

These minutes summarize actions taken by the Public Service Board at its regular meeting on October 8, 2025. The agenda for this meeting was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act (Texas Government Code, Chapter 551). These minutes are not a verbatim transcript.

MINUTES
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
CITY OF EL PASO
October 8, 2025

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held in person, Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

PSB MEMBERS PRESENT

Stefanie Block – Treasurer
Dr. Hector Ocaranza – Member
Charlie Intebi – Member
Lane Gaddy – Member
Mayor Renard U. Johnson

PSB MEMBERS ABSENT

Bryan Morris – Chair
Anna Gitter - Vice Chair

PSB EMPLOYEES PRESENT

John E. Balliew, P.E., President and Chief Executive Officer
Daniel Ortiz, 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
Edith Lara, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO
Melinda Becker, Assistant General Counsel
Alberto Gomez, Utility Video Production Manager
Alessa Contreras, Multimedia Design Specialist
Robert Evans Jr., Software Developer I
Ricardo Gomez Jr, PC/LAN Specialist I
Elmer Beeler, Chief Support & Logistics Officer
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Rose Guevara, Utility Purchasing & Contracts Manager
Veronica Garcia, Senior Purchasing Agent
Luz Elena Holguin, Utility Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer
Jeff Tepsick, Chief Finance Officer
Sol Cortez, Deputy General Council
Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Richard Wilcox, Water Supply Manager
Gisela Dagnino, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Ozzie Muniz, Utility Emergency Response Coordinator
Adriana Castillo, Utility Engineering Division Manager
Geoffrey Espineli, Wastewater Systems Division Manager
Christina Montoya, Marketing and Communications Manager

Cecilia Bertolli, Capital Improvements Program Manager
Ivana Clark, Support Services Specialist I
Ramon Sanchez, Utility Central Control Supervisor
Sergio Castro, Utility Chief Plant Manager
Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager

GUEST

None

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Mrs. Block at 8:37 a.m. A quorum of its members was present. After a moment of silence, those in attendance joined Lisa Rosendorf in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2025.**
- 2. CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SECRETARY-TREASURER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TWDB) FOR THE UPPER VALLEY SURFACE WATER AUGMENTATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,000,000; AND AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO PROVIDE AND SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FUNDING REQUEST, AGREEMENTS, AND RECEIPT OF FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT.**
- 3. CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CITY OF EL PASO'S SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE TEXAS MILITARY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION FOR A DEFENSE ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$4,000,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FOR A NEW TREATMENT UNIT AS PART OF THE KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON DESALINATION PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT; AUTHORIZED EPWATER'S FUNDING COMMITMENT TO ALLOCATE MATCHING FUNDS FOR AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$6,516,983 IF GRANT FUNDS ARE AWARDED; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO PROVIDE AND SIGN ANY DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION, MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF EL PASO, GRANT AGREEMENT, AND ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT.**
- 4. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE MASTER CONTRACT ISSUED TO S&M PRIMERO EXPRESS LLC, THROUGH REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 25-7517 MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND OPERATIONS (MRO) EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS AND SERVICES BY AN ADDITIONAL \$1,000,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000; AND AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE REGION 19 CONTRACT IS IN PLACE.**
- 5. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN INCREASE TO THE CAPACITY OF THE SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH WAGNER EQUIPMENT COMPANY, PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) AND (D) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FOR PARTS, EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE BY \$1,450,000 INCREASING THE TOTAL EXISTING CONTRACT AMOUNT TO**

\$1,500,000; AND AUTHORIZED THE EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF THE CURRENT CONTRACT BY FOUR ADDITIONAL ONE-YEAR TERMS IN THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000.

6. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH ROOTS BLOWERS LLC PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) AND (D) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FOR BLOWER PARTS, REPAIRS, AND SERVICES AT THE ROBERTO R. BUSTAMANTE AND JOHN T. HICKERSON WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR AND FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. CEO MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING UTILITY MANAGEMENT AND/OR OPERATIONS:

- EPWATER LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS: JEFF TEPSICK, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
- UTILITY OF THE FUTURE AWARD – WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION’S TECHNICAL EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE
- GILBERT TREJO RECOGNIZED WITH MCDONALD’S TRIUNFADORES AWARD IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE
- PROPOSITION 4 ON THE BALLOT FOR THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

8. MANAGEMENT REPORT:

- CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – MCGREGOR PUMP STATION PROJECT
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM UPDATE
- CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK PROJECTS UPDATE
- PROCUREMENT CARD PROGRAM OVERVIEW
- VIDEO FROM COMMUNICATIONS: PIPES AND PROGRESS – YANDELL WATERLINE REPLACEMENT

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: THE PSB PERMITTED PUBLIC COMMENT ON SUBJECTS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT DID NOT DELIBERATE ON THESE ITEMS IF NOT POSTED FOR DISCUSSION. THE CHAIR IMPOSED REASONABLE TIME LIMITS FOR EACH SPEAKER.

No one signed up to speak.

10. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT-RISK (CMAR) CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH PCL/SUNDT, A JOINT VENTURE, FOR THE PURE WATER CENTER PROJECT AND ACCEPTED GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE NO. 6 (GMP 6) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$62,869,367.

Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) In response to RFQ 44-25, El Paso Water (EPWater) solicited Statements of Qualifications from engineering firms for on-call professional engineering services at EPWater’s wastewater treatment plants. These services will support planning, design, analysis, and construction-related tasks across multiple treatment plant sites. The scope includes but is not limited to:

Process/mechanical equipment design and procurement
Structural, electrical, and instrumentation upgrades
Civil improvements including yard piping and landscaping
Hydraulic and computational fluid dynamics (CFD) modeling
Odor control, sludge dewatering and handling improvements

Water quality analysis, permitting, and security enhancements
Construction management and plant operations assistance

These contracts are intended to provide flexibility and rapid response for wastewater projects identified in the Capital Improvement Program and those to be identified throughout the year.

Each contract will be valid for a three-year term, with individual task orders issued as needed. The maximum value per contract is \$1,500,000, with no guarantee of total amount spent. Mr. Hernandez answered questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Mr. Gaddy, and unanimously carried, the Board approved an amendment to the Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) construction contract with PCL/Sundt, a joint venture, for the Pure Water Center project and accepted Guaranteed Maximum Price No. 6(GMP 6) in the amount of \$62,869,367.

11. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT-RISK (CMAR) CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH PCL/SUNDT, A JOINT VENTURE, FOR THE ROBERTO R. BUSTAMANTE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AND ACCEPTED THE GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE NUMBER 8 (GMP 8) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$122,444,881.

Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Bustamante Plant was designed for a treatment flow capacity of 39 MGD in 1991. A study conducted in 2019 revealed that the organic treatment capacity of the plant has been reduced to 30 MGD, due to increased strength of the wastewater. Further, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires planning an expansion of the wastewater treatment plant once 75% of the plant's flow capacity is exceeded for three consecutive months. In addition to the lower treatment capacity, the Bustamante Plant is also at 75% of the permitted flow capacity due to growth in east El Paso, requiring EPWater to expand the plant to an increased capacity of 51 MGD.

The project is divided into two phases. Phase 1 involves the construction of a new 21.4 MGD treatment train, with an estimated cost of \$585 million. Phase 2 includes the rehabilitation of the existing 39 MGD infrastructure to restore 9 MGD of treatment capacity, with a current estimated cost of \$200 million. Upon completion of both phases, the Bustamante Plant will have gained a total of 30.4 MGD in treatment capacity. This agenda item requests approval of the GMP 8 work package for Phase 1. The scope of this package includes Bid Package No. 7 Various Subtrades, Bid Package 8 Process Equipment, Bid Package 9 Process Mechanical Supply and Install, Bid Package 10 Miscellaneous Metals and Structural Steel Supply and Install, and Bid Package 11 Concrete Package #2. Mr. Hernandez answered questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Mayor Johnson, and unanimously carried, the Board approved an amendment to the Construction Manager At-Risk construction contract with PCL/Sundt, a joint venture, for the Roberto R. Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and Improvements project and accepted the Guaranteed Maximum Price Number 8 (GMP 8) in the amount of \$122,444,881.

12. CONSIDERED AND APPROVED SCHEDULE FOR SELECTION OF PSB MEMBER IN THE AREA OF CONSUMER OR CITIZEN ADVOCACY.

On a motion made by Mr. Gaddy, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the Board approved this item.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session 9:32 a.m. October 8, 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. **AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE THE SETTLEMENT OF SAVANNA B. OLVERA V. THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS AND THE EL PASO WATER UTILITIES, CAUSE NO. 2024DCV3795.**

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, the board authorized the Office of General Counsel to participate in the settlement negotiations to the extent and in accordance with the direction of the Board and defend the interests of the utility in connection with this matter.

- b. **UPDATE ON TEXAS V. NEW MEXICO, PENDING IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, NO. 141, ORIG.**

No action was taken on this item and it was moved to November Executive Session agenda.

- c. **TERMINATION AND SETTLEMENT OF A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DELL VALLEY RANCH MANAGEMENT, LLC AND DANJAY ENTERPRISES, LLC OVER APPROXIMATELY 12,562 ACRES OF REAL PROPERTY IN HUDSPETH COUNTY, TEXAS**

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, the board authorized the full lease termination and exercise the therein included cross-default provision to the extent of the Board's direction and authorized the President/CEO to accept a final settlement amount from Dell Valley Ranch Management, LLC and Danjay Enterprises, LLC.

- d. **THE BOARD WILL DELIBERATE REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF THE REAL PROPERTY LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: 81 TSP 2 SEC 13 T & P SURV SW, CITY OF EL PASO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS.**

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, the board approved the President and CEO be authorized to negotiate and proceed with a lease-to-purchase agreement for the property, in accordance with the terms and conditions specified by the Board and to sign any and all documents necessary to complete such agreement.

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

On a motion made by Mr. Gaddy, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session at 10:17 a.m., October 8, 2025.

On a motion made by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m., October 8, 2025.

ATTEST:

Bryan Morris, Chair

Stefanie Block Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer