



WEST SIDE COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
CLOSED SESSION WILL START AT 6:00 P.M.

**COMMUNITY BUILDING, KERN STREET
NEWMAN, CA 95360**

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

*Board of Directors: DIRECTOR VARGAS, DIRECTOR CASTEEL, DIRECTOR GUAJARDO,
VICE PRESIDENT LOPES, PRESIDENT VARNELL*

Legal Counsel-Nic Cardella

CLOSED SESSION

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION-MEETING 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Please take a moment to silence your cell phones

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may bring before the Board matters that are not listed on the agenda. The Board may refer such a matter to the Board Clerk to take it under advisement but shall not take action at that time. Comments will be accepted during this time concerning any action item on the agenda. The Board will consider all comments prior to taking action on the item as listed on the agenda in the Action Item section . (Gov. Sec. 54954.03). Individual speakers shall be allowed three (3) minutes to address the Board on each agenda or non-agenda items.

CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and may be approved by one action of the Board of Directors, unless any member of the Board of Directors wishes to remove an item for separate consideration.

Are there any items on the consent calendar that any member of the public would like to comment on?

1. Minutes of December 22, 2025, Regular Meeting

Recommendation: Review and Approve

2. Cash Disbursement Journal

Recommendation: Review and Approve

President Varnell introduced the consent calendar. There was no public comment. Director Lopes made the motion to approve the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Director Guajardo and carried by vote, 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. Discussion and possible action: Staff seeking directions from the board regarding the Chief of Operations position to be permanent.

Administrative Service Manager Casteel presented the Staff Report. There was no public comment.

Board to recommend if staff should search for a permanent Chief of Operations position and determine an available budget and hiring process.

Director Casteel asked the district financial director if the district had current funds to do a hiring process for a permanent chief. Financial Director Leo Landaverde stated, absolutely not.

Director Lopes asked if this item could be deferred to another board meeting for the board to consider making Michael Courtney permanent Chief of Operations. Legal Counsel stated that it could be brought back and placed on a future agenda.

Director Guajardo made a motion to place the Chief of Operations position on the next agenda to be discussed with a possible action to place Michael Courtney in the position as permanent Chief of Operations. Motion was seconded by Vice President Lopes and carried by the following roll call vote, 4 ayes, 1 Nay; Director Vargas.

Item to be placed on the agenda, February 26, 2026.

2. Discussion and possible action concerning the recommendation for a Ballot Measure from The Board of Directors.

Administrative Service Manager Casteel presented the Staff Report. There was no public comment.

Legal Counsel Nic Cardella stated to the board and the public that the district has tried to pass two measures to help with the district's current shortfall in revenue. Unfortunately, both ballot measures failed. Does the district proceed with a revenue shortfall, or does the board wish staff to come back with options to place another measure on the ballot.

Staff could review a citizen group measure or the 2/3 majority as the options.

Vice President Varnell stated he would like to see the staff look at options and bring this item back to the board.

Director Vargas asked what the cost would be to place a measure on the ballot? Director Vargas also commented that the parcel portion of the measure needed to be re-examined, so the burden wasn't on landowners with multiple parcels.

Director Casteel made a motion for staff to research imposing a special tax to increase revenue and to bring information back to the board. The Vice President Lopes seconded the motion and carried 4-1.

4 Ayes; Director Vargas, Nay.

FINANCIAL REPORT-

AMBULANCE REPORT

1. Receive Staff Report on Ambulance Statistical and Administrative Report.

Statistical Report: Michael Courtney presented the December 2025 operations report to the board, which outlined responses and transport for both Counties.

Total Responses 147, 107 transports for service

- *0 Requests for Service to Merced resulting in 0 transport*
- *2 requests to assist AMR resulting in 2 transports*
- *4 requests to assist Patterson, resulting in 3 transports*
- *Michael Courtney said December was a slow month for the district.*
- *Director Vargas asked if Mr. Courtney could now respond as QRV. Mr. Courtney can currently respond as a QRV unit.*

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE MANAGER COMMENTS

DISTRICT'S LEGAL COUNSEL COMMENTS

BOARD CORRESPONDANCE/COMMENTS

- *Director Casteel advised the board and public that she met with M. Courtney, R. Casteel, and L. Landaverde, regarding purchasing an ambulance, and hopes to bring back information regarding a purchase at the February board meeting.*
- *Director Vargas stated that the district may face questioning on why the district is still in business after the last measure didn't pass, and it was stated that we might have to shut the doors due to the downfall of our revenue.*
- *Director Guajardo stated that if the board looked at imposing a tax measure, the board should look at a possible adjustment for the tax owners with multiple parcels. It might give the district a chance to pass a measure.*
- *Vice President Lopes stated that it was each member of the board's duty to educate the people in each of their districts on the shortfall of the districts' revenue and why it is important to pass the measure. She also thanked L. Landaverde, N. Cardella, and staff for all their hard work for the district.*

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION (if needed)

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Lopes made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Guajardo seconded the motion at 7:48 p.m.

- 1. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a disabled person is requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, must contact the district office at (209) 862-2951. Requests must be made as early as possible, preferably one-full business day before the state of the meeting.*
- 2. Any document provided to a majority of the Board of Directors regarding any open session item on this agenda is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the front counter of District Office located at 990 Tulare Street Suite C, Newman CA. Documents or writings received after the general distribution of the agenda are also available for inspections.*

Attested by



Debbie Lopes

Vice President/Secretary