

**MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**  
**CITY OF EL PASO**  
November 12, 2025

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held in person, Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

**PSB MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**PSB MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Dr. 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  
Jeff Tepsick, Chief Financial Officer  
Claudia Duran, Chief of Staff  
Edith Lara, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO  
Alberto Gomez, Utility Video Production Manager  
Alessa Contreras, Multimedia Design Specialist  
Elmer Beeler, Chief Support & Logistics Officer  
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer  
Luz Elena Holguin, Utility Assistant Chief Financial Officer  
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer  
Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer  
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer  
Gisela Dagnino, Utility Chief Operations Officer  
Ruben Rodriguez, Chief Water Quality Compliance Officer  
Ivana Clark, Support Services Specialist I  
Cinthya Dominguez, Budget Analyst  
Ozzie Muniz, Interim Chief of Safety, Security, & Emergency Response  
Daniel Cortes, Business and Financial Manager  
Gustavo Hurtado, Fiscal Operations Manager  
David Rodriguez, Support Services Specialist I  
Adriana Castillo, Utility Engineering Division Manager  
Amy Aragon, Utility Facilities Maintenance Manager  
Christina Montoya-Halter, Marketing and Communications Manager  
Isela Holguin, Utility Human Resources Manager  
Brenda Cantu, Utility Business and Customer Service Manager  
Lidia Carranco, Utility Chief Customer Experience Officer  
Geoffrey Espineli, Wastewater Systems Division Manager  
Sergio Castro, Utility Chief Plant Manager  
Michael Dubrule, Operations Supervisor

Zulema Jamis, Office Manager  
Ceci Bertolli, Capital Improvements Program Manager  
Aldo Gomez Fierro, Support Services Specialist III  
Alfredo Aleman, Utility Meter Shop Supervisor  
Becky Hart, Utility Treasury and Property  
Gerardo Gomez, Constructions Superintendent  
Elijio Myers, Water Distribution Superintendent  
Juan Cervantes Jr., Utility Business and Customer Service Manager

#### **GUEST**

Vanessa Leon, Heart Gallery

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Mr. Morris at 8:32. A quorum of its members was present. After a moment of silence, those in attendance joined Felipe Lopez in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi and seconded by Mrs. Block, items 7 were pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed into the Regular Agenda.

On a single motion made by Mr. Intebi and seconded by Dr. Ocaranza 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 OCTOBER 8, 2025.**
- 2. APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH TROJAN TECHNOLOGIES CORP. PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) AND (D) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FOR UV DISINFECTION SYSTEM COMPONENTS, MAINTENANCE SERVICES, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT, IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND, CONTINGENT UPON THE VENDOR PROVIDING ANNUAL DOCUMENTATION ATTESTING TO THEIR SOLE SOURCE STATUS.**
- 3. APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH ALFA LAVAL, INC. PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) AND (D) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FOR PARTS, SERVICE, AND TRAINING RELATED TO THE GRAVITY BELT THICKENERS AND BELT FILTER PRESSES, IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND, CONTINGENT UPON THE VENDOR PROVIDING ANNUAL DOCUMENTATION ATTESTING TO THEIR SOLE SOURCE STATUS.**
- 4. APPROVED A SOLE SOURCE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PURE TECHNOLOGIES U.S. INC., PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7)(A) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, TO CONDUCT LEAK DETECTION, CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND ELECTROMAGNETIC INSPECTIONS OF TRANSMISSION MAINS, FOR AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$2,500,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH TWO ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND, CONTINGENT UPON THE VENDOR PROVIDING ANNUAL DOCUMENTATION ATTESTING TO THEIR SOLE SOURCE STATUS.**
- 5. APPROVED A MASTER CONTRACT WITH I3-IMAGESOFT, LLC THROUGH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCES (DIR) CONTRACT DIR-TSO-4392 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MOBILE APPLICATION INTEGRATED WITH ADVANCED METER DATA ANALYTICS, IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND.**

6. APPROVED AN INCREASED IN CAPACITY OF THE MASTER CONTRACT ISSUED TO 4 RIVERS EQUIPMENT, LLC, JOHN DEERE'S AUTHORIZED INDEPENDENT DEALER, THROUGH SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. 011723-JDC FOR HEAVY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000 TO INCREASED THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT TO A CUMULATIVE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000; AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE ANNUAL MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 AS LONG AS THE SOURCEWELL CONTRACT IS IN PLACE.
8. AWARDED RFP 21-25 POWDERED ACTIVATED CARBON FOR RECLAMATION FACILITIES TO NORIT AMERICAS, INC. AND ARQ PURIFICATION LLC. FOR EACH VENDOR TO SUPPLY POWDER ACTIVATED CARBON ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS AT THE UNIT PRICES PROPOSED, FOR AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$127,400 FOR NORIT AMERICAS INC., AND \$138,600 FOR ARQ PURIFICATION, LLC. THE CONTRACT FOR EACH VENDOR IS FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND; AND THAT THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD MAKES THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS:
9. APPROVED THE RATIFICATION OF THE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$136,117.93 FOR THE CONTRACT ISSUED TO HG ARIAS & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C. FOR TEMPORARY STAFFING SERVICES THROUGH ESC REGION 19 ALLIED STATES COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. 22-7448.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

7. AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS – RFQ 44-25 TO ARCADIS INC., BROWN AND CALDWELL, CAROLLO ENGINEERS, INC., CDM SMITH, INC., HAZEN AND SAWYER, P.C., HDR ENGINEERING, INC., AND PARKHILL, SMITH & COOPER, INC., FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500,000 PER FIRM, WITH A CONTRACT TERM OF THREE YEARS EACH.

Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Wastewater treatment plants are essential for the safe and efficient processing of wastewater across the service area. EPWater requires reliable engineering services to support design, upgrades, and maintenance at these facilities. Engineering services under these contracts may include process and mechanical equipment design, structural repairs, electrical and instrumentation upgrades, architectural improvements, odor control, site civil improvements, hydraulic modeling, construction management, permitting, water quality analysis, and plant operational assistance.

These engineering on-call contracts will provide the flexibility to issue task orders as needed in support of capital improvement projects and operational needs throughout the utility. Work assignments will be distributed based on expertise, workload, and project requirements.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Mrs. Block, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded a professional engineering services contract for the On-Call Professional Engineering Services for Wastewater Treatment Plants – RFQ 44-25 to Arcadis Inc., Brown and Caldwell, Carollo Engineers, Inc., CDM Smith, Inc., Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., HDR Engineering, Inc., and Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 per firm, with a contract term of three years each. Mr. Hernandez answered questions from the Board on this item.

**10. CEO MONTHLY UPDATED REGARDING UTILITY MANAGEMENT AND/OR OPERATIONS:**

- **JOHN BALLIEW RECEIVES THE WOODY L. HUNT EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD**
- **TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD VISIT TO EPWATER**
- **CITIZENS ACADEMY - NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

**11. MANAGEMENT REPORTED:**

- **CHARITY OF CHOICE CHECK PRESENTATION**
- **SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES REPORT**
- **SECOND QUARTER INVESTMENT REPORT**
- **VIDEO FROM COMMUNICATIONS: NEW METER VIDEOS**

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT WAS HEARD. 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.

**13. PRESENTATION, TRAINING AND DISCUSSION ON EPWATER'S BUDGET PROCESS, PROCEDURES AND FINANCIAL PLANNING.**

Jeff Tepsick, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The presentation, training and discussion will provide Public Service Board (PSB) members and the public with a foundational understanding of the annual budget process, including key procedures and timelines, in preparation for the Budget Workshop meeting scheduled for November 20, 2025. Mr. Tepsick, Mrs. Montoya-Halter and Mr. Wickersham answered questions from the board on this item.

No action was taken for this item.

**14. AWARDED RFP 25-25, SODIUM CHLORITE 25% TO INTERNATIONAL DIOXCIDE, INC. AND PURELINE TREATMENT SYSTEMS, LLC. FOR EACH VENDOR TO SUPPLY THESE CHEMICALS ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS AT THE UNIT PRICES PROPOSED, FOR AN ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$371,350 FOR INTERNATIONAL DIOXCIDE, INC. AND \$347,050 FOR PURELINE TREATMENT SYSTEMS, LLC. THE CONTRACT TERM FOR EACH VENDOR IS FOR ONE YEAR, WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND.**

Richard Wilcox, Water Supply Manager, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The 25% sodium chlorite when introduced into the chlorine dioxide generator containing chlorine gas produces chlorine dioxide used by the Umbenhauer/Robertson Wastewater Treatment Plant to oxidize and disinfect the water during treatment. This chemical is necessary to protect the public health and safety of customers.

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded RFP 25-25, Sodium Chlorite 25% to International Dioxide, Inc. and Pureline Treatment Systems, LLC. for each vendor to supply these chemicals on an as-needed basis at the unit prices proposed, for an estimated annual amount of \$371,350 for International Dioxide, Inc. and \$347,050 for Pureline Treatment Systems, LLC. The contract term for each vendor is for one year, with four one-year options to extend. Mr. Wilcox answered questions from the Board on this item.

**15. DELIBERATED ON THE APPEAL OF CUSTOMER, ERNEST JUAREZ, REGARDING A BILLING DISPUTE PURSUANT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS NO. 8.**

Staff requested this item move to Executive Session. On a motion made by Mr. Intebi and seconded by Dr. Ocaranza item 15 was moved to Executive Session.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi and seconded by Dr. Ocaranza the determination of the Administrative Committee and the decision of the President/CEO regarding Ernest Juarez's billing dispute was affirmed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session 10:42 November 12, 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 551.0761 Deliberation Regarding Critical Infrastructure Facility  
Section 551.087 Deliberation Regarding Economic Development Negotiations  
Section 551.089 Deliberation Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits

**a. CYBER SECURITY PRESENTATION: FORTIFYING EL PASO WATER'S CYBERSECURITY, A STRATEGIC ROADMAP (551.076) (551.0761) (551.089)**

This item had no action.

**b. DELIBERATE ON THE PROCUREMENT OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES FROM BORDER STATES INDUSTRIES, INC., A SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER OF THE SERVICES, PURSUANT TO SECTION 252.022(A)(7) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, IN THE ANNUAL ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$4,000,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND. (551.071) (551.089) (551.0761)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Block and seconded by Mr. Intebi the Public Service Board approved the procurement of critical infrastructure facilities equipment and services from Border States Industries, Inc., a sole source provider of the services, pursuant to Section 252.022(a)(7) of the Texas Local Government Code, in the annual estimated amount of \$4,000,000 for a term of one year with four one-year options to extend.

**c. STRATEGY BRIEFING AND LEGAL ADVICE ON THE PURCHASE, SALE, LEASE OR VALUE OF UTILITY REAL PROPERTY. (551.071) (551.072)**

This item had no action.

d. **AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE THE SETTLEMENT OF EVAN AMBROSE (PREVIOUSLY ALSO KNOWN AS LAUREN AMBROSE) VS. CHRISTOPHER PAUL AGUILAR, CITY OF EL PASO, AND EL PASO WATER UTILITIES, CAUSE NO. 2022DCV1738. (551.071)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Block and seconded by Mr. Intebi authorized the Office of General Counsel to participate in 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.

e. **ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE PRESIDENT/CEO, JOHN E. BALLIEW. (551.071) (551.074)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Block and seconded by Mr. Intebi the Public Service Board has deliberated on the performance of the President/CEO and determined that the President/CEO has performed above average and exceeded the Board's expectations, but will not make a performance-based increase to his current salary for this year;

FURTHER, the Board moves to execute an Amended and Restated Employment Agreement ("Amended Agreement") between El Paso Water and John Balliew, in accordance with the direction of the Public Service Board, in the form approved by outside counsel, to continue his current benefits into the Amended Agreement and also incorporate the following terms:

1. Extend the term of his employment until December 31, 2028
2. Authorize vacation accrual up to six (6) months, the Employer continue the practice of making a lump sum payout for accrued vacation leave upon the termination of this agreement.
3. Upon completion or termination of the Amended Agreement, Employer will pay all then-accrued and unused sick leave.
4. Employer will contribute to the City of El Paso's 457 (b) Deferred Compensation Plan for the benefit of the President/CEO in the maximum allowable amount under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations for 2025 and thereafter the Employer will annually contribute the maximum allowable amount as updated for that year by the IRS.

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. Morris, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session at 1:04, November 12, 2025.

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, the meeting adjourned at 1:08, November 12, 2025.

ATTEST:

  
Stefanie Block Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer

  
Bryan Morris, Chair

MINUTES  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD  
CITY OF EL PASO  
December 3, 2024

The special meeting of the Public Service Board for the Budget Workshop was held in person on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

**PSB MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bryan Morris – Chair  
Stefanie Block – Treasurer  
Dr. Anna Gitter – Vice Chair  
Dr. Hector Ocaranza – Member  
Charlie Intebi – Member  
Lisa Saenz – Member  
Mayor Oscar Leeser

**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  
Jeff Tepsick, Assistant Chief Financial Officer  
Claudia Duran, Chief of Staff  
Stephanie Chacon, Executive Assistant  
Edith Lara, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO  
Alberto Gomez, Utility Video Production Manager  
Luz Elena Holguin, Utility Assistant Chief Financial Officer  
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer  
Sol Cortez, Deputy General Counsel  
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer  
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer  
Gisela Dagnino, Utility Chief Operations Officer  
Cinthya Dominguez, Budget Analyst

**GUEST**

KC Griffin, Integrity Asset Management  
Melanie Bailey, Integrity Asset Management  
Leonardo Carpie, Estancia Apartments  
Kristi Johnson

**MEDIA**

KVIA  
El Paso Matters

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Chair Bryan Morris at 6:01 p.m. A quorum of its members was present.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **1. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING THE BUDGET AND RATE WORKSHOP FOR FY2025–2026, INCLUDING THE WATER, WASTEWATER, AND RECLAIMED WATER CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGETS; STORMWATER CAPITAL AND OPERATING BUDGET; AND PROPOSED WATER, WASTEWATER, AND STORMWATER RATE ADJUSTMENTS.**

Rocky Craley Raftelis, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) He began by reviewing the annual budget development process, explaining that EPWater's planning cycle includes several months of capital needs assessment, internal review and prioritization, and Public Service Board meetings culminating in final rate and budget decisions early in the calendar year. He then provided an overview of EPWater's current operations and system profile, including the total value of capital assets, the number of treatment plants and miles of pipeline maintained by the utility, and the distribution of water consumption across customer classes, highlighting the significant role of conservation in reducing per-capita water use while supporting growth in the service area.

Mr. Craley outlined the proposed FY2025–2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for water, wastewater, reclaimed water, and stormwater. He explained that the combined water and wastewater CIP emphasizes infrastructure reliability and includes major projects such as upgrades and rehabilitation at the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant, improvements at the Fred Hervey Water Reclamation Plant, rehabilitation of the Frontera Force Main, meter replacement initiatives, and key transmission and distribution line projects. He further described additional CIP priorities related to growth in developing areas, future water supply projects including advanced water purification and aquifer storage and recovery, and stormwater investments focused on storage, conveyance, and flood control facilities. The stormwater CIP for FY2025–2026 includes basin, pond, and system improvements such as projects at Will Ruth Pond, the Palisades stormwater system, the John T. Hickerson Basin, and the Hondo Pass system.

The Board received a summary of the proposed FY2025–2026 operating budgets for water, wastewater, reclaimed water, and stormwater. Mr. Craley noted increases driven by personnel costs, including employee retention efforts and new positions to support operations and regulatory compliance; higher costs for utilities, materials, and professional services; and increased debt service related to ongoing and planned capital projects. He stated that the combined water and wastewater budget reflects growth in both capital and debt service, while the stormwater budget reflects a modest overall increase with a shift in the balance between capital spending and debt service.

### **2. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON FINDINGS FROM RATE STUDY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT INITIATIVES.**



To address customer affordability and conservation, Mr. Craley highlighted EPWater programs that help customers manage their bills, including residential and commercial rebate programs for water-efficient fixtures and equipment, incentives for landscaping conversions, and the AguaRepairs leak repair program for qualifying homeowners. He also discussed how conservation and efficient use allow many customers to avoid certain charges, further reducing their monthly bills. Balliew concluded the presentation by reviewing proposed changes to EPWater's Rules and Regulations to update certain stormwater fee tables, annexation fee schedules, refund provisions, and language related to empty lots and design-fee requirements. Mr. Craley and Mr. Balliew responded to Board questions regarding the proposed capital program, rate impacts to different customer classes, and the balance between affordability, conservation, and long-term infrastructure reliability.

**3. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE BUDGET WORKSHOP – FY 2025-2026 BUDGET OVERVIEW; FY 2025-2026 WATER, WASTEWATER & RECLAIMED WATER OPERATING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET; FY 2025-2026 STORMWATER OPERATING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET; PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, INCLUDING RATE AND FEE ADJUSTMENTS.**

Mr. Craley then presented the recommended rate adjustments and rate structure features for FY2025–2026. He explained that staff recommends a 7 percent increase in water rates, a 5 percent increase in wastewater rates, and a 16 percent increase in the stormwater fee. He described how the proposed rate structure Option 5 is designed to improve affordability for very low water users by introducing a reduced minimum charge for customers using 1 CCF or less per month and by expanding eligibility for a waiver of the Water Supply Replacement Charge to customers using 4 CCF or less. Mr. Craley reviewed examples of monthly bills for very low, typical, and higher-volume residential customers, showing that ultra-low and low users would see a decrease in their combined water and wastewater charges, while typical customers would experience a moderate increase in their monthly bill. He also presented comparisons of EPWater's proposed bills to those of other large Texas and arid-region cities, demonstrating that El Paso's projected residential water and wastewater bills remain around or below the midpoint of comparable communities.

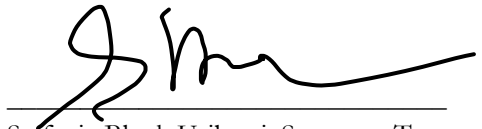
**4. NOTATION OF PROPOSED 2025 PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD (PSB) MEETING SCHEDULE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ACTION BY THE PSB AT THE DECEMBER 11, 2024 MEETING.**

No action was taken on this item.

During the public comment period, a member of the public addressed the Board regarding the proposed rate structure and its impact on customers. President/CEO John Balliew responded to the questions and provided clarifications for the record. Following public comment, the Board discussed the item and provided direction to staff regarding customer communications and additional analysis where requested. No formal action was taken at this workshop.

On a motion made by Ms. Saenz and seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m., December 3, 2024.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S Block Uribarri', written over a horizontal line.

Stefanie Block Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bryan Morris', written over a horizontal line.

Bryan Morris, Chair

MINUTES  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD  
CITY OF EL PASO  
November 20, 2025

The special meeting of the Public Service Board for the Budget Workshop was held in person on Thursday, November 20, 2025.

**PSB MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**PSB MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Dr. Anna Gitter – Vice Chair

**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  
Jeff Tepsick, Chief Financial Officer  
Claudia Duran, Chief of Staff  
Edith Lara, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO  
Stephanie Chacon, Executive Assistant  
Alberto Gomez, Utility Video Production Manager  
Alessa Contreras, Multimedia Design Specialist  
Elmer Beeler, Chief Support & Logistics Officer  
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer  
Luz Elena Holguin, Utility Assistant Chief Financial Officer  
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer  
Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer  
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer  
Gisela Dagnino, Utility Chief Operations Officer  
Ruben Rodriguez, Chief Water Quality Compliance Officer  
Rene Leon, Legislative Liaison  
Ivan Ibarra, Utility Support Operations Superintendent  
Ivana Clark, Support Services Specialist I  
Ceci Bertolli, Capital Improvements Program Manager  
Adam Holguin, Utility Public Information Coordinator  
Cinthya Dominguez, Budget Analyst  
Denise Parra, Public Affairs Officer  
Ozzie Muniz, Interim Chief of Safety, Security, & Emergency Response  
Rafael Velazquez, Capital Improvement Project Manager  
Elsa Ochoa, Capital Improvement Project Manager  
Daniel Cortes, Business and Financial Manager

Gustavo Hurtado, Fiscal Operations Manager  
Megan Parekh, Budget & Services Coordinator  
David Rodriguez, Support Services Specialist I  
Jaime Arriola, Capital Improvement Project Manager  
Adriana Castillo, Utility Engineering Division Manager  
Renata Renova, Capital Projects Manager

## **GUESTS**

Deanna Maldonado-Rocha, City Council Member  
Cesar Ortiz, El Paso SLA  
KC Griffin, Integrity Asset Management

## **MEDIA**

KVIA  
KINT  
KFOX  
Telemundo  
El Paso Matters

Ms. Block moved, and Dr. Ocaranza seconded, to elect Mr. Gaddy as Chair. Upon approval of the motion, the Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Chair Gaddy at 6:08 p.m., with a quorum present. Those in attendance then joined in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE BUDGET WORKSHOP – FY2026-2027 BUDGET OVERVIEW; FY2026-2027 WATER, WASTEWATER & RECLAIMED WATER OPERATING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET; FY2026-2027 STORMWATER OPERATING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET; PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, INCLUDING RATE AND FEE ADJUSTMENTS.**

John Balliew, President/CEO provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) Presentation on the FY2026–2027 Budget. The presentation highlighted EPWater’s continued focus on infrastructure reliability, operational readiness, and long-term water sustainability. He began with an overview of the annual budget development process, explaining that EPWater’s financial planning cycle includes several months of capital needs assessments, internal review, prioritization, and rate-setting activities before culminating in final Board action. He then provided a high-level organizational profile, summarizing EPWater’s operational scale, including its extensive capital asset portfolio, daily water delivery volumes, stormwater infrastructure, and the distribution of customer classes across the service area. Balliew noted that despite growth in population and system demands, conservation efforts over several decades have significantly reduced per-capita water consumption, which has helped delay the need for more aggressive capital expansion. He emphasized that EPWater’s overarching budget priority continues to be investment in infrastructure reliability and sustainable water supply development to maintain high-quality service at reasonable rates.

Mr. Balliew then presented the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY2025–26, totaling \$592 million across water, wastewater, reclaimed water, and stormwater systems. He described major capital categories, including conveyance, treatment, pumping systems, water resources, and other strategic projects. Significant planned improvements include upgrades and

rehabilitation at the Roberto Bustamante Wastewater Treatment Plant, expansion and rehabilitation projects at the Fred Hervey Water Reclamation Plant, major reinvestment in the Frontera Force Main, and continuous modernization of water transmission and distribution systems through projects such as meter replacements and large-diameter water line installations. He also reviewed longer-term CIP projections and discussed how prioritization efforts and operational efficiencies have contributed to reducing the total CIP forecast for future years. Additional capital investments highlighted included projects supporting growth in newly developing areas of the city, future water supply strategies such as advanced water purification and aquifer storage and recovery, and stormwater improvements including flood control structures, basin construction, and conveyance system upgrades.

In discussing operating budgets, Mr. Balliew outlined the FY2025–26 financial requirements for water, wastewater, reclaimed water, and stormwater operations. He noted increases in personnel services driven by retention initiatives and the addition of new positions to support system reliability and regulatory compliance. Rising costs for utilities, materials, and professional services were also identified as contributing factors. Balliew provided an overview of the utility's debt service obligations, explaining how capital financing needs affect annual budget totals and rate-setting considerations. He stated that the combined water and wastewater operating and capital budgets totaled nearly \$956 million, while the stormwater budget increased modestly to approximately \$101 million, primarily due to changes in debt service and indirect cost allocations.

Mr. Balliew then reviewed the recommended rate adjustments under Rate Structure Option 5. He explained that the proposed changes included a 7% increase in water rates, a 5% increase in wastewater rates, and a 16% increase in the stormwater fee. At the same time, the structure introduces important affordability measures, such as a reduced minimum charge for ultralow water users and an increased eligibility threshold for the Water Supply Replacement Charge waiver, benefiting customers with lower monthly water usage. He provided examples demonstrating how the proposed rates would affect typical residential customers, ultralow users, and low water users, illustrating both the impact and the relief provided by targeted adjustments. Balliew then described how EPWater's projected monthly bills compare to regional and national benchmarks, noting that the utility continues to remain at or below the midpoint of similar cities in Texas and across the United States, even with the proposed increases.

To further address customer affordability, Balliew highlighted existing and expanded customer support programs. These included residential rebates for water-efficient appliances and landscaping conversions, commercial WaterWise rebate opportunities for businesses, and the AguaRepairs leak repair program for qualifying homeowners. He also explained how conservation behaviors allow many customers to avoid certain charges, such as the Water Supply Replacement Charge, generating substantial savings annually for high-conserving households. He concluded by presenting a breakdown of how each dollar on a customer's bill is allocated, underscoring EPWater's commitment to transparency and responsible stewardship of public funds.

Finally, Mr. Balliew reviewed proposed updates to EPWater's Rules and Regulations. Recommended revisions included updates to stormwater fee tables, annexation fee schedules, refund rates, and language clarifications applicable to empty lots and design-fee requirements. He also reminded the Board of upcoming opportunities for public comment at future PSB meetings and through emailed submissions. Balliew closed by addressing Board questions and reaffirming staff's commitment to providing additional information and analysis as requested.

During the public comment period, a member of the public addressed the Board regarding the multifamily rate presentation. President/CEO John Balliew responded to the questions and

provided clarifications for the record. Following the public comment, the Board deliberated on the matter and offered recommendations to staff concerning the multifamily slide and related presentation materials. During the discussion, the Public Service Board also requested additional information and clarification regarding multifamily affordability, the multifamily rate structure review, and Very Large Water Users. The follow-up presentation will provide the Board with further analysis on rates for Very Large Water Customers as well as information from a Raftelis industry study reviewing multifamily rate structures and best practices

**2. NOTATION OF PROPOSED 2026 PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD (PSB) MEETING SCHEDULE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ACTION BY THE PSB AT THE DECEMBER 10, 2025 MEETING.**

No action was taken on this item.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion made by Brian Morris, seconded by Mr. Intebi and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session 8:14 p.m., November 20, 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:

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

Discussion on the following:

**a. CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING THE PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD (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 Mr. Morris, seconded by Mayor Johnson and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m., November 20, 2025.

ATTEST:



---

Stefanie Block Uribarri, Secretary-Treasurer



---

Bryan Morris, Chair