

**Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
January 8, 2026**

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room
26 Ponderosa Lane, Weaverville, California

Board Present: Alex Cousins, Michael Rourke, Joseph Trindade, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Jim Underwood, Sarah Sheetz, Julie Catanese, Dave DeLange, Delmont Senter, Wes Scribner, Jill Cox, Francisco Martinezcuello

1. President Rourke called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

- a. Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Agenda Order. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

3. Public Comment

None

4. Consent Calendar

Director Goulette made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Cousins seconded the motion. Ms. Sheetz advised two clerical edits on the Meeting Minutes presented. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting, December 11, 2025
- b. Accept Minutes of the Safety Meeting, December 9, 2025
- c. Validate Bills of December 2025
- d. Approve Financial Reports for November 2025

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

5. Action Items

- a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar
None

b. Deny Appeal of Claim, Ryan Hayes

Mr. Hayes submitted an appeal for the Denial of his claim in the amount of \$83,000 for damage to his property due to the Rush Fire. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to deny the appeal. Director Trindade seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Alex Cousins	– aye
Joe Trindade	– aye
Mike Rourke	– aye
Andy Johnson	– aye
Nick Goulette	– aye

6. Reports

a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update – December 2025

Mr. DeLange summarized the report with the Board. The District achieved its inspection goals for 2025. Mr. DeLange shared images and video of a recently completed project on private property. The Board discussed the prescription seen in the video, the District's capacity for continued similar work, and potential future partnerships.

b. General Manager's Reports

i. Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser provided an update on the Land Exchange, advising that the new Public Services Staff Officer with the Shasta Trinity Forest, Leslie Courtright, has been extremely helpful. He anticipates a completed land exchange by Spring 2026.

ii. Right of Way Project Update

Mr. Hauser reported that he has requested a final price update from Aspen Environmental Group. The application for Cal Fire emergency exemption from the has been filed, and we anticipate a response soon. We will then proceed with the work on private property. A final environmental document is expected by August, 2026.

iii. Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser reported that the target date for BANC to enter the Energy Day Ahead Market remains Fall of 2027.

iv. Power Outage Summary, November 2025

Mr. Hauser reviewed the power outage summary with the Board, noting that most of the outages were small and for maintenance. Crews did an outstanding job with restorations over the Christmas Holiday.

v. Re-initiation of Consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project

Mr. Hauser reported that a new Record of Decision (ROD) on the Sacramento Division of the Central Valley Project was released on December 5, 2025. It appears that the ROD will result in more water for the Central Valley. He reported that work continues for the Trinity River Division, for which a draft environmental document is expected in the Spring of 2026. He advised that more water going to Carr Powerhouse results in a reduction of the Power Revenue Requirement, which results in lower bills for District Customers.

vi. Fix Our Forests Act

Mr. Hauser reported that Congressman Huffman is expected to visit the District on January 18, 2026. It is an opportunity to discuss the benefits to the District of the Fix Our Forests Act and the Speed Act.

vii. United States Forest Service (USFS) and California Electric Utilities Meeting

Mr. Hauser advised that he has been requested to provide a presentation on the Right-of-Way project the USFS and California Electric Utilities Meeting on January 27-28, 2026 in San Diego.

viii. Grants Update

Ms. Sheetz reported on the grant status for the following grants currently being tracked:

Community Facilities Grant – Sno Cat acquisition, \$236,140.

Status: Payment received, Grant has been closed.

Community Facilities Grant (FY 2026) – Fault Tamers, \$523,499

Status: Notified on November 13, 2025 that funding in the amount of \$360,000 was included in the Agriculture Bill that was included in the Continuing Resolution. Agreement pending.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Wildfire Defense Grant, \$9.5 million funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (IIJA)

Status: 1365 hazard trees trimmed, 1095 hazard trees less than 24" DBH removed and 855 crew hours removing hazard trees in excess of 24" DBH.

\$309,818 reimbursed to date, \$9,206,259 remaining.

Cal Fire – Fuels Reduction Grant, \$950,000

Status: Application denied.

ix. Netfile – Form 700's

Ms. Sheetz advised Board Members and staff to expect electronic distribution of Form 700's shortly.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee
None

d. Board Member Reports

Directors Trindade and Rourke had lunch with Mr. Hauser.

7. Discussion Item(s)

None

8. Communications Received

None

9. Meetings and/or Workshops

- a. California Municipal Utilities Association, Capitol Day
January 26, 2026
Sacramento, CA

Director Cousins, Mr. Hauser and Ms. Sheetz will attend.

- b. American Public Power Association, Legislative Rally
February 21-27, 2026
Washington DC

Mr. Hauser and Ms. Sheetz will attend.

- c. Golden State Power Cooperative Capitol Day
March 17, 2026
Sacramento, CA
- d. California Municipal Utilities Association Annual Conference
March 22-24, 2026
Monterey, CA

10. Public Input

None

The Board took a brief recess at 3:04 p.m. and entered Closed Session at 3:10 p.m.

11. Closed Session

- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9
Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Claimant: Ivan and Elizabeth Vlahov
No Reportable Action
- b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54956.9
Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Three Potential Case(s)
No Reportable Action
- c. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54957.6
Conference with Labor Negotiator
Agency Negotiator: General Manager
Employee Organization: Teamsters Local 137
No Reportable Action

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

/s/ Mike Rourke
Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: /s/ Nick Goulette
Nicholas Goulette, Clerk