MINUTES
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD
CITY OF EL PASO
October 14, 2026

The regular meeting of the Public Service Board was held in person, Wednesday, October 14, 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
Stephanie Chacon, Executive Assistant
Lisa Rosendorf, Chief Communications and Government Affairs Officer
Elmer Beeler, Chief Support & Logistics Officer
Richard Wilcox, 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
Ceci Bertolli, Capital Improvements Program Manager
Monica Puga Ontiveros, Utility Chief Human Resources Officer
Felipe Lopez, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Elsa Ochoa, Engineering Division Manager
Irazema Rojas, Utility Chief Engineering Officer
Adriana Castillo, Utility Engineering Division Manager
Ivan Hernandez, Utility Engineering Division Manager
Theresa Rivas, 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
Geoffrey Espineli, Wastewater Systems Division Manager
Veronica Garcia, Senior Purchasing Agent
Becky Hart, Utility Treasury and Property
Renata Renova, Capital Projects Manager
Salvador Solis, Capital Projects Manager
Ozzie Muniz, Utility Chief of Safety, Security, Emergency Response
Scott Reinert, Water Resources Manager
David Rodriguez, Support Services Specialist I

Aldo Gomez Fierro, Support Services Specialist III
Jennifer Barr, Water Conservation/TecH2O Manager
Alejandro Vidales, Utility Land and Water Rights Manager
Gabriela Warren, Utility Senior Computer Media Specialist
Juan Castillo, Utility Chief Customer Experience Officer
Eric Dubrule, Construction Superintendent
Fabiola Iniquez, Business and Customer Service Assistant
Frank Gonzalez, Utility Emergency Response Coordinator
Cynthia Pina, Chief Customer Advocate and Ombudsperson
Alvaro Maldonado, Business Contracts Manager
Gustavo Hurtado, Fiscal Operations Manager
Brenda Cantu, Utility Business and Customer Service Manager
Meghana Uppalapati, Utility Data Systems Administrator
Mateo Legarreta, Customer Relations Representative
Brenda Contreras, Customer Relations Representative
Abraham Rodriguez, Customer Relations and Billing Supervisor
Leticia Reyes, Customer Relations and Billing Supervisor
Moises Ugues, Utility Field Customer Service Inspector
Juan Cervantes, Utility Business and Customer Service Manager

GUEST
Roman Bustillos, Brock & Bustillos
Marissa Ramirez, The Frontera Land Alliance
Deanna Maldonado Rocha, The City of El Paso
Mark Alvord, EPHCRWSC
Guillermo Martinez, Wilson and Company
Robert Hoffman, HDR
Francisco X Urueta, Souder Miller and Associates

The Public Service Board meeting was called to order by Dr. Gitter at 8:33 AM. 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.

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 14, 2026.**

2. **APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT ISSUED TO DOZZ DESIGN & MANUFACTURING LLC THROUGH THE PURCHASING COOPERATIVE ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 25-7517 BY AN ADDITIONAL $1,000,000 TO INCREASE THE CUMULATIVE CONTRACT AMOUNT TO $1,500,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS, AND RELATED SERVICES.**

3. **APPROVED AN INCREASE IN THE CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING MASTER CONTRACT ISSUED TO RBC INDUSTRIAL LLC THROUGH THE PURCHASING COOPERATIVE ESC REGION 19 CONTRACT NO. 23-7457 BY AN ADDITIONAL $1,000,000 TO INCREASE THE CUMULATIVE CONTRACT AMOUNT TO $1,500,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND RELATED SERVICES.**

4. DEEMED LHOIST NORTH AMERICA AND TEXAS LIME COMPANY AS NON-RESPONSIVE, AND AWARDED RFP 49-26 QUICK LIME, TO AUSTIN LOGISTICS LLC, THE HIGHEST RANKED PROPOSER THAT IS THE SOLE RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE PROPOSER, FOR AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF $1,898,036 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR.

5. AWARDED BID NO. SW27-26 SANDBAGS - FILLED AT SPECIFIC SITES AND LOCATIONS, TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE, RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, G.R.A.C.E. CONSTRUCTION, IN THE ESTIMATED ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $265,000 FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR WITH FOUR ONE-YEAR OPTIONS TO EXTEND.

6. AWARDED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR ON-CALL STORMWATER ENGINEERING SERVICES - RFQ SW20-26 TO FREESE AND NICHOLS, INC., AECOM TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC., HUITT ZOLLARS, INC., MORENO CARDENAS, INC., GARVER & CO. LLC, PARKHILL, SMITH & COOPER, INC. AND CEA ENGINEERING GROUP, INC., FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $1,500,000 FOR EACH FIRM FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

7. APPROVED A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH SOUDER, MILLER AND ASSOCIATES, INC FOR CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND RESIDENT PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE SERVICES FOR THE HASKELL R. STREET WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS – PART 2 PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF $565,666 AND AUTHORIZE FUTURE TASK ORDERS OR AMENDMENTS TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF $1,500,000.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. CEO MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING UTILITY MANAGEMENT AND/OR OPERATIONS:
CONTRIBUTION TO AGUACARES
TESTIMONY BEFORE TEXAS HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
EPWATER EARNS CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION FOR INVESTMENT POLICY
CUSTOMER SERVICE WEEK CELEBRATION

9. MANAGEMENT REPORT:
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM UPDATE
DELL CITY WATER IMPORTATION
SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES REPORT
SECOND QUARTER INVESTMENT REPORT
PSB ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES DURING EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER ACTIVATION
VIDEO FROM COMMUNICATIONS: FROM RIVER TO TAP WITH WILLIE AND CHICO

10. 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.

11. APPROVED A SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN EL PASO WATER AND THE BORDERPLEX ALLIANCE FOR PLANNING SERVICES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 252.022(A)(4) OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE IN THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF $250,000 FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM, FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF $500,000.

Claudia Duran, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) El Paso Water (EPWater) has been designated by the State of Texas as the regional water planning authority for the El Paso region. The Borderplex Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to economic development in the El Paso-Las Cruces-Ciudad Juárez region. EPWater has previously entered into agreements with the Borderplex Alliance to provide planning

services. The planning services are intended to guide EPWater policy to ensure the orderly development of EPWater and city land areas. The planning services also supports economic development initiatives, assist in identifying potential buyers and/or lessees for EPWater-owned property, includes collaboration on long-range water, wastewater and infrastructure planning, and supports state and federal funding and advocacy efforts. The agreement reflects an updated scope of services with a clearer focus on very large water users and associated metrics. Ms. Duran answered questions from the board on this item. Ms. Duran answered questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Dr. Ocaranza, seconded by Mr. Intebi with Mr. Gaddy abstaining, the Board approved a Services Agreement between El Paso Water and the Borderplex Alliance for planning services, in accordance with Section 252.022(a)(4) of the Texas Local Government Code in the annual amount of $250,000 for a two-year term, for a total amount of $500,000.

12. DEEMED CMD ENDEAVORS, INC. AND INTERNATIONAL EAGLE ENTERPRISES, INC. AS NON-RESPONSIBLE AND AWARDED COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSAL NO. 18-26, NORTHWEST DEVELOPMENT WATER MAIN EXTENSION, TO ZTEX CONSTRUCTION, INC. AS THE HIGHEST-RANKED RESPONSIVE, RESPONSIBLE OFFEROR IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,051,955.

Ivan Hernandez, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Northwest Development Water Main Extension project is intended to support continued growth in the northwest part of El Paso through the installation of approximately 4,918 linear feet of new 16-inch ductile iron water main beginning at the intersection of Los Mochis Drive and South Desert Boulevard and extending north within an existing easement parallel to South Desert Boulevard. Mr. Hernandez answerd questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Mr. Morris, and unanimously carried, the Board deemed CMD Endeavors, Inc. and International Eagle Enterprises, Inc. as non-responsible and awarded Competitive Sealed Proposal No. 18-26, Northwest Development Water Main Extension, to ZTEX Construction, Inc. as the highest-ranked responsive, responsible offeror in the amount of $2,051,955.

13. DEEMED DOZZ DESIGN & MANUFACTURING AND BAIN CONSTRUCTION AS NON-RESPONSIVE AND DEEM NORTHTEX CONSTRUCTION, LLC AS NON-RESPONSIBLE, AND AWARDED COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSAL NO. 36-26 - MONTANA EAST SUPPLY WATERLINE - DAVID DRIVE WATER MAIN EXTENSION TO S.J. LOUIS CONSTRUCTION, INC., AS THE HIGHEST-RANKED RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE OFFEROR, IN THE AMOUNT OF $6,222,010.

Adriana Castillo, provided a presentation to the Board regarding this item (copy on file in Central Files.) The Montana East Supply Waterline - David Drive Water Main Extension project will expand water transmission infrastructure as well as provide redundancy in the Montana Avenue and Zaragoza Drive area of East El Paso. The work includes approximately 7,920 linear feet of 30-inch high-density polyethylene water pipe, 1,610 linear feet of 24-inch ductile iron water pipe, and 40 linear feet of 12-inch polyvinyl chloride water pipe. Mrs. Castillo answered questions from the board on this item.

On a motion made by Mr. Intebi, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board deemed Dozz Design & Manufacturing and Bain Construction as non-responsive and deem Northtex Construction, LLC as non-responsible, and awarded Competitive Sealed Proposal No. 36-26 - Montana East Supply Waterline - David Drive Water Main Extension to S.J. Louis Construction, Inc., as the highest-ranked responsive and responsible offeror, in the amount of $6,222,010.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza and unanimously carried, the Board retired into Executive Session 10:20 AM October 14, 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. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE PRESIDENT/CEO, JOHN E. BALLIEW.

Motion by Mrs. Block, seconded by Mr. Morris, the Board determined the President/CEO performed above average and exceeded expectations, made no performance-based salary increase for the year, and amended the Employment Agreement regarding payment of accrued sick leave upon qualifying termination.

b. BOARD GOVERNANCE AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT TRAINING REFRESHER

This item had no action.

c. THE CITY OF EL PASO'S NEW ORDINANCE REQUIRING CERTAIN DISCLOSURES ON COMMERCIAL SOLICITATIONS RELATING TO WATER QUALITY, WATER SAFETY, WATER TESTING, WATER TREATMENT, OR WATER FILTRATION.

This item had no action.

d. LEGAL CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSION OF REAL PROPERTY IN DELL CITY, TX.

This item had no action.

e. TEXAS LAW ON GROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.

This item had no action.

f. WHETHER THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY CAN BE DECLARED INEXPEDIENT TO THE WATER, WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER SYSTEMS: PORTIONS OF 80 TSP 1 SEC 31 T & P SURV TR 18, CITY OF EL PASO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS, APPROXIMATELY 0.82 ACRES.

On a motion made by Mrs. Block, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, **t**he property described in the posting language was declared inexpedient to the water, wastewater, and stormwater systems.

g. **DELIBERATION REGARDING THE PURCHASE AND VALUE OF THE REAL PROPERTY LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS LOT 12, BLOCK 8, MOUNTAIN HILLS ESTATES - UNIT 3 (~7,773 SF); LOT 14, BLOCK 8, MOUNTAIN HILLS ESTATES - UNIT 3 (~12,000 SF); AND LOT 13, BLOCK 8, MOUNTAIN HILL ESTATES – UNIT 3 (~12,000 SF); REPLAT D, EL PASO COUNTY, EL PASO, TEXAS.**

On a motion made by Mrs. Block, seconded by Mr. Morris, the President/CEO was authorized to proceed with the purchase of the real property according to the terms and conditions specified by the Board.

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 Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the Board reconvened in open session at 12:33 PM, October 14, 2026.

On a motion made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Dr. Ocaranza, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM, October 14, 2026.

ATTEST:

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Dr. Anna Gitter, Chair

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Stefanie Block, Secretary-Treasurer