

MINUTES
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
CITY OF EL PASO
May 13, 2026

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held in person, Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

PSB MEMBERS PRESENT

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

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
Edith Lara, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO
Jeff Tepsick, Chief Financial Officer
Claudia Duran, Chief of Staff
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer
Elmer Beeler, Chief Support & Logistics Officer
Ruben Rodriguez, Chief Water Quality Compliance Officer
Sol Cortez, Deputy General Counsel
Melinda Becker, Assistant General Counsel
Alberto Gomez, Utility Video Production Manager
Alessa Contreras, Multimedia Design Specialist
Monica Puga Ontiveros, Utility Chief Human Resources Officer
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Adriana Castillo, Utility Engineering Division Manager
Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager
Luz Elena Holguin, Utility Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Fred Solano, Utility Chief Information Officer
Martin Noriega, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Gisela Dagnino, Utility Chief Operations Officer
Rose Guevara, Utility Purchasing & Contracts Manager
Alex Vidales, Utility Land and Water Rights Manager
Ozzy Muniz, Interim Chief of Safety, Security, & Emergency Response
Steve Porras, Utility Security Manager
Renata Renova, Capital Projects Manager
Pablo Mejia, Capital Projects Manager
Juan Lares, Construction Superintendent
Sheyla Dominguez, Utility Central Control Operator
Nathaly Rivera Aquirre, Utility Plant Senior Technician
Jaime Arriola, Capital Projects Manager
Jennifer Barr, Water Conservation/Tech2O Manager
Denise Parra, Public Information Officer

Ivana Clark, Support Services Specialist I
David Rodriguez, Support Services Specialist I
Christina Montoya-Halter, Marketing and Communications Manager

MEDIA

KFOX
KVIA
KTSM
Univision
El Paso Inc.

GUEST

Jacob Bardi, Centro Vida
Sarah Guemez, CDM Smith
Joe Salcido, Centro Vida
Sandra Guerrero
Pablo Campo
Paulo Perez, JMT
Eduardo Carrasco, JMT
Saul Gonzalez, Sembrando Esperanza
Michael Ramirez

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Dr. Gitter at 8:32 am. A quorum of its members was present. After a moment of silence, those in attendance joined Edith Lara in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OFFICERS: CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARY-TREASURER.

On a motion made by Mr. Gaddy, seconded by Mayor Johnson, and unanimously carried, the Board elected Dr. Anna Gitter as Chair, Charlie Intebi as Vice-Chair, and Stefanie Block as Secretary-Treasurer of the Public Service Board.

2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:

(A) PSB SUBCOMMITTEE STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND CONSOLIDATION OF AUDIT, FINANCE, AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE AND THE PSB BUDGET COMMITTEE INTO ONE SUBCOMMITTEE UNDER THE NAME OF FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the PSB subcommittee structure and governance, and consolidated the Audit, Finance, and Investment Committee and the PSB Budget Committee into one subcommittee under the name of Finance/Budget Committee.

(B) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SUCH SUBCOMMITTEES:

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER SELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: BRYAN MORRIS, CHARLIE INTEBI, HECTOR OCARANZA

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: STEFANIE BLOCK, ANNA GITTER, HECTOR OCARANZA

FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE: STEFANIE BLOCK, MAYOR RENARD JOHNSON, LANE GADDY

DEVELOPMENT/SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE: ANNA GITTER, CHARLIE INTEBI, LANE GADDY

PSB CEO COMPENSATION COMMITTEE: ANNA GITTER, STEFANIE BLOCK

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the appointment of members to the PSB subcommittees.

Prior to consideration of the Consent Agenda, staff requested that Item 11 be deleted from the agenda.

On a motion made by Mr. Gaddy, seconded by Mr. Morris, and unanimously carried, the Board deleted Item 11 from the agenda.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi and seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, item 6 was pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed into the Regular Agenda.

On a single motion made by Mr. Gaddy and seconded by Mr. Morris and unanimously carried, the Board took action on the following consent agenda items, excluding Item 11, which was deleted from the agenda:

CONSENT AGENDA

- 3. APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON APRIL 8, 2026 AND NOVEMBER 12, 2025.**
- 4. APPROVED AN INCREASE TO THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT ISSUED TO INTERSTATE TRAILERS INC, THROUGH BUYBOARD CONTRACT NO. 787-25 TRAILERS, OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT, PARTS, AND MAINTENANCE REPAIR SERVICE BY AN ADDITIONAL \$500,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$1,000,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE BUYBOARD CONTRACT IS IN PLACE.**
- 5. APPROVED AN INCREASE TO THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT ISSUED TO PHIL LONG FORD OF DENVER, LLC, THROUGH THE INTERLOCAL PURCHASING SYSTEM CONTRACT (TIPS) NO. 240901 TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES BY AN ADDITIONAL \$2,500,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE TIPS CONTRACT IS IN PLACE.**
- 6. APPROVED AN INCREASE TO THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT ISSUED TO RJ BORDER INTERNATIONAL, L.P., INTERNATIONAL MOTORS, LLC'S AUTHORIZED DEALER, THROUGH SOURCEWELL CONTRACT NO. 032824-NVS CLASS 4-8 CHASSIS AND CABS WITH RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES, AND SERVICES OF \$2,500,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE SOURCEWELL CONTRACT IS IN PLACE.**
- 7. APPROVED THE ISSUANCE OF A MASTER CONTRACT TO INTRAWORKS INC. THROUGH ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 24-7488 FOR THE PURCHASE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY EQUIPMENT FOR \$3,000,000 AND AUTHORIZE FUTURE ANNUAL MASTER CONTRACTS FOR \$3,000,000 FOR THE DURATION OF THE COOPERATIVE CONTRACT.**
- 8. APPROVED AMENDMENT NUMBER 2 TO THE AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE PRECONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE NEW MAIN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PROJECT WITH**

JOHNSON, MIRMIRAN & THOMPSON, INC FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$231,609.

9. AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF EL PASO, TEXAS FOR THE PROVISION OF FIRST-TIME WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES UNDER CERTIFICATES OF OBLIGATION (COS) PROJECTS, WITH AN ESTIMATED REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$31,050,196 FROM THE COUNTY TO EPWATER.

CONSENT AGENDA

10. AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO TO SIGN AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CAMINO REAL REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (CRRMA) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE CANUTILLO IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – 1ST STREET WITH AN ESTIMATED EPWATER CONTRIBUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,301,476, CONTINGENT ON THE AWARD OF A CONSTRUCTION BID BY THE CRRMA FOR THE PROJECT.
11. AWARDED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR WATER STORAGE FACILITIES – RFQ01-26 TO CDM SMITH INC., FREESE AND NICHOLS, INC., GARVER, LLC, MORENO CARDENAS, INC., AND PARKHILL, SMITH & COOPER, INC., EACH FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500,000 WITH A TERM OF THREE YEARS EACH.
12. AWARDED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR ON-CALL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR WATER AND RECLAIMED WATER PUMP STATIONS – RFQ11-26 TO ARCADIS U.S., INC., BROWN AND CALDWELL, CDM SMITH, INC., GARVER, LLC, AND JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP INC., EACH FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500,000 WITH A TERM OF THREE YEARS EACH.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. APPROVED AN INCREASE TO THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT ISSUED TO RJ BORDER INTERNATIONAL, L.P., INTERNATIONAL MOTORS, LLC'S AUTHORIZED DEALER, THROUGH SOURCEWELL CONTRACT NO. 032824-NVS CLASS 4-8 CHASSIS AND CABS WITH RELATED EQUIPMENT, ACCESSORIES, AND SERVICES OF \$2,500,000 FOR A CUMULATIVE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF FUTURE MASTER CONTRACTS IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 FOR AS LONG AS THE TERM OF THE SOURCEWELL CONTRACT IS IN PLACE.

Elmer Beeler, Chief Support & Logistics Officer, was available to answer questions from the Board. No questions were asked. Mr. Morris stated that he pulled the item in order to abstain from voting on it.

On a motion made by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and carried, the Board approved an increase to the existing master contract issued to RJ Border International, L.P., International Motors, LLC's authorized dealer, through Sourcewell Contract No. 032824-NVS Class 4-8 Chassis and Cabs with Related Equipment, Accessories, and Services of \$2,500,000 for a cumulative existing master contract amount of \$3,000,000 and authorized the issuance of future master contracts in the estimated annual amount of \$3,000,000 for as long as the term of the Sourcewell contract is in place.

Mr. Morris abstained from the vote.

13. CEO MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING UTILITY MANAGEMENT AND/OR OPERATIONS: EPWATER LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS: RETIREMENT OF RUBEN RODRIGUEZ AND FRED SOLANO
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FLEET ADMINISTRATORS RECOGNIZES SECTION 915 AMONG 2026'S 100 BEST FLEETS IN THE AMERICAS
KEY WATER DATA REPORTED TO TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
TEXAS WATER: WOMEN'S HYDRANT TEAM WINS 3RD PLACE AND CONSERVATION AWARDED

14. MANAGEMENT REPORT:
STATUS UPDATE ON THE CONDITION OF CEMENT LAKE (PORTLAND RESERVOIR) AND RESPONSE EFFORTS
WATER / SEWER PIPELINES KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs) UPDATE
2026 SURFACE WATER ALLOCATION
VIDEO FROM COMMUNICATIONS: WIPES CLOG PIPES

15. PUBLIC COMMENT: THE PSB WILL PERMIT PUBLIC COMMENT ON SUBJECTS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT MAY NOT DELIBERATED ON THESE ITEMS IF NOT POSTED FOR DISCUSSION. THE CHAIR MAY IMPOSE REASONABLE TIME LIMITS FOR EACH SPEAKER.

The following people from the public signed up for comment, Jacob Bardi, Saul Gonzalez from Sembrando Esperanza, Sandra Guerrero, Michael Ramirez.

16. APPROVED CHANGE ORDER NUMBER 2 UNDER CSP NO. 30-23, ON-CALL CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE REPAIR OF STREET RIGHTS-OF-WAY, FOR ZTEX CONSTRUCTION, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,675,187.50 AND INCREASING THE CONTRACT TIME BY 184 CALENDAR DAYS.

Ivan Hernandez, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) On May 10, 2023, the Public Service Board awarded Competitive Sealed Proposal (CSP) No. 30-23 to Double H Contracting, Inc., ZTEX Construction, Inc., and TAO Industries, Inc. dba Hawk Construction to perform on-call construction services for street rights-of-way repairs associated with EPWater infrastructure work for a term of one year with two one-year options. The contracts established unit prices and allowed for unit price adjustments at the start of each renewal term, subject to limitations set forth in the contract documents and state law.

Change Order No. 2 is requested to increase contract capacity and extend the term of the contract with ZTEX to maintain uninterrupted service. The annual contract price will increase by 25%, from \$6,700,750 to \$8,375,937.50 due to current and projected workloads exceeding available capacity and an increase to the unit prices. The contract term will be extended by 184 days from June 20, 2026, to complete ongoing and future work. This change order does not alter the original scope of services but provides additional capacity under existing contract provisions. Double H Contracting, Inc. has already reached its maximum allowable increase of 25%. Mr. Hernandez answered questions from the board on this item.

Prior to discussion of Item 16, the Board requested that the item be moved into Executive Session.

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Mayor Johnson, and unanimously carried, the Board moved Item 16 into Executive Session for discussion.

Following discussion in Executive Session, the Board reconvened in open session.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Mrs. Block, and unanimously carried, the Board approved Change Order Number 2 under CSP No. 30-23, On-Call Construction Services for the Repair of Street Rights-of-Way, for ZTEX

Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$1,675,187.50 and increased the contract time by 184 calendar days, with the caveat that staff inform the Board what constitutes an emergency and whether an emergency exemption will apply for operational continuity.

17. AWARDED COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSAL NO. 08-26, PLANNED WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM PHASE 13 – CEDAR GROVE, TO KARLSRUHER, INC. DBA CSA CONSTRUCTORS AS THE HIGHEST RANKED RESPONSIVE, RESPONSIBLE OFFEROR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,742,153.

Ivan Hernandez, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) EPWater is implementing the Planned Waterline Replacement Program to rehabilitate and replace aging water distribution infrastructure throughout the service area. Phase 13 – Cedar Grove consists of waterline replacements, sanitary sewer improvements, and associated appurtenances within the Cedar Grove area to improve system reliability, reduce maintenance needs, and maintain continuity of service to customers. Mr. Hernandez answered questions from the board on this item.

The project includes installation of new water distribution lines, service reconnections, pavement restoration, and limited sanitary sewer system improvements. These upgrades are necessary to address aging infrastructure and enhance operational efficiency within the distribution system.

On a motion made by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mr. Gaddy, and unanimously carried, the Board awarded Competitive Sealed Proposal No. 08-26, Planned Waterline Replacement Program Phase 13 – Cedar Grove, to Karlsruhe, Inc. DBA CSA Constructors as the highest ranked responsive, responsible offeror in the amount of \$6,742,153.

18. AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT/CEO OR DESIGNEE TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR INTERIM WHOLESALE WATER SUPPLY BETWEEN EL PASO WATER – PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD IRON POINTE MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT FOR A TERM OF FORTY YEARS.

Renata Renova, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Iron Pointe Municipal Utility District (District) requested interim wholesale water supply services from EPWater for Phase I of the proposed development. The District will provide retail water and their own wastewater services to its customers. The District is in an unincorporated area of the El Paso County. Mrs. Renova answered questions on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Gaddy, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board authorized the President/CEO or designee to sign a Contract for Interim Wholesale Water Supply between El Paso Water – Public Service Board Iron Pointe Municipal Utility District for a term of forty years.

19. DELIBERATED ON THE APPEAL OF CUSTOMER, MYRNA MARISOL AVILA AND JANETH BARRERA, REGARDING PROPERTY DAMAGE CLAIM AND RELATED BILLING DISPUTE PURSUANT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS NO. 8.

Daniel Ortiz, General Counsel, stated that Rules and Regulations No. 8 governs the appeals process and includes two provisions regarding continuances. The first provision was triggered at the prior Board meeting, when the Board considered and voted to continue the hearing, which was approved pursuant to the Rules and Regulations. The second provision was triggered for this meeting, as the appellants submitted a timely request, at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, requesting a continuance. Pursuant to Rules and Regulations No. 8, the Chair granted the request.

The Chair acknowledged the continuance request. No motion was required or taken on this item. The item was further discussed in Executive Session under Executive Session Item a.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Mr. Intebi and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session 10:26 am May 13, 2026, 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. **CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING THE APPEAL OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2025 PROPERTY DAMAGE CLAIM AND RELATED BILLING DISPUTE OF MYRNA MARISOL AVILA AND JANETH BARRERA, PURSUANT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS NO. 8.**

This item had no action.

- b. **THE BOARD WILL DELIBERATE REGARDING WHETHER THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY CAN BE DECLARED INEXPEDIENT TO THE WATER, WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER SYSTEMS: PORTIONS OF 18 UPPER VALLEY TR 6-C-2, 18 UPPER VALLEY TR 6-B, 18 UPPER VALLEY TR 6-B-1-B, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS, APPROXIMATELY 35.4 ACRES.**

Mrs. Block moved, that the property as described in the posting language, not be declared inexpedient to the water, wastewater and stormwater systems, seconded by Mr. Intebi.

- c. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE VALUE AND ACQUISITION OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY: 6 MILAGRO HILLS #1 LOT 3, APPROXIMATELY 0.15 ACRES AND RELATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS.**

This item had no action.

- d. **DISCUSSION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED AT 6 CASTNER RANGE LOT 7 AND 6 CASTNER RANGE LOT 6.**

This item had no action.

- e. **CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY ON REAL ESTATE AND LAND ACQUISITION OF CEMENT LAKE (PORTLAND RESERVOIR)**

This item had no action.

- f. **CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CALLING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD (PSB) AND LEGAL**

ADVICE AS TO A FUTURE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PSB REGARDING VERY LARGE WATER USERS.

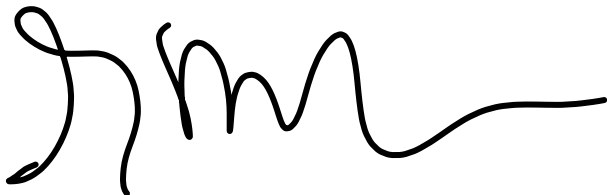
This item had no action.

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

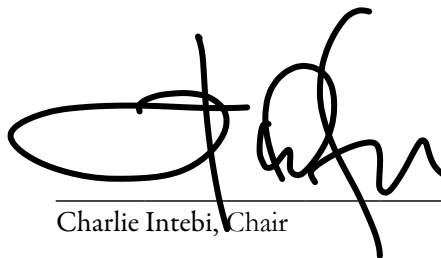
On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session at 12:44 pm, May 13, 2026.

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Mr. Intebi, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 12:44 pm, May 13, 2026.

ATTEST:



Stefanie Block, Secretary-Treasurer



Charlie Intebi, Chair