SPEAKER.**
18. **CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED THE 2025 EMERGENCY STORMWATER SYSTEM RESOLUTION, AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT/CEO OR DESIGNEE TO CONTRACT AND PURCHASE WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD, PURSUANT TO ALLOWABLE EXEMPTIONS TO THE BID STATUE UNDER SECTION 252.022(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, IF SEVERE STORMS DURING THE 2025 MONSOON SEASON CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE STORMWATER SYSTEM.**

Gisela Dagnino, Utility Chief Operations Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.). The Public Service Board (PSB) first approved an Emergency Stormwater System Resolution in 2021 in response to severe rain events that caused major damage. This resolution allowed the President/CEO to act without further PSB approval for urgent stormwater repairs under Section 252.022(a) of the Texas Local Government Code. Similar annual resolutions have been approved by the PSB in preparation for monsoon season. The proposed 2025 Emergency Stormwater System Resolution will continue to authorize President/CEO or designee to take immediate action to protect public health and repair EPWater property damaged by severe storms if severe storms occur during the 2025 monsoon season.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted the 2025 Emergency Stormwater System Resolution, authorizing the President/CEO or designee to contract and purchase without further action of the Public Service Board, pursuant to allowable exemptions to the bid statute under Section 252.022(a) of the Texas Local Government Code, if severe storms during the 2025 monsoon season cause damage to the Stormwater System.

19. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH UTILITY SERVICE PARTNERS PRIVATE LABEL, INC. DBA SERVICE LINE WARRANTIES OF AMERICA (HOMESERVE) FOR HOMESERVE TO PAY A ONE-TIME LICENSE FEE PAYMENT OF \$299,329.98 AND AN ONGOING LICENSE FEE AND PRESENTATION OF CHECK BY HOMESERVE TO THE UTILITY.**

Stephanie Chacon, Utility Executive Secretary, read into the record items 19 and 20 respectively.

Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.). HomeServe offers property owners and provides insurance directly to homeowners to cover service line repairs if a water or wastewater line breaks on private property. Under the Agreement, HomeServe has the non-exclusive license to use EPWater's logo or branding on marketing materials for their products offered to property owners. The consideration under the Agreement was the establishment of a Pro Bono Fund to help customers with leak repairs. EPWater requested an amendment to the Agreement for the Pro Bono

Fund to be paid directly to EPWater as a license fee since EPWater already has a program to assist customers with leak repairs. EPWater desires to use the license fee funds to assist customers with bill assistance when customers are at risk of disconnection through the AguaCares program. The current balance in the Pro Bono Fund is currently \$299,329.98. Mrs. Rosendorf and Ms. Sciarretta answered questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the Board approved an amendment to the License Agreement with Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc. dba Service Line Warranties of America (HomeServe) for HomeServe to pay a one-time license fee payment of \$299,329.98 and an ongoing license fee and presentation of check by HomeServe to the utility.

20. **CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE AGUACARES PROGRAM SERVES A PUBLIC PURPOSE, AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF ADDITIONAL AGUACARES FUNDS, WHICH INCLUDES THE CITY OF EL PASO'S ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION, VOLUNTARY DONATIONS, AND THE LICENSE FEES PAID BY UTILITY SERVICE PARTNERS PRIVATE LABEL, INC. DBA SERVICE LINE WARRANTIES OF AMERICA (HOMESERVE), TO ASSIST CERTAIN CUSTOMERS AT RISK OF SERVICE DISCONNECTION TO ENSURE THE PUBLIC PURPOSE, AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH A NON-PROFIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOLDING AND INVESTING THE AGUACARES FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF THE AGUACARES PROGRAM, IF THE PRESIDENT/CEO FINDS SUCH AGREEMENT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF EPWATER.**

Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.). In 2018 EPWater established the AguaCares program (Program) to provide limited billing assistance to EPWater customers who met certain criteria. The Program has been funded through the City of El Paso's annual contribution of \$50,000 (City's Contribution) and individual voluntary donations. On June 11, 2025, the Public Service Board (PSB) will consider an amendment to the License Agreement with Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc. dba Service Line Warranties of America (HomeServe), for HomeServe to pay a one-time license fee of \$299,329.98 and an on-going license fee of 50 cents per product every month from every customer who has purchased a water or wastewater service line insurance policy from HomeServe. If the amendment is approved by the PSB, the proposed resolution is for the PSB to approve the use of license fees paid by HomeServe, along with the City's Contribution, and voluntary contributions as AguaCares funds (AguaCares Funds) for the Program. This resolution also affirms that the PSB finds that the expenditure of the AguaCares Funds to provide targeted billing assistance to eligible customers at risk of disconnection serves a legitimate public purpose by ensuring continued access to essential water and wastewater services, preserving public health and sanitation and reducing administrative burdens associated with disconnections and reconnections. Lastly, the resolution authorizes the President/CEO to enter into an agreement with a nonprofit organization, such as El Paso Community Foundation, to manage and invest the Program's funds if doing so is determined to be beneficial. Mrs. Rosendorf answered questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the Board adopted a resolution finding that the AguaCares program serves a public purpose, authorizing the expenditure of additional AguaCares funds, which includes the City of El Paso's annual contribution, voluntary donations, and the license fees paid by Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc. dba Service Line Warranties of America (HomeServe), to assist certain customers at risk of service disconnection to ensure the public purpose, and authorizing the President/CEO to negotiate and sign an agreement with a non-profit for the purpose of holding and investing the AguaCares funds in support of the AguaCares program, if the President/CEO finds such agreement in the best interest of EPWater. Mrs. Rosendorf and Ms. Sciarretta answered questions from the board on this item.

## REGULAR (Continued)

21. **DEEMED SIGELOCK SYSTEMS, LLC., AS NON-RESPONSIVE AND CONSIDERED AND AWARDED BID NUMBER 16-25, FIRE HYDRANT TO THE LOWEST, RESPONSIVE, RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, CLOWE & COWAN OF EL PASO, LLC., IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$881,877.50, FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR, WITH THE OPTION OF FOUR ONE-YEAR EXTENSIONS.**

Pablo Mejia, Capital Improvement Project Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.). Bid 16-25 Fire Hydrants is for the purchase of fire hydrants that will be used for EPWater's Fire Hydrant Replacement Program to replace existing non-operable, obsolete or damaged fire hydrants and installation of new fire hydrants. This bid includes additional estimated quantities and an allowance of \$200,000 per year.

On a motion made by Dr. Gitter, seconded by Mayor Johnson, and unanimously carried, the Board deemed Sigelock Systems, LLC., as non-responsive and considered and awarded Bid Number 16-25, Fire Hydrant to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder, Clowe & Cowan of El Paso, LLC., in the estimated annual amount of \$881,877.50, for a term of one year, with the option of four one-year extensions.

22. **CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT-RISK CONTRACT WITH PCL/SUNDT, A JOINT VENTURE, FOR THE PURE WATER CENTER PROJECT AND ACCEPTED GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE NO. 3 FOR \$64,354,312.**

Irazema Rojas, Chief Engineering Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.). EPWater is advancing efforts to diversify the city's water supply portfolio by implementing direct potable reuse through the construction of the Pure Water Center. Once operational, the Pure Water Center will provide a new, drought-resistant water source, delivering up to 10 million gallons per day directly into the city's distribution system. This innovative facility will be the first of its kind in the region, transforming treated effluent from the secondary clarifiers at the Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant into high-quality drinking water. The water will undergo a multi-barrier purification process at the Pure Water Center, including membrane microfiltration, reverse osmosis, ultraviolet light with advanced oxidation, granular activated carbon filtration, and chlorine disinfection. Construction is scheduled to begin in summer 2025, with completion anticipated by late 2028. The estimated construction cost is \$295 million. The project is being delivered by the CMAR method. PCL/Sundt proposed to deliver the CMAR project in multiple GMPs. GMP 3 contains work packages for electrical work, Instrumentation and Controls, backup power generator, tilt-up concrete walls, structural steel, and HVAC work packages.

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Dr. Gitter, and unanimously carried, the Board approved an amendment to the Construction Manager At-Risk contract with PCL/Sundt, a joint venture, for the Pure Water Center project and accepted Guaranteed Maximum Price No. 3 for \$64,354,312.

23. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-25.**

Rose Guevara, Utility Purchasing & Contracts Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.). The Public Service Board (PSB) adopted a policy to increase HUB participation in 1992. EPWater Staff encourages increased participation of small, locally owned, minority, and women-owned businesses. Ms. Guevara and Ms. Holguin answered questions from the board on this item.

No action was taken on this item.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Mayor Johnson, and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session 9:43 a.m. June 11, 2025, pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Section 551.071 through 551.089 to discuss the following:

The Public Service Board will retire into Executive Session pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 through 551.089. (The items listed below are matters of the sort to be discussed in Executive Session; however, the Public Service Board may move any item of this agenda to Executive Session, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act.)

Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney  
Section 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property  
Section 551.073 Deliberation Regarding Prospective Gift  
Section 551.074 Personnel Matters  
Section 551.076 Deliberations Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits  
Section 551.087 Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations  
Section 551.089 Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits

**a. CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING THE APRIL 26, 2024, INCIDENT AT THE BUSTAMANTE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT. (551.071)**

No action was taken on this item.

Any action as a result of these discussions will be taken at the re-opening of this meeting or at a subsequent meeting.

Adjournment.

On a motion made by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Dr. Gitter, and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session at 9:58 a.m., June 11, 2025.

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Dr. Gitter, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m., June 11, 2025.

ATTEST:



Stefanie Block Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer

  
Bryan Morris, Chair