

**Trinity Public Utilities District  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD  
December 11, 2025**

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room  
26 Ponderosa Lane, Weaverville, California  
Board Present: Alex Cousins, Michael Rourke, Joseph Trindade, Nick Goulette  
Board Absent: Andy Johnson  
Others Present: Paul Hauser, Jim Underwood, Sarah Sheetz, Julie Catanese , Dave DeLange, Wes Scribner, James Aven

**1. President Rourke called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.**

**2. Approval of the Agenda Order**

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

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette,  
Noes: None  
Absent: Andy Johnson  
Abstain: None

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Consent Calendar**

Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar excepting Item 4d, which he requested be moved to Closed Session. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting, November 13, 2025
- b. Validate Bills of November 2025
- c. Approve Financial Reports for October 2025
- d. ~~Validate Denial of Claim, Ryan Hayes~~

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette,  
Noes: None  
Absent: Andrew Johnson  
Abstain: None

**5. Action Items**

- a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

None

- b. Accept Auditors' Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2025, as prepared by Baker Tilly US, LLP

Jodi Dobson, Principal with Baker Tilly US, LLP presented the Audit to the Board, advising that the District received an unmodified Audit, which is the highest level of assurance the Auditors' can provide regarding the District's Financials. Following

a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to accept the Auditors' Draft Report for Fiscal Year 2025. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette,  
Noes: None  
Absent: Andrew Johnson  
Abstain: None

c. Ratify No Change to Rate Schedule 10 – Public Benefit Discount

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Trindade made a motion to ratify No Change to Rate Schedule No. 10, Public Benefit Discount, for Calendar Year 2026. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette,  
Noes: None  
Absent: Andrew Johnson  
Abstain: None

d. Approve Contract with Evergreen Job & Safety Training in the amount of \$32,264 for Calendar Year 2026.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Professional Services Contract with Evergreen Job & Safety Training for a not-to-exceed cost of \$32,264. Director Trindade seconded the motion. Director Goulette inquired about the District's Procurement Policy relative to the Contract. Staff advised that the District's Procurement Procedures require bidding for Contracts in excess of \$60,000, unless the Contract is a Professional Services Agreement. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette,  
Noes: None  
Absent: Andrew Johnson  
Abstain: None

e. Amend Contract with Silver Top Tree Services, Inc., exercising the option to extend the Term for one (1) year and incorporating Federal Provisions.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to amend the Contract with Silver Top Tree Services, Inc. and authorize the General Manager to execute the amendment. Director Trindade seconded the motion. Director Goulette inquired if the United States Forest Service (USFS) had approved utilization of an existing Contract for grant related work. Staff advised that the District worked with a Consultant to review the Procurement requirements and to incorporate the Federal Provisions into the Contract. Staff also provided the USFS with a copy of its Procurement Policy/Procedures, the Bid Documents relative to the Contract with Silver Top and a copy of Silver Top's contract. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette,  
Noes: None  
Absent: Andrew Johnson  
Abstain: None

- f. Approve Agreement with Edelstein, Gilbert, Robson & Smith (EGRS) in the amount of \$70,000 per year for Calendar Years 2026-2028.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board, noting some of the benefits the District receives because of work done by EGRS. Following a discussion, Director Goulette made a motion to approve the Agreement with Edelstein, Gilbert, Robson & Smith for a not-to-exceed cost of \$70,000 per year from January 1, 2026-December 31, 2028. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette,  
Noes: None  
Absent: Andrew Johnson  
Abstain: None

- g. Approve Agreement with Susan J. Stohr in the amount of \$70,000 per year for Calendar Year 2026.

Mr. Hauser reviewed the Report with the Board, noting the long relationship and many benefits the District receives as a result of Ms. Stohr's work. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Agreement with Susan J. Stohr for a not-to-exceed cost of \$70,000 for Calendar Year 2026. Director Trindade seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette,  
Noes: None  
Absent: Andrew Johnson  
Abstain: None

- h. Election of Officers of the Trinity Public Utilities District Board of Directors for Calendar Year 2026.

Director Cousins nominated the current slate of officers to serve for Calendar Year 2026, which includes:

President, Mike Rourke  
Vice-President, Alex Cousins  
Clerk, Nick Goulette

Director Goulette seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette,  
Noes: None  
Absent: Andrew Johnson  
Abstain: None

## 6. Reports

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

Mr. DeLange summarized the report with the Board. The monthly metrics report will include additional features in 2026. The District has been advised by the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board that the next update to the District's Wildfire Mitigation Plan won't be required until 2027. Mr. DeLange noted the hard work of Golden State Power Cooperative and the California Municipal Utilities Association in obtaining a schedule revision.

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.

ii. 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 Environment 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.

iii. Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser reported that BANC's target date for entrance into the Extended Day Ahead Market is Fall 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.

v. Right of Way Project Update

Mr. Hauser reported that Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) is submitting the Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability and Asset Protection Project (WRAP) application for the Governor's Emergency Proclamation on December 11, 2025, with a request for 45-day period to approve. If approved, the District may potentially begin work in May, 2026. Board members were invited to tour the Estrellita project area. Director Goulette inquired if the District will submit a Mitigated Negative Declaration? Mr. Hauser confirmed the District would, as the emergency proclamation will not get us wider rights-of-way. Director Goulette inquired if the District will continue to utilize Tom Walz for the WRAP, Mr. Hauser confirmed it is likely the District will.

vi. Fix our Forests Act

Mr. Hauser reported that the Fix our Forests Act is not likely to pass in this calendar year, but possibly in 2026.

vii. 2026 Meeting Calendar

Ms. Sheetz provided the Board with the 2026 Board Meeting Calendar.

viii. Grants Update

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

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

Status: Work continues, third progress billing being submitted next week.

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

Status: Sno Cat has been received, payment request submitted.

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.

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

Status: Application for a shaded fuel break on the 60kV line from Weaverville to Hayfork submitted and under review, no notification as of the Board meeting.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee

The Committee would like to visit the Estrellita site to view the work that has been completed. Mr. DeLange advised he would coordinate a visit.

d. Board Member Reports

None

**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

Directors Rourke and 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.

Mr. Hauser requested that the Board let Ms. Sheetz know if they would like to attend the upcoming meetings and/or workshops.

## 10. Public Input

Joe, a resident of Post Mountain, inquired about what he do to get power to Post Mountain. President Rourke advised that the first step would be to get the community together and indicate that power is wanted

The Board took a brief recess at 3:16 p.m. and entered Closed Session at 3:19 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**

One Potential Case(s)

Director Cousins made a motion to Validate Denial of the Claim submitted by Ryan Hayes, and to offer Mr. Hayes the opportunity to address the Board at the January meeting. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes:	Alex Cousins, Mike Rourke, Joe Trindade, Nick Goulette,
Noes:	None
Absent:	Andrew Johnson
Abstain:	None

- c. Closed Session Item Under Government Code §54957.6

**Conference with Labor Negotiator**

Agency Negotiator: Board of Directors

Employee Organization: Unrepresented – General Manager

*The Board unanimously approved an Amendment to the General Manager's Contract, removing the existing incentive arrangement and replacing it with an equivalent twelve percent pay increase retroactive to the anniversary date of September 6, 2025.*

## 12. Adjournment

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

/s/ Michael Rourke

Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: /s/ Nicholas Goulette

Nicholas Goulette, Clerk