



**WEST SIDE COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MONDAY, April 27, 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-Absent, DIRECTOR CASTEEL, DIRECTOR GUAJARDO
VICE PRESIDENT LOPES, PRESIDENT VARNELL
Legal Counsel-Nicolas Cardella
OPEN SESSION-7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Please take a moment to silence your cell phones

REPORT FROM SESSION CLOSED

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may bring matters not listed on the agenda before the Board. 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.

*No Public Comments

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 February 23, 2026, 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 Casteel made the motion to approve the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Vice President Lopes and carried by vote, 5-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

- 1. Discussion and possible action regarding special tax to or other measures to increase revenue for purposes of adequately fulfilling its responsibility to provide ambulance service.**

Legal Counsel stated that the district has the option to place another measure on the November ballot. To do so, a resolution would need to be passed and submitted to the counties before July 6, 2026.

Legal Counsel further stated that, if the district decides to move forward with another measure, a future resolution could specify how the tax revenue collected would be used, such as for the purchase of new ambulances or equipment.

Legal Counsel stated that passing a measure is the only permanent solution to preserve the district.

Director Vargas stated that he questioned why another measure would be passed when The previous two measures failed, despite the district stating that it would have to close down without additional funding. Director Vargas also expressed concern regarding the additional \$69.00 per parcel assessment on landowners with multiple parcels. He stated that several members of the public had informed him that they opposed the measure due to the increased tax burden on multiple-parcel landowners. Director Vargas requested that the previous proposed measure be reviewed and adjusted to address concerns related to multiple-parcel owners.

Director Casteel asked whether the staff was aware of how many taxpayers owned Multiple parcel owners.

Staff responded that a report breaking down parcel ownership by parcel maps was available and that staff would return to the Board with those figures. Director Casteel also noted that the timeline for placing the measure on the ballot was limited.

Director Guajardo stated that she would like the staff to explore adjustments to the proposed parcel rate structure, particularly for multiple-parcel landowners.

District Accountant Leo Landaverde was asked whether the district could remain financially stable until 2028 before placing another measure on the ballot. Mr.

Landaverde stated that the district was “between a rock and a hard place” and that it would be difficult to forecast the passage of a measure requiring a two-thirds majority vote.

He further stated that the district was “one breath away from closing.”

Director Guajardo made a motion directing staff to return with a breakdown of multiple-parcel landowners and a recommendation for an alternative assessment structure. The motion was seconded by Director Casteel and carried unanimously by roll call vote, 5-0.

2. Declaration and Disposal of Surplus Property

Staff Report by Administrative Service Manager, Roberta Casteel.

Staff has deemed certain district-owned items as surplus. The items include three (3) Polycom telephones and two (2) ION EC carts, model year 2020.

These items are no longer operational or suitable for day-to-day district operations.

Staff is seeking authorization to declare the items as surplus and dispose of them in accordance with district policy and applicable regulations.

Director Guajardo made a motion to adopt resolution 2026-003, authorizing items as surplus and to dispose of them per district policy and applicable regulations. The motion was seconded by Vice President Lopes and carried by roll call vote, 5-0.

3. Regular Board Meeting, May 2026, propose changing the meeting date.

Staff Report by Administrative Service Manager, Roberta Casteel.

The regular board meeting for May 2026 coincides with Memorial Day, a recognized holiday. Staff requested direction from the board regarding rescheduling the meeting to an alternate date.

The board approved changing the regular board meeting to May 18, 2026.

Vice President Lopes made a motion to move the regular scheduled May meeting to May 18, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director Casteel and carried 5-0 by vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT-

1. Receive Staff Report on Ambulance Statistical and Administrative Report.
 - Mr. Landaverde presented the financial report for the district, he stated that the last four (4) weeks that collection rate has been low due to low transport.

AMBULANCE REPORT

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

Statistical Report: Michael Courtney presented the March 2026 operations report to the board, which outlined responses and transport for both Counties.

 - Total Responses 190, 122 transports for service
 - 0 Requests for Service to Merced resulting in 0 transport
 - 7 requests to assist AMR, resulting in 4 transports
 - 12 requests to assist Patterson, resulting in 7 transports
 - Chief Courtney stated that two used ambulances were purchased at \$117,000.00, with a 5-year term. Currently waiting on them to be shipped from Texas.
 - Ambulance 1701 engine has blown up; 2008 will become backup when new ambulances are placed in service.
 - The Administrative Service Manager position was posted on indeed and social media, with over 200 applicants applying. Staff will be holding interviews on May 12th and have invited 6 applicants.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE MANAGER COMMENTS

DISTRICT'S LEGAL COUNSEL COMMENTS

BOARD CORRESPONDANCE/COMMENTS

Vice President Lopes thanked Staff and Leo for everything they do for the district. She believes that it is each board members' responsibility to speak to the public the importance of a measure being placed on the ballot. The purchase of the two ambulances was the highlight of the evening for her.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION (if needed)

ADJOURNMENT

Director Guajardo made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Casteel seconded the motion at 8:13 p.m.

1. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a disabled person 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 start 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 the 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 inspection.

Attested by



Debbie Lopes

Vice President/Secretary