

**MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF SANTA FE & SANTA FE COUNTY  
BUCKMAN DIRECT DIVERSION BOARD MEETING**

**May 7, 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, Chair  
Councilor Patricia Feghali  
Commissioner Hank Hughes  
Rolf Schmidt-Petersen, Citizen Member  
T. Egelhoff, The Club at Las Campanas, [non-voting member]

**Member(s) Excused:**

None

**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  
Jesse Roach, City of Santa Fe Interim Public Works Director  
Larry “Boots” Pierce, GZA  
Jim Riesterer, GZA  
Joni Arends, CCNS  
William Whitney

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

3. **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Greene moved to approve as presented. Councilor Feghali seconded and the motion passed by unanimous [5-0] voice vote. [Later in the meeting, it was noted that the next meeting date should be corrected to June 4<sup>th</sup>. ]

4. **Approval of Minutes**  
a. **Approval of the April 2, 2026 Buckman Direct Diversion Board Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Greene moved to approve the minutes as presented. Member Schmidt-Petersen seconded. The motion passed by 5-0 voice vote.

5. **Matters from the Public**

JONI ARENDS: Good afternoon. Joni Arends, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety. And I wanted to – ooh, silly me, I thought NNSA and DOE were going to be here to present about the LANL SWEIS, but I misread it. So, my comments are in support of the memo of staff and Mr. Harwood with regard to the BDD's memo of April 9<sup>th</sup> about what needed to be happening with regard to funding by DOE, NNSA for monitoring of the Buckman and what a priority that is.

I don't know if you recall that in 2013, there were two 1,000-year storms that happened within ten days of each other in Waddell Canyon, and we can anticipate that kind of surprise or act of mother nature to impact us possibly this summer. I think it's very, very essential, CCNS believes that it's essential that the monitoring be paid for by the lab and not by the people of Santa Fe County and City and if I can help in any way on that, I would be grateful.

The other thing is the Communities for Clean Water have asked that DOE and NNSA reopen the comment period for the SWEIS in terms of the fact that when it began, we were under the Bush admin-- or excuse me, Biden administration. And then when the president came in, he signed the new executive order that changed all of the national environmental impact statement requirements. And we believe that it should just continue under the policies that began in 2024 and not be changed. And so we're asking for the comment period to be reopened, and that comments would be available on the SWEIS as well as record of decision on that. And your support of that would be – we would add that to this list provided.

And then the comment period for the programmatic environmental impact statement for plutonium pit production has already opened, even though DOE NNSA said that they wouldn't release that document until the end of May. So we're scrambling because the public hearing is May 14<sup>th</sup> here in Santa Fe. And I brought you a flyer about that so you can connect. It's a virtual hearing. No, it's a hybrid hearing at the Farmers Market Institute from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. You can go ahead and leave the flyers. And, Nancy can you make sure we'll get those.

MS. ARENDS: Thank you.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you so much. We appreciate it. A ny other members of the public here to speak? I'm not seeing anyone.

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 the

month of April 2026.

The BDD diversions and deliveries have averaged a million gallons per day as follows. Raw water diversions, 7.38 million gallons per day; raw water delivery to Las Campanas at Booster Station 2A, .98 million gallons per day drinking water deliveries through Booster Stations 4A and 5A, 6.29 million gallons per day. And the BDD contributed 63 percent of the drinking water to the City and County for the month of April 2026.

And I will stand for questions.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Wonderful. Thank you so much. Any questions from the Board? Member Schmidt-Petersen.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Matt, I'm wondering since this year is very similar to last, but at this time last year, we started getting a bunch of rain and Canyon Road came on. What's your thinking will happen during May? Are the projections that you're showing likely to be how you operate with low flows on the river.

MR. SANDOVAL: Thank you, Madam Chair. Member Schmidt-Petersen, I'm not sure what Canyon Road is doing as far as this month or next, but I could find out and get back to you at the next meeting.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: That would be fine. I'm just saying for the Board, that we're exactly back where we were last year when it comes to the Rio Grande and the Santa Fe watershed. We're just not getting the rain that we started to get last year in May in the watershed. So does that change anything?

CHAIR CASSUTT: Director Roach, I see you doing the thinking thing. Feel free to comment.

JESS ROACH (City Interim Public Works Director): Thank you, Madam Chair, Member Schmidt-Petersen, the things we're sort of looking at this year, similar to last year, actually, last year we were working on Nichols Reservoir, and so we had some limited ability to deliver to Canyon Road. This year we're redoing – we've started a multi-year project to redo half of the flocculation and sedimentation process at Canyon Road. So that plant is at half capacity now for us for this year and next year. And there's not very much water in the watershed, as you know. So we expect still to be able to generate about 80 percent of the City-County demand from the two: from Canyon Road and BDD, leaning on BDD to a similar extent that we did last year.

And we are into San Juan-Chama only operations a month earlier this year or earlier than we expected. So we were looking at the URGWOM. And for the benefit of the Board, when we get below 325 cfs five-day average of native flows at Otowi, we start native curtailment. To be conservative, we generally try not to divert at all at that point, but we can continue to divert San Juan-Chama water to a lower level.

So at this point, we've already shifted to 100 percent, basically a hundred percent San Juan-Chama diversions, unless occasionally maybe we'll get some extra native. But we did move to that operation sooner, but we still anticipate more or less a similar total diversion compared to last year.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Okay. Thank you. And if I remember correctly, you have something like 10,000 acre-feet of water that's in storage. So you've got that San Juan-Chama water.

MR. ROACH: That's correct. We had at the beginning of the year, about 10,000 acre-feet in on the Chama.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Thank you.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you, Director. Any other questions or comments?  
Thank you, Mr. Sandoval.

MR. SANDOVAL: Thank you.

**b. Report from BDD Facilities Manager**

BRAD PRADA (Facilities Manager): Good afternoon, Madam Chair and Board members. This is your monthly update covering the current progress on key project procurement and staffing. Starting with the major repair and replacement fund we have had a critical equipment failure involving our centrifuge used for solids handling. Repairs have been initiated, and I will provide you with periodic updates as that work moves forward. On a more positive note, three vertical turbine pumps have been ordered for the raw water system. We expect to have those in service in the coming months.

Moving on to the design-rebuild project, the RFQ-solicitation to secure a design team has been released for posting. We anticipate onboarding the chosen team by late summer or early fall, following our recent feasibility study, where we have built specific technical and budgetary parameters directly into our RFQ. This ensures the project remains realistic and viable for long term. Given our extensive work during the RFI phase, we expect to attract highly qualified offerors who align with the BPD's technical requirements.

We have some contracts towards the end of this fiscal year that are going to be ending, and we're going to have to amend a few. And so staff are currently managing several of those agreements set to expire. We are working to ensure a seamless transition and expect to present these for their approval next month.

Finally, an update on our staffing efforts in collaboration with the City staff. For the accounting manager, an offer has been accepted, and we were waiting for the start date, but this morning I was informed of a tentative start date of June 8<sup>th</sup>. Journeymen electrician position is currently awaiting a reposting. We are currently in the process of posting a ladder for the operators. And the process for an admin assistant has officially started. That concludes my report for this month. I'm happy to take any questions regarding these items.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thanks so much. Questions or comments? Vice Chair Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you very much. Do you work with the journeymen, the union, to get placed in that and recruiting with the folks down in Albuquerque?

MR. PRADA: Thank you, Madam Chair, Board Member Greene. No, we haven't reached out. We work with our own internal union to negotiate some of those things.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: To recruit. But I'm just thinking to put it out there because they know everybody in that space.

MR. PRADA: We've had lots of conversation about where we should be posting this job.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: And do we have any internship?

MR. PRADA: Not at the moment. If you understand how to get your journeyman's license, you need to be following a journeyman's licensed guy; right?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Yes.

MR. PRADA: But if we don't currently have a journeyman on staff, how do we get that?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: No, I understand. I was just thinking that they may be more enticed to send someone our way if we were going to offer an opportunity for somebody to train under them at the same time.

MR. PRADA: Agreed.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Yeah. Okay, thanks.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Member Schmidt-Petersen.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Brad, could you elaborate a little bit more about the centrifuge failure? Is that in 1A? I'm just wondering how that affects operations.

MR. PRADA: Thank you, Madam Chair, Board Member Schmidt-Petersen. It's actually at the facility. It has nothing to do with the raw water system. So obviously, we accumulate solids at the facility, and we have to process them, de-water them, and this helps with de-watering those.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Thank you. I just wasn't tracking where exactly that was at. And is it causing you any significant issues, or do you have workarounds?

MR. PRADA: We have workarounds, and this shouldn't be a big issue.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Thank you. It's just part of the MR&R plan, and that's why I brought it up.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. Thank you for asking that. You didn't seem very concerned about it, but it sounded very scary on paper, so thank you for clarifying. Anything else? No? All right. Thank you so much.

**c. Presentation of National Nuclear Security Administration (MMSA) Issued 2026 Final Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for Expanded Operations at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)**

BOOT PIERCE (GZA): Thank you, Madam Chair, Board members. good afternoon. What GZA has provided a summary of the final site-wide environmental impact statement for continued operations at LANL. This was published in March and a summary of how it responds to the BDB comments that were provided in April of 2025. The SWEIS is a generalized site-wide environmental impact statement, and the document, essentially reviewed or considered three alternatives for the continuing operations of the lab between now and the year 2038.

The three alternatives that were, were considered were no actions, no actions meaning no changes to the current operation plan; a modernization of operations, and; an expanded operations alternative. The record of decision that was provided at the same time as the SWEIS was expanded operations alternative.

The document was a summary, or the document that's provided on pages 11 through 14 of your agenda is a summary of that site-wide environmental impact statement addressed the 2025 comments from the BDB Board. So, with that, I will stand for any questions.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you so much. Questions from the Board? Member Schmidt-Petersen.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: I know there's a number of possible recommendations at the back. Do you, as a group, have one of those that you think is the

better approach to proceed?

MR. PIERCE: I don't necessarily. Those were just alternatives.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Okay. But we don't have any action that we're trying to do here. It's generally just information to try to come in. I'm just looking at it and thinking, well, number one, thank you all because it must have been very time-consuming to go through and try to find where things were addressed or not addressed. And it just seems like what our concerns are that were put forward are just not on a level of maybe the specificity that they're dealing with or at some other level. And I'm just not sure what to do with that.

KYLE HARWOOD (BDD Board Counsel): If I may, Madam Chair, Mr. Schmidt-Petersen. I think given the request for an extended comment period that Ms. Arends referenced, we'll just sort of continue to monitor how the SWEIS process unfolds, and we'll be back to you with more recommendations later, depending on how that sort of ball bounces, so to speak. Is that okay?

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Yeah, that's okay. Thanks.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Vice Chairman.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So, again, with what Joni mentioned, there's a level of, you know, the administration has changed, and the scope of work that is being discussed at the lab has changed. Even if it hasn't officially changed, it seems like it's moving to another paradigm.

How does this expanded operation recommendation that they're working on and yet then it moves the target: do we have another bite at this apple? Is there another or is this going to be 2038 and it's out and I mean, not that they really listen to us as we sort of discovered, but it's, you know, we need to sort of put our foot down.

MR. HARWOOD: It's a great question, and I don't think we know the answer to that quite yet.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: So then can we address it in a response and just sort of make note, Hey guys, the game has changed, and we don't think that it's appropriate for you guys to make decisions on a – you know, it's tough to hit a moving target.

MR. HARWOOD: I think it's prudent, Board Member Greene, to wait and see how the lab responds to the request for additional time and then how they address the very question you've raised, which is, which we understand that the lab or the federal administration has proposed to go even beyond what this SWEIS analyzed. And so, we have regular contact with our colleagues at LANL around the implementation of the MOU, and, I'll be following up with them directly and try to get more information and bring you back recommendations as they develop.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Okay. And on these deadlines and things like that will warn us if something sneaks up on us and they give us a seven-day reporting period, and we've got to go faster.

MR. HARWOOD: Yeah, we hope we don't. We've expressed to them continuously that our board meets monthly, and we need to, in order to provide input, we need to know when those deadlines are. And the technical team continues to actively manage and monitor these topics.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Just for my part, I don't like trying to shoot a moving target.

MR. HARWOOD: There's a joke in there somewhere that I will not touch.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I guess I should not say I like to shoot, right?

MR. HARWOOD: We'll leave it at that. We'll be back with more information as soon as we have more.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Just to, you know, to call your lab people, right? And to just say, you know, they don't officially tell us things, but in some unofficial meetings will say that things are looking in this way. And you know there's an ounce of truth in when they whisper to us that we should be prepared for, right? So, the difference between whether it happens at all at the Savannah River, we should be talking to Savannah River. You know, whether Savannah River is ever going to come online, or are we going to have to make every pit for the future? Which is a whole nother, nother, nother paradigm. And so I don't know how you work with them to – who the lab whisperer is, as it may be. But, it would be good that we get that information.

MR. HARWOOD: We hope to learn more soon and bring you recommendations back as soon as we have more information to share.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you for hearing us. Thanks.

MR. HARWOOD: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I have a question.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Yes. Member Hughes.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: I was wondering if we have considered asking the Environment Department to take a position on their renewal of a WIPP permit. They have proposed anyway, lots of cleanup standards in the new WIPP. In others, the WIPP accepts lots of material from LANL that the Environment Department has proposed. I'm just wondering if you were looking at that at all.

MR. HARWOOD: Madam Chair, Board Member Commissioner Hughes, I think it'd be best if we came back to you next month with an update on that topic. Would that be okay?

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Sure.

MR. HARWOOD: Great. Thank you.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Madam Chair, I just have one slight follow up. Just to kind of wrapping back here to the things that are most important to the operations and so on. There is this one line, I think it's page 12 or 15, where you guys report that BDD staff and CGI are currently working with LANL on the installation and operations of the camera and things like that. So what's going on with and maybe this is more of a question. What's going on with EIS and the people that are involved with that, and those are different than the people you're working on the ground because it sounds like we're getting progress to at least track and be able to operate with more information. Is that right?

MR. HARWOOD: Yes. We're actively working on the MOU implementation, including the camera, and there was a, a site visit two weeks ago, I believe, technical folks, and we have a peer-to-peer staff meeting coming up soon. And we hope to report back progress on that shortly.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Thank you very much.

MR. HARWOOD: Sure.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: One more comment.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you. So, thinking back, you got to put on your memory hat. Thinking back to when we prepared this, one of the topics that we had

discussed incorporating into this is what I would call sort of knock-on impacts, environmental at a different level, economic development and housing impacts.

So given, again, the moving target and the expanded operations there that affects us here in Santa Fe because probably more than fifty percent of their staff lives in Santa Fe County or the City of Santa Fe. To have them address their housing needs and to make sure that they are contributing to the burden as it may be, whether it's through infrastructure, or affordable housing, gentrification; how can we really make sure that, you know, \$167 million of gross receipts tax going to Los Alamos County, we need some of that here for our housing solutions.

MR. HARWOOD: You may not like this answer, Commissioner Greene, but that was actually outside of the scope of our comments on this SWEIS. So we'll have to see if there's another opportunity and whether this Board wants to participate and what the scope of the comments might be at that time. But those topics were outside of our Board comments last year.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Yeah. I still think that they're environmental knock-on effects. It's not just water. It's housing, it's our quality of life.

MR. HARWOOD: Understood, Commissioner. But pardon me for focusing on this report, which is reporting out how our comments were addressed in the SWEIS.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: You're good.

MR. HARWOOD: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you so much. Anything else? Okay, thank you.

## **9. Action Items: Discussion Agenda**

- a. Request for Approval for BDD Chair Jamie Cassutt, Vice-Chair Justin Greene, Facilities Manager, Bradley Prada and BDD Legal Counsel, Nancy Long to Serve on the Committee to Make Recommendations to the Board for the Positions of Citizen Members and Alternate Citizen Member to Serve on the BDD Board**

CHAIR CASSUTT: And, Nancy, I will send this over to you.

MS. LONG: Yes, Madam Chair and, and members of the Board, two years goes very quickly, so you'll recall, except for maybe Councilor Feghali, that two years ago we appointed your two current members, a citizen member and alternate citizen member, and their terms actually expire today. But they do continue to serve according to a JPA amendment, that was implemented until their successors or until they're reappointed. So we've got some time to do it.

Traditionally, we have instituted this committee structure that includes the chair, vice chair, facilities manager, and me, so that we can meet, make recommendations, and come back to the Board with those recommendations for another two-year terms.

The advertising for this has been posted, and Bernie will make sure that Mr. Schmidt-Petersen receives it as well as Mr. Ives. They can dig out their old applications if they're willing, if they want to continue. So we'll just see. The committee then will see how that unfolds, whether there's any others, whether it'll just be a reappointment and what that committee wants to do.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. And when, when does the application date close because I'm assuming that we're hoping to get the appointment by the June meeting?

MS. LONG: We're thinking July meeting.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Okay. All right.

MS. LONG: I think it closes in mid-June. So it was just posted. It'll just be posted a couple times and on the website. So the committee will make recommendations. They don't make a decision, and they come back to the Board and will report on the process or what the committee is recommended is in the best interest for the Board in terms of those two positions for another two-year term.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Okay, thank you.

MS. LONG: So we just need to approve the committee members.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Okay. Any questions or comments on this item? And if not, can I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Motion to approve.

COMMISSIONER HUGHES: Second.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you, may I get a roll call.

**The motion passed by unanimous [5-0] roll call vote as follows:**

Member Rolf Schmidt-Petersen	Yes
Commissioner Hank Hughes	Yes
Councilor Patricia Feghali	Yes
Commissioner Justin Greene	Yes
Chair Jamie Cassutt	Yes

**8. Matters from the Board**

CHAIR CASSUTT: Commissioner Greene.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Thank you, Madam Chair. First up, I want to give thanks to some of the City staff that worked with the Santa Fe 2100 planning group. They gave a presentation to the Pojoaque Basin Regional Water Systems partners under the guise of the Tesuque – oh, there's any an acronym there, and I'm going to forget it. But it was the five partners, including the four pueblos in Santa Fe County, and discussed where the City is working in collaboration with the County on long-range planning for water. And it was a very interesting conversation, and it started to extend the concept into the basins to the north, which is above the Otowi Gage and has a lot of different applicability to this Board here and to the Pojoaque Basin project. So I appreciate that.

Additionally, Santa Fe County on our agenda next week, has a letter to the Forest Service that is opposing the Canjilon uranium mining up in Rio Arriba County. We drink that water. It's in the Chama watershed. That's going to come down into the Rio Grande, and that's going to potentially impact our drinking water at BDD.

Santa Fe County is putting together, has put together a letter that should it be approved and sent along, will be sent to our federal delegation. But it's also going to be sent to every county commissioner from here to Brownsville, Texas, right? Because it's not just talking to a whole bunch of Democrats that are wanting to be listened to. It's about talking to Republicans that drink the water or that are county commissioners downstream.

I am asking for a little nod of approval in the sense to and ask that I work with Kyle Harwood, anybody else, sort of the quorum that wants to work on this to draft one that addresses this same similar type of letter, but more aimed at water systems both in terms of

domestic water but also irrigation districts and everybody that uses water between here and Brownsville, Texas, that we can send to all of them to make them aware of this risk that starts just north of us but flows all the way down the Rio Grande.

CHAIR CASSUTT: I have no objections or concerns around working on that. Anybody else?

MR. PRADA: Madam Chair, if I may?

CHAIR CASSUTT: Yes, please.

MR. PRADA: I think that this is very preliminary, and so I think we should have our experts, GZI and folks look at this to see how it could actually directly affect BDD.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: I would love to hear that too. I consider us, yes, narrowly scoped to Buckman Direct, but also shepherds of our water upstream, downstream. And if we have the experts they can look at it beyond the scope of BDD. If they ruin the water in Española they're going to move to Santa Fe and drink your water, right? So if they ruin the water in Albuquerque or all the wells between here and around, we should be protecting that because we can't take on that impact here potentially.

But anyway, I agree with you. I would hope that we would be able to have a letter, if we have a hard deadline by the next meeting, to have a letter by the next meeting. If we have more time to report to this, then maybe it's a presentation and a future letter. So let's work within those parameters.

CHAIR CASSUTT: We'll go ahead and have that conversation as we have time to look into it and circle back.

COMMISSIONER GREENE: Great. Thank you.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Thank you. Member Schmidt-Petersen.

MEMBER SCHMIDT-PETERSEN: Yes, Madam Chair, just a little bit of notice. I'm unable to make the June meeting, and I coordinated with board member Ives, and he is also. So at least, from a citizen member standpoint for that meeting, there won't be anybody present. And, that's unfortunate, but I wanted to make you all aware.

CHAIR CASSUTT: Got it. Thank you. So everybody needs to show up even more. I'll show up virtually if I can't be here in person because we need a quorum.

**9. Next Meeting: Thursday, June 4, 2026**

**10. Adjourn**

Chair Cassutt declared this meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.

Approved by:

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Jamie Cassutt, Board Chair

**ATTEST TO**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Geralyn Cardenas  
City Clerk