MINUTES OF THE

CITY OF SANTA FE & SANTA FE COUNTY

BUCKMAN DIRECT DIVERSION BOARD MEETING

October 1, 2026

1. **Call to Order**: This meeting of the City of Santa Fe & Santa Fe County Buckman Direct Diversion Board meeting was called to order by Councilor Jamie Cassutt, BDD Board Chair at approximately 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

2. **Roll Call:** Roll was called and a quorum was present as shown:

BDD Board Members Present:
Councilor Jamie Cassutt, Chair
Commissioner Justin Greene, Vice Chair
Councilor Patricia Feghali
Commissioner Hank Hughes
Peter Ives, Citizen Member Alternate
T. Egelhoff, The Club at Las Campanas, [non-voting member – appearing by Zoom]

Member(s) Excused:
R. Schmidt-Petersen, Citizen Member

BDD Board Alternate(s) Present:
Peter Ives, Citizen Member – Alternate

Others Present:
Bradley Prada Facilities Manager
Nancy Long, BDD Board Consulting Attorney
Kyle Harwood, BDD Board Consulting Attorney
Bernardine Padilla, BDD Public Relations Coordinator
Matt Sandoval, BDD Operations Superintendent
Chris Encinias, Acting Superintendent of Maintenance
Alexis Garcia, BDD Administrative Manager
David Malczewski, BDD Administrative Assistant
Jim Riesterer, GZA

[Chair Cassutt read the agenda captions throughout the meeting.]

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Nancy Long, BDD Board Counsel, requested that item 4, Consent Agenda, and corresponding item 8.A. i, be removed from the agenda and that items 11 and 12 and 13

precede Executive Session.

Commissioner Greene moved to approve as amended. Mr. Ives seconded and the motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda - Removed

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of the September 3, 2026 Buckman Direct Diversion Board Meeting Minutes

CHAIR CASSUTT: I have a statement which says, I will state for the record and our minutes that the only matter discussed during the executive session of our last regular board meeting on September 3, 2026, was the matter as stated in the motion to go into executive session and no action was taken.

Are there any other changes to the minutes? If not, can I have a motion?

Councilor Feghali moved to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Greene seconded. The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote.

6. Matters from the Public – None were presented.

7. Presentations and Informational Items

a. Monthly Update on BDD Operations

MATT SANDOVAL (BDD Operations Superintendent): Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the board. I'll be presenting the BDD operations report for September 2026. BDD diversions and deliveries have averaged a million gallons per day as follows: Raw water diversions, 3.12 million gallons per day; raw water delivery to Las Campanas at Booster Station 2A was .58 million gallons per day; drinking water deliveries to Booster Stations 4A and 5A, 3.43 million gallons per day. And the BDD contributed 36.2 percent of the drinking water to the city and county for the month of September 2026.

And then I also would like to note that I added a couple of charts on page 2 at the request of Board Member Ives from last meeting. The first one is the San Juan-Chama diversions, it's a percentage for each partner percentage. And then the other one is on bottom of the page, the BDD finished water percentages by partner and that's the finished water. And I will stand for questions.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. Any questions from the Board? Member Greene and Member Ives.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Since this was probably prepared a week ago, what's the river look like right now?

MR. SANDOVAL: Thank you, Madam Chair and Board Member Greene, Vice Chair. So it's been challenging. We have high flows, and along with high flows, we get high turbidity. So we're off and on. We're still able to pump a little bit, but it's been a challenge.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So we did go offline for a little while?

MR. SANDOVAL: Yes, off and on for a day or two.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. And do we have a cfs number?

MR. SANDOVAL: Sure do. So right now, as of today, I think this morning, Otowi was 2,000 cfs and the five-day average is I think it's 550 or 6 cfs. So a lot of rain up north.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. Member Ives.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a quick question. First of all, thank you for including those two breakdowns. As I was looking through the packet, I got to the minutes and highlighted those sections, and then I got to the report. So excellent work.

Just a question on the September diversions in section one. It indicates total diversions of 3.7 million gallons per day which is the 3.12 plus the .58, but drinking water delivery through booster station 4A and 5A of 3.43. So a delta of about .27 million gallons a day: where did that come from? How is that calculated?

MR. SANDOVAL: Thank you, Board Member Ives. So we're still trying to figure that out. I don't know if it's in the meter reporting or the way it's averaged out. I have gotten it closer because you did ask that at a previous meeting. Maybe, Brad, I don't know if you –

BRAD PRADA (Facilities Manager): Yes, I can add to that. Thank you. So there's some fluctuation in the storage that we have on site. And so if we're talking about a quarter of a million gallons between 12 million gallons of storage we have on site, it could just be a fluctuation there that we pump some and then put it back into the system.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Okay. Because it would be a quarter of a million gallons a day, so that varies that much?

MR. PRADA: Yes.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Okay. Thank you.

MR. SANDOVAL: Thank you.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. Any other questions? I don't believe so. Thanks, Matthew.

MR. SANDOVAL: Thank you.

b. Report from the BDD Facilities Manager

MR. PRADA: Thank you, Chair Cassutt and good afternoon board members. I'm pleased to present our monthly update for October 2026. I'll begin with our major repair and replacement update regarding the centrifuge failure I reported a few months back. Delivery of the rebuild unit is scheduled for October 31st and we expect it to be fully operational within a couple of weeks following delivery. Once the unit is commissioned, we will hold a vendor-led training session to onboard new personnel and provide a refresher on proper operation and training for existing staff.

Moving on to service contracts, our team is actively drafting requests for proposals for upcoming fiscal year service contracts. By initiating procurement early, we are staying ahead of the standard processing timelines and avoiding stress when we start backing up against those deadlines.

Finally, on to staffing and job vacancies. We are working closely with city HR to fill

these positions. For the PUD ladder, applications closed on August 30th. As of this morning, a candidate was not selected from that posting, so we'll be reposting the positions in the coming week. For the automation and security administrator, applications closed on September 24th and as of this morning, interviews are scheduled to be conducted tomorrow, October 2nd. Lastly, the journeyman electrician position is currently pending posting.

Thank you for your time and continued support. I'm happy to stand for any questions.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you so much. Questions? Member Ives.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Just one question. Obviously, we look at a lot of contracts at different points over the course of a year: is it possible to get just a listing of the universe of those contracts? Do you keep such a listing?

MR. PRADA: Thank you, Madam Chair and Board Member Ives. Yes, we can share that with you if you would like to see them. Absolutely.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. Any other questions? Commissioner Hughes?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wondered, are those only the three positions, are those the only ones that are open?

MR. PRADA: Thank you, Madam Chair, Board Member Hughes. Let me explain, the operations ladder has quite a few positions in there. And as it sits right now, we have three open operator positions. So that would be three vacancies there automatically. And then, the automation and security is one vacancy, and then the journeyman electrician is another. So that would be a total of five.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Five vacancies. Okay, thank you.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you. Brad, I got a question with coming into the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System coming online potentially within a year, maybe a little more. Is there a way to start double filling, maybe looking at partnering with the County to have some folks training and allowing you to train folks up so that they don't poach your people later, right?

MR. PRADA: Thank you, Chair and Vice Chair Greene. I really think that we've had this discussion before. We're open to the idea of doing it. We haven't heard anybody from County HR or somebody from that side reach out in any way. But I'm sure that we can accommodate some sort of double filling so that we can get them trained up.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So given my short tenure here and being one of the few people that will think ahead, even though it won't be my problem, it will be your problem because we will steal all your people.

MR. PRADA: We are currently working on strategies on incentivizing certain things to bring the pay up so that we can keep our people here. But, you know, people are going to chase the dollar.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Yeah. No, I gotcha. There's going to be a shortage in the region. And so if we can start getting people trained up and familiar and maybe even cross-trained between facilities.

MR. PRADA: Totally open to the idea.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Great. Well, tell me what I need to do to open that door in our side and with your side because it's City HR, County HR.

MR. PRADA: I think the conversation will start with me and you, and you

would go to your HR director from the county, have a conversation with them, and then they would have a conversation with me, and which I would take to our HR director, and then we can go from there.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. I may skip our HR director first and go to our utilities team, but yes.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Any other questions? Member Ives.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Just one quick question, and I apologize if I missed it in here, but any updates on how much of our San Juan-Chama allocation are we going to get this year?

MR. PRADA: I don't know that number off the top of my head. I'll defer to Matt.

MR. SANDOVAL: Thank you Madam Chair, Board Member Ives, if you look on page 7 of my report, it does have the, the full breakdown of every permit and the remaining balance, and even a projection for the last three months of the year. And that'll tell you. So I think to answer your question, and you just want to know San Juan-Chama?

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Yeah, the City's 5,200 allocation and the County's 375.

MR. SANDOVAL: I think you'd have to add the County's section and the City, and then whatever remaining on that bottom line of the first chart would give you that answer. So it also gives you each month's total diverted per category also.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Gotcha and I'll do the math later on.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Any other questions? Thanks, Brad.

c. Presentation on the San Juan-Chama Project Contractors Association (SJCPCA) 2026 fieldtrip and workshop

KYLE HARWOOD (BDD Board Counsel): Thank you, Madam Chair, and good afternoon, Board.

This was requested, as you know, by board citizen member Rolf Schmidt-Petersen, who unfortunately is not here today. But the simple memo and the extensive handouts from that tour are in your packet. I'll just briefly orient you.

The San Juan-Chama Contractors Association is an affiliation of the entities that hold contracts for the federal water coming out of Heron. That group was organized about eight years ago to work with the Bureau and advocate for issues of common concern. And the group has developed a three-day workshop field trip each summer, usually in August, to go to different locations. About every three years, we go back to Pagosa Springs to look at the actual diversion facilities that feed the tunnel that delivers that water to Heron, which was what we did this year.

It always is a very interesting and exciting time to get the various individuals associated with the San Juan-Chama Water, particularly at the member entities, together. We had over 50 people this year, which was a high watermark, pardon the pun, for the workshop, and it was very well attended.

Two of the main themes was discussing the crucial work of the fire mitigation. There are those three watersheds above the diversion structures are fire prone. As some of the fire folks talk about it, it's not if it's going to burn; it's when it's going to burn. And so there's a lot of pre-fire work being done, including expending $9.8 million of federal money for

managing that mix of federal and private land.

The other main theme of the work of the Contract Association right now, just for your information, is we have to completely rebuild the facility other than the tunnel. So right now we're working on the outlet work, so that's the end of the straw where it daylights in New Mexico, and that work is happening right now. And then the coming work will be to rebuild the three diversions in Colorado that feed that straw at the upper end.

I may have overdone the attachments, so I apologize for using up paper, but I thought you might be interested. You've got the agenda for the meeting. You've got a description of the various stops we did, and then some of the handouts that were provided by presenters. The Bureau of Reclamation and the Nature Conservancy talked about the fire planning. There are presentations in here. The next big one is from the City, actually, who's done, the City of Santa Fe, I should say, who's done a lot of work on projecting the available water for diversion into the tunnel. And then I guess that's pretty much the balance of the handout. So, this continues to be one of the most important water projects in New Mexico in that it imports water from the Colorado River system above Navajo Reservoir on the San Juan and brings it into the Chama Rio Grande system. It obviously provides critical water supply for the BDD and for others, both north and south of Santa Fe. And not knowing if you have any questions about more detail, I'll go ahead and stop there.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you so much. Questions? Councilman Ives.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Thank you, Madam Chair. Are all the members in the association public entities and a number of private entities? Are there any individuals?

MR. HARWOOD: No, there are no individuals. The entities range from tribes, which are kind of their own category, not private or public, and MRGCD, which is a large conservancy district between Cochiti and Elephant Butte, Albuquerque's utility, Santa Fe's utility, Española's utility, Belen's utility, Los Lunas's utility, and then some entities like Pojoaque Valley Irrigation District, which runs Nambe Falls Dam and Reservoir. As I mentioned, there's numerous tribal entities, Jicarilla, Ohkay Owingeh, Taos, and then there's an allocation for the four pueblos involved with the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water System. Generally public entities although, like in Taos, there's the El Prado Water and Sanitation District, which is also quasi-public, the Town of Taos Ski Valley, Red River. So, they were entities that were all identified in the 1960s to help repay the federal project construction costs and now carry a large share of the overhead and maintenance of the project with significant federal funding and a lot of federal oversight from the Albuquerque Bureau of Reclamation office.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: And how many in total?

MR. HARWOOD: Twenty-one entities in total, and the current membership of the contractors association, which is voluntary, is 91 percent of the firm yield. There's a couple of entities that, for various reasons, have not joined formally the association but attend our meetings and workshops and participate, and they're welcome to do so. That's part of the design of the organization.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Two other questions.

MR. HARWOOD: Yes, sir.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: One, would it be possible to just get a listing of all those entities and whether or not they're a member and then how much acre-feet they're entitled to, assuming full supply on the San Juan-Chama.

MR. HARWOOD: Be happy to, that’s something I have that I can provide to

you and the Board if you'd like.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: And then the second question is, if there are shortages in terms of delivery from the diversion structures, how is that shortage shared amongst all the participating members who receive water?

MR. HARWOOD: Thank you, that has evolved over the years. Right now, the Bureau does a quarterly allocation of water available in Heron, and it does it on a pro-rata basis with no fear or favor amongst the different contractors. So we have gotten allocations this year totaling, I believe, 27 or 28 percent of firm yield, which is about where we were last summer. And then, if you remember, there were some very large rainstorms last October flooding in Pagosa and Durango, and we ended the year about 10 percent higher. Very unusual fall additions to Heron. We're hoping for the same this year. But yes, I think the core of your question is the Bureau identifies what wet-water volume is available for allocation four times a year. Maybe does a true up off that schedule if necessary. But out of the available water, it is distributed amongst all the contractors on a pro-rata basis.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Gotcha. So no priority for, for instance, aboriginal rights, Winters rights?

MR. HARWOOD: No. These allocations to the tribes mostly result from federal settlement agreements. And so it may be substitute water for aboriginal or claims of water in these systems, but they are reduced to federal contracts when they're executed with a tribal entity. So it's not considered Prior and Paramount or aboriginal water right. It's that the tribe or pueblo has accepted this federal contract to SJCP water as part of some other agreement or settlement.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Gotcha.

MR. HARWOOD: Is that helpful?

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. Commissioner Hughes and Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Yeah. Thank you. This may be a silly question, but how does the water get to Red River?

MR. HARWOOD: That's a great question.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: San Juan-Chama water. I assume it's not real water, but how do they manage it?

MR. HARWOOD: That's a great question and a common source of confusion. So the Taos area entities, which include the Town of Taos, Taos Pueblo, El Prado, Village of Taos Ski Valley, and Red River, the way they use their San Juan-Chama allocation is they either do surface stream diversions or groundwater pumping, which affects surface systems. And the offsetting, just like we do for the Buckman wells here, where we float water past the Buckman wellfield to offset the surface water impacts of that groundwater pumping, the State Engineer lets them do that at Española where the confluence of the Chama and the Rio Grande come together. So you're absolutely right. The molecules coming from Colorado through Heron down the Chama and Rio Grande never pass through the Taos Ski Valley, but the way the State Engineer has allowed the accounting to be done is any impact to the rivers up there is allowed to be offset, not in Taos, but at the confluence in Española. Does that help? How did I do? It's not the simplest thing to explain.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I assumed it was something like that, but I'm glad you explained it. Thanks.

MR. HARWOOD: Certainly.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Sort of piggybacking on Councilor Ives' question. When we have all these folks that are drinking this water, Santa Fe County, City of Santa Fe have a different dependence on it, right? So I would say that it, it appears in my rough math that Santa Fe County depends on San Juan-Chama water more than the City does. City has the river, City has Buckman Wells, has a whole bunch of things. I'm wondering, is there an assessment of each of the partners in their portfolio, what dependence they have on San Juan-Chama? So if you're a community that only has San Juan-Chama rights, those deliveries are urgent, right? They're very critical. If you're the City of Santa Fe, it's less than whatever percentage so certainly a much lesser significance. They could depend on the river, or they could depend on the wellfields for months or years. Santa Fe County differently. Is there an assessment of like amongst all of these players in a charter that says Mid Rio Grande uses 98 percent of this and if they only get 30 percent deliveries, that's a big deal for them. Whereas Santa Fe – I'm wondering if we're looking at that.

MR. HARWOOD: Thank you, Commissioner Greene. I think the way that I would think about it is these entities have had these allocations generally since the '70s and have built up their utilities and their water right portfolios around San Juan-Chama water amongst whatever else they have in their portfolio. And then, of course, in the last ten years, we've started to experience less than a 100 percent firm yield, and so each entity has had to deal with that, reduced availability in their own way. And so that's really where it comes to water resource planning. Of course, the County has done very important long-term water resource planning, both for their allocation of San Juan-Chama water, including any reductions for various reasons. The City's got lots of planning documents about how they manage their out-year supply in light of reductions that might be experienced hydrologically or otherwise.

So I think it's really up to the utilities to figure out and this is true amongst all of the San Juan Chama contractors, is they're always having to balance the available water in any given year, hopefully storage that they've put in the savings account from prior years, and then their current year operations. And, you know, certainly the City and County here in Santa Fe have made proactive efforts to store unused San Juan-Chama water in Abiquiu from prior years to get through times of shortage, like we're having now. And that's largely in cooperation with, uh, the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority that generally manages the Abiquiu, which is about the only place to store water right now in the Chama system.

So, if I understand the core of your question, it is variable how much each entity experiences a change in plans when there's a reduced amount available to them. And there's quite a lot of cooperation between the entities. One small example, I won't bore you for very long, but just before the rain started, Albuquerque, MRGCD, and then Audubon, which had leased and stored some water, coordinated on a pulse flow where when the river was dry before it got wet recently, they released 2,000 acre-feet down through the whole system and instrumented the heck out of the river and really tried to evaluate how that pulse flow behaved. And that was a good example of coordination for that. And you also see other entities subleasing their water to others. A pretty good example is Los Alamos and Española have been leasing some of their San Juan-Chama water to the Rio Chama Acequia Association to support the acequias on the Chama. Also Jicarilla has a long-standing program of sharing its water on a contractual basis with others that are interested. So, you know, as I

sometimes tell this story, in New Mexico, we often have the circular firing squad around water, and the development of this contractors association was to not make it a circle and to work together, particularly with the Bureau of Reclamation on managing the program and getting us every drop they can.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I guess – and a conversation that we're having at the County is about discounting water rights. If we're only getting 30 percent of yield, that's the delta between paper water and wet water; is there any model to work on? So if it's Santa Fe County, we have people that want to transfer water rights in for development, then we start to say, You know, you're doing fee in lieu or you're bringing us San Juan-Chama water. We never expect to get to a 100 percent ever again. So maybe an acre-foot is not worth an acre-foot anymore. An acre-foot of paper water is really only worth thirty cents on the dollar.

MR. HARWOOD: I feel like this would be a wonderful topic for a workshop, perhaps with a beer.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. I'll show up for that.

MR. HARWOOD: Of course.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. Any other questions, comments? Councilor.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Just one follow-up question. Interesting to hear that wells in Taos can be pumped and be offset by water delivery –

MR. HARWOOD: In Española.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: -- way further south. Is the State Engineer, it seems they would've answered any questions relating to hydrologic connections.

MR. HARWOOD: Yes. I think, if I can just jump in.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Please.

MR. HARWOOD: I think what I perhaps haven't shared, because it's maybe another level of detail, is while there are diversions between the Taos area and Española, for example, in Dixon and Velarde, the State Engineer still considers the Rio Grande in this part of the state, the northern part of the state, to have a 100 percent supply. That is, there's always enough water in the river to satisfy those acequias in Dixon and Velarde. So basically, and under that framework, whatever the Rio Grande has experienced from those diversions or those groundwater pumpings in Taos, there's still plenty of water to satisfy the water right demands of those intervening diverters, and then the river is made whole at the confines.

Does that help maybe explain why that large distance of offsetting doesn't harm anyone?

BOARD MEMBER IVES: It certainly explains the practical considerations that the State Engineer's Office has looked at in making those determinations.

MR. HARWOOD: And we really like it when the office is practical.

BOARD MEMBER IVES: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. Any additional questions?

MR. HARWOOD: I was going to finish by reading the 1956 Colorado Storage River Project Act. It's only – no, I'm joking. [laughter]

COMMISSIONER GREENE: But I heard you have Aamodt memorized.

MR. HARWOOD: A-A-M-O-D-T. Thank you.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you so much. Appreciate it.

8. **<u>Action Items:</u> Consent Agenda** - Removed

11. **<u>Matters from the Board</u>** – No matters were presented

12. **<u>Next Meeting</u>**

a. Thursday, November 5, 2026

13. **<u>Adjourn</u>**

9. **<u>Executive Session</u>**

a. Discussion of the Contents of Competitive Sealed Proposals Solicited Pursuant to the Procurement Code for RFP #FY26-TRFQP-A&E-094, Professional Engineering Services for the Buckman Direct Diversion Facility, During the Contract Negotiation Process as Allowed by Section 10-15-1 (H)(6) NMSA 1978

CHAIR CASSUTT: Okay, when do I make the motion or when do we make the motion to go into executive? Do we adjourn then motion?

MS. LONG: Yes, it would be one to adjourn and go into executive session for the discussion of the contents of competitive sealed proposals pursuant to the procurement code for RFP #FY26-TRFQP-A&E-094, professional engineering services for the Buckman Direct Diversion Facility during the contract negotiation process as allowed by Section 10-15-1(H)(6) NMSA 1978. If someone would adopt that motion.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So moved.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I'll second.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Motion and a second. Can I please get a roll call?

The motion to adjourn and go into executive session passed by unanimous [5-0] roll call vote as follows:

Citizen Alternate Member Peter Ives	Yes
Commissioner Justin Greene	Yes
Councilor Patricia Feghali	Yes
Commissioner Hank Hughes	Yes
Councilor Jamie Cassutt, Chair	Yes

Chair Cassutt declared this meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Approved by:

_____

Jamie Cassutt, Board Chair

ATTEST TO

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Geralyn Cardenas, City Clerk