

# BLYTHE CITY COUNCIL



## AGENDA

**February 10, 2026**

**Closed Session: 5:15 P.M.  
Regular Meeting: 6:00 P.M.**

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Joseph DeConinck, Mayor  
Johnny Z. Rodriguez, Vice Mayor  
Joseph Halby, III, Council Member  
Sam Burton, Council Member  
Summer Spraggins, Council Member  
Mallory Crecelius, Interim City Manager/City Clerk  
Brittany Roberto, City Attorney

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MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 235 NORTH BROADWAY, BLYTHE, CA



**CITY OF BLYTHE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
February 10, 2026  
Closed Session: 5:15pm  
Regular Meeting: 6:00pm**

Joseph DeConinck, Mayor  
Johnny Rodriguez, Vice Mayor  
Joseph Halby, III, Council Member  
Samuel Burton, Council Member  
Summer Spraggins, Council Member

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public comments will be allowed only on matters appearing on this Closed Session agenda. Speakers are asked to identify themselves by stating their name and address for the record. Comments shall be limited to 3 minutes in duration.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

- PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT** - Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1).  
Title: Chief of Police.

**NOTE TO THE PUBLIC:**

In compliance with the Americans with Disability Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact City Clerk Mallory Crecelius at (760) 922-6161 ext. 1237. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.104 ADA Title II).



**CITY OF BLYTHE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
February 10, 2026  
6:00pm**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor DeConinck  
Vice Mayor Rodriguez  
Council Member Halby  
Council Member Burton  
Council Member Spraggins

Interim City Manager/City Clerk Crecelius  
City Attorney Roberto  
City Treasurer/Finance Director Elms  
Chief Building Official Brown

Police Chief Dale  
Fire Chief Hasler  
Public Works Director Elegores

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**

**ADDED STARTER:** The City Council may add an item to the Agenda after making a finding that there is a need to take immediate action on the item and that the item came to the attention of the City Council and/or staff subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. An action adding an item to the Agenda requires a 2/3 vote of the City Council (4 of 5 Council Members). If less than 2/3 of the City Council is present, adding an item to the Agenda requires a unanimous vote.

**REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:**

**PRESENTATION: (Items 1-2)**

1. **Recognition of Palo Verde Unified School District's Educators of the Year:**  
**Shelley Hillman, Sylvia Hernandez, Lora Rodriguez, Gerardo Rios, Ronald Davidson, Angelina McCaslin, Maribel Rivas, Felipe Vasquez, Monique Sain, Kimberly Hafen and Timothy Rymer.**
2. **Presentation of Lifesaving Pin and Certificate to Police Officer Bobby Valdivia and Police Cadet Nadya Diaz.**

**CONSENT CALENDAR- (Items 3-12)**

All matters listed under Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items prior to the time of voting on the motion unless members of the Council or staff request specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action.

3. **Posting of the Agenda.**  
The agenda was posted on the bulletin boards on the outside of the public entrance to the Council Chamber and near the inside entrance of the Council Chamber and on the City's website on Friday, February 6, 2026.
4. **Approval of the Warrant Register.**  
Recommendation: Approve **2/10/26**, warrants numbered 11390 through 11414 and 80597 through 80642 in the amount of \$839,659.74; **2/10/26**, Utility Billing Refund warrants numbered 80643 through 80654 in the amount of \$1,679.88, and **2/10/26**, warrants numbered 11415 through 11432 and 80655 through 80685 in the amount of \$165,227.06.
5. **Approval of the Payroll Register.**  
Recommendation: Approve **2/10/26**, warrants numbered 55577 through 55578 in the amount of \$662.55; **2/10/26**, warrants numbered 55579 through 55594 and Direct Deposits warrants numbered 64207 through 64286 in the amount of \$310,966.13; **2/10/26**, warrants numbered 55595 through 55608 and Direct Deposit warrants numbered 64287 through 64365 in the amount of \$307,753.38 and **2/10/26**, warrants numbered 55609 through 55620, and Direct Deposits warrants numbered 64366 through 64462 in the amount of \$80,712.27.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council regarding any item on this Agenda will be made available for Public inspection in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 235 N. Broadway, Blythe, California during normal business hours. In addition such writings and documents will be posted on the City's website: [www.cityofblythe.ca.gov](http://www.cityofblythe.ca.gov).

6. **Minutes of the January 9, 2026 Special City Council Meeting.**  
Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2026 Special Meeting.
7. **Minutes of the January 13, 2026 City Council Meeting.**  
Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the January 13, 2026 Meeting.
8. **City of Blythe Permits Issued in the Month of January 2026.**  
Recommendation: Receive and file the monthly report.
9. **City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Report for January 2026.**  
Recommendation: Receive and file the monthly report.
10. **City of Blythe Police Department Monthly Activity Report for January 2026.**  
Recommendation: Receive and file the monthly report.
11. **Quality of Life Program Activity Report for January 2026.**  
Recommendation: Receive and file the monthly report.
12. **495 N. Main Street – Proposed Lien for Costs of Abatement.**  
Recommendation: Determine the proposed lien in the amount of \$112,907.11 for the cost of abating the public nuisance at 495 N. Main Street become a lien against 495 N. Main Street and direct staff to record the lien.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**CONTINUED BUSINESS:** (Item 13)

13. **Palo Verde Hospital Ad Hoc Committee Update.**  
Recommendation: Receive and file a report from the Hospital Ad Hoc Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (Items 14-16)

14. **Report on Emergency Action Taken by Interim City Manager for the Emergency Repairs to the Sinkhole, Sewer Main and Manholes Near 900 N. Broadway.**  
Recommendation: Council review the emergency action taken by the Interim City Manager for the emergency sinkhole, sewer main and manhole repairs near 900 N. Broadway and by a 4/5 vote, determine there is a need to continue the emergency repairs.
15. **Preparation of an Ordinance Relating to the Regulation of the Sale and Distribution of Kratom Products in the City of Blythe.**  
Recommendation: Provide direction to staff on the preparation of an ordinance to regulate the sale and distribution of kratom products in the City of Blythe.
16. **Non-Health Hazard Secondary Contaminants, Hardness and Total Dissolved Solids for City of Blythe's Drinking Water per Secondary Drinking Water Standards.**  
Recommendation: Continue to require commercial water users to implement and manage the necessary water supply and wastewater treatment solutions.

**ORAL REPORT:** (Staff members may make a brief announcement or report on department activities.)

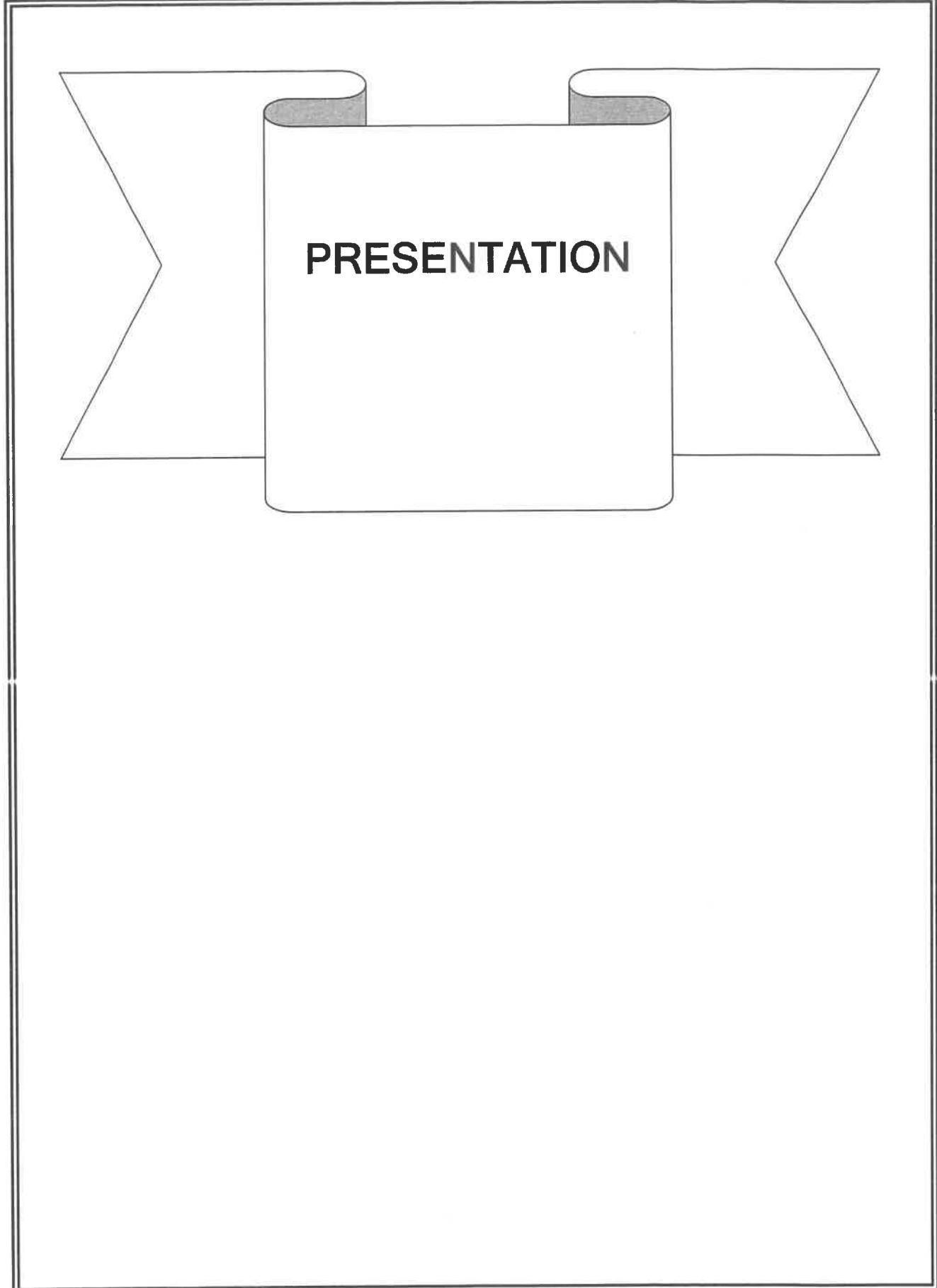
Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council regarding any item on this Agenda will be made available for Public inspection in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 235 N. Broadway, Blythe, California during normal business hours. In addition such writings and documents will be posted on the City's website: [www.cityofblythe.ca.gov](http://www.cityofblythe.ca.gov).

**MEMBER COMMENT:** (Council may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, make a brief report on his/her own activities, request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.)

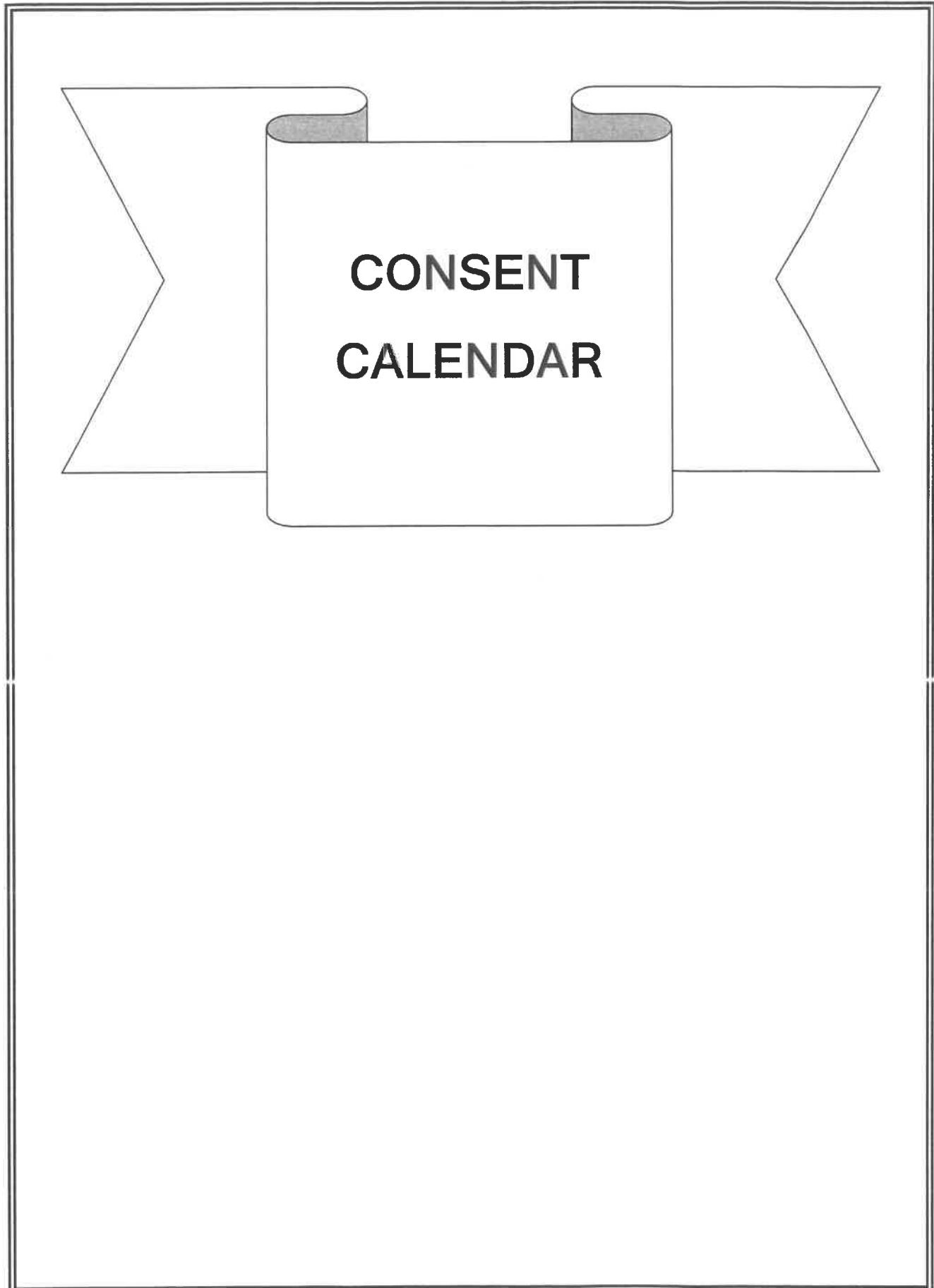
**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public comments will be allowed on matters not appearing on the agenda, but within Council/Blythe Successor Agency jurisdiction. Speakers are asked to identify themselves by stating their name and address for the record. Comments shall be limited to 3 minutes in duration. The City Council cannot take action on items not listed on the Agenda. Council Members will not enter discussion with speakers; but may refer the matter to staff for report and recommendation at a future meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 235 N. Broadway, Blythe, California.

**NOTE TO THE PUBLIC:** In compliance with the Americans with Disability Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact 504/ADA Coordinator Mallory Crecelius at (760) 922-6161 EXT. 1237 or by email at [msutterfield@cityofblythe.ca.gov](mailto:msutterfield@cityofblythe.ca.gov). Notification 72 business hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.104 ADA Title II).



# PRESENTATION



# **CONSENT CALENDAR**

vchlist  
01/27/2026 2:57:03PM

Voucher List  
City of Blythe

Page: 1

Bank code :	ap-dir	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
		11390	1/13/2026	005996 DE LAGE LANDEN FINANCIAL SVCS	593312804 593744698	025226 025226	EQUIPMENT LEASE/MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT LEASE/MAINTENANCE	366.78 342.92
		11391	1/13/2026	005996 DE LAGE LANDEN FINANCIAL SVCS	593312546 593744181	025225 025225	EQUIPMENT LEASE/MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT LEASE/MAINTENANCE	649.19 607.20
		11392	1/13/2026	000247 SOCALGAS	06912600076	025232	NATURAL GAS 11/24-12/23/2025	1,256.39
		11393	1/13/2026	000247 SOCALGAS	16017775541	025232	NATURAL GAS 11/24-12/23/2025	1.17
		11394	1/13/2026	000247 SOCALGAS	11185732804	025232	NATURAL GAS 12/8/2025-1/8/2026	17.68
		11395	1/13/2026	000247 SOCALGAS	13422599004	025232	NATURAL GAS 11/24-12/23/2025	59.74
		11396	1/13/2026	000247 SOCALGAS	07632638008	025232	NATURAL GAS 12/5/2025-1/8/2026	217.60
		11397	1/13/2026	000283 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO	7002695339301	025233	ELECTRICITY 1/1/2025-1/2/2026	410.69
		11398	1/22/2026	003217 SWRCB ACCOUNTING OFFICE	WD-0309910	025209	ANNUAL PERMIT FEES 7/1/25-6/30/	410.69
		11399	1/22/2026	003217 SWRCB ACCOUNTING OFFICE	WD-0309863	025209	ANNUAL PERMIT FEES 7/1/25-6/30/	410.69
		11400	1/27/2026	002768 AIRWAVE BROADBAND WIRELESS	116721	025196	BUSINESS PHONE SERVICE 2/1-3/	121.60
		11401	1/27/2026	005998 CA BLDG STANDARDS COMMISSION	123125		SB1473 GREEN FEES (COUNTY)	121.60
								8.00

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Bank code :	ap-dir	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
11401	1/27/2026	005998 CA BLDG STANDARDS COMMISSION		005998 CA BLDG STANDARDS COMMISSION (Continued)			SB1473 GREEN FEES	Total : 8.00
11402	1/27/2026	005998 CA BLDG STANDARDS COMMISSION		123125				143.10
								143.10
11403	1/27/2026	004804 CITY OF BLYTHE		DEC 2025			AMOUNT BILLED TO CUSTOMERS	33,444.00
							Total :	33,444.00
11404	1/27/2026	000646 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE		IN1074655	025198		ACCOUNT #AR0111046 - FACILITY #	140.00
							Total :	140.00
11405	1/27/2026	000150 INLAND BUILDERS SUPPLY INC		H92513 H93268 110841 112080 112676 122702 122914 V28921 V30233 V32072 V32321 V34984 V34996 V35082	024945 024947 025168 025125 025140 025183 025181 025066 025064 025145 025152 025191 025191 025182 025182		PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES	42.99 107.68 58.13 152.24 162.85 104.18 304.49 15.31 14.67 25.41 47.83 17.61 4.79 185.49
11406	1/27/2026	003150 PITNEY BOWES		3107601821	025230		TERM RENTAL 11/2/2025-2/1/2026	1,243.67
							Total :	1,243.67
11407	1/27/2026	003439 SHELL		109866809	025231		FUEL 12/6/2025-1/6/2026	1,760.71
							Total :	1,760.71
11408	1/27/2026	000241 SMART & FINAL IRIS CORP		430510012301 430510037501 430510047501 430510098501	023975 023975 023975 023975		SUPPLIES SUPPLIES SUPPLIES SUPPLIES	47.29
								222.59
								99.93
								76.01
								319.00

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Voucher List  
City of Blythe

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Bank code :	ap-dir	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
11408	1/27/2026	000241 SMART & FINAL IRIS CORP		(Continued) 43051011601	023975		SUPPLIES	Total : 357.16
11409	1/27/2026	000323 STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION		023-3000030	025212		USE TAX 12/2025	Total : 1,074.69
11410	1/27/2026	000266 UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT/SC		1220250085	025179		DIG ALERT TICKETS 12/2025	387.00
11411	1/27/2026	006873 VESTIS		5881129520 5881135638	025203 025203		UNIFORM SERVICE/MATS & TOWE UNIFORM SERVICE/MATS & TOWE	Total : 387.00
11412	2/1/2026	005923 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'		000018183147			HEALTH PREMIUMS 2/1-2/28/2026	114.00
11413	2/1/2026	005923 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES'		000018183145			HEALTH PREMIUMS 2/1-2/28/2026	114.00
11414	2/1/2026	006924 SUN LIFE		923380-0002			PREMIUM/FEEES 2/1-2/28/2026	402.77
							Total : 402.77	
							PREMIUM/FEEES 2/1-2/28/2026	805.54
							Total : 805.54	
							PREMIUM/FEEES 2/1-2/28/2026	4,287.72
							Total : 4,287.72	
							PREMIUM/FEEES 2/1-2/28/2026	128,530.72
							Total : 128,530.72	
							Bank total :	6,143.73
							Bank total :	6,143.73
							Bank total :	214,075.86

25 Vouchers for bank code : ap-dir

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Bank code :	union	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
		80597	1/12/2026	008648 PALO VERDE HEALTHCARE DISTRICT	2026-002A	025159	LOAN AGREEMENT	330,000.00
		80598	1/22/2026	002392 US BANK	3116989		DEBT SERVICE	330,000.00
		80599	1/27/2026	008636 ALANIZ, CADE	012725	025184	SOCCER OFFICIAL	17,737.50
		80600	1/27/2026	006366 ALARM PROTECTION SERVICES	064195	025206	SECURITY ALARM MONITORING 1/	227.50
		80601	1/27/2026	006216 ALTEC INDUSTRIES, INC	51761948	025208	REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES	227.50
		80602	1/27/2026	007560 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC	1F11TDHVXQWQ 1GKRTYR6CKGV 1K7L3M7667X9 1KKXPGFPP366 1L9NR11WGKT6 1LT3T74DQ6W7 1YNKYDMNQVF9 1YYCVM4XQRK9	025193 024647 025130 025150 025146 025135 025049 024948	PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES	73.27 505.05 247.98 357.78 78.12 24.95 977.35 352.05
		80603	1/27/2026	008658 BLYTHE FORD	50333391	025073	REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	2,616.55
		80604	1/27/2026	008525 BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORENSEN LLP	358483	025224	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	272.70
		80605	1/27/2026	000048 BURTRONICS BUSINESS SYSTEMS	AR124616	025197	CONTRACT CN10665-01 1/6-2/5/202	272.70
		80606	1/27/2026	005584 CALCLEAN INC	CP0019-62	025190	HYDROCARBON CLEANUP/PLUME	108.00
		80607	1/27/2026	000896 CITY OF BLYTHE	123125		GOVERNMENT RETAINER - SB1472	108.00
								67.87
								67.87
								29,097.00
								29,097.00
								15.90

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Voucher List  
City of Blythe

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Bank code :	union	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
					(Continued)			
80607	1/27/2026 000896 CITY OF BLYTHE				123125 B2509-022		GOVERNMENT RETAINER - STRON ADMINISTRATIVE FEE	28.84 120.00 <b>164.74</b>
80608	1/27/2026 000080 COSME'S PROPANE				000916	025108	PROPANE	107.66 <b>107.66</b>
80609	1/27/2026 005603 CR&R INCORPORATED				DEC 2025	025139	FRANCHISE CONTRACT 12/2025	119,654.59 <b>119,654.59</b>
80610	1/27/2026 000084 D & L AUTO PARTS INC				223869 224238 224554 224674 224756	024952 025089 025167 025161 025194	PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES	105.30 65.73 546.63 94.34 141.18 <b>953.18</b>
80611	1/27/2026 005997 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION				123125 123125		STRONG MOTION FEES STRONG MOTION FEES (COUNTY)	547.90 19.22 <b>567.12</b>
80612	1/27/2026 002173 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE				008021	025136	BLOOD ALCOHOL ANALYSIS 10/202	105.00 <b>105.00</b>
80613	1/27/2026 000547 ESGIL, LLC				3006995		PLAN CHECK SERVICES 12/2025	800.00 <b>800.00</b>
80614	1/27/2026 003447 EXTREME AUTO BODY & CUSTOMS				9497 9498	025156 025158	REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES	1,782.62 427.69 <b>2,210.31</b>
80615	1/27/2026 007985 FIGUEROA, ALICIA				012726	025185	SOCCER OFFICIAL	346.50 <b>346.50</b>
80616	1/27/2026 006127 FLORES, ROBERTO				123025	025199	REIMBURSEMENT	300.00 <b>300.00</b>

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Voucher	Date	Vendor			
80617	1/27/2026	008627 GARON WYATT INVESTIGATIVE	26-03	025227 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	1,469.00
80618	1/27/2026	000318 GLENN JOHNSON COOLING/HEATING	039178	025200 REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES	140.01
80619	1/27/2026	008632 GOMEZ, KEVIN	012726	025186 SOCCER OFFICIAL	445.50
80620	1/27/2026	000869 GRAINGER	9761133611 9771061125	025075 PARTS/SUPPLIES 025155 PARTS/SUPPLIES	371.89 54.68
80621	1/27/2026	004732 INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROLS LLC	51874	024540 REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES	1,840.00
80622	1/27/2026	008634 JONATHAN DINCO ELECTRIC	20260002	025174 REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES	1,840.00
80623	1/27/2026	002150 JONES MAYER	DEC 2025	025228 LEGAL SERVICES 12/2025	120.00
80624	1/27/2026	000158 JORDAN IMPLEMENT CO	P52771	025162 PARTS/SUPPLIES	18,492.82
80625	1/27/2026	003377 KIMBALL-MIDWEST	104014792 104055188 104096478	024955 PARTS/SUPPLIES 025175 PARTS/SUPPLIES 025173 PARTS/SUPPLIES	18,492.82
80626	1/27/2026	005295 KONICA MINOLTA	504958771 505185188	024705 MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT 024705 EQUIPMENT	97.32
80627	1/27/2026	008407 LOPEZ, JACOB	012026	025201 REIMBURSEMENT	254.20
80628	1/27/2026	002871 NELSON, JON KEVIN	DEC 2025	025229 INSPECTION SERVICES 12/2025	9,652.62
					<b>9,906.82</b>
					164.43
					<b>164.43</b>
					5,610.00

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Bank code :	union	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
					(Continued)			<b>5,610.00</b>
80628	1/27/2026	002871	002871 NELSON, JON KEVIN		01-26-017	025176	PLAN CHECK SERVICES - IRON FI	2,625.00
80629	1/27/2026	001675	NRO ENGINEERING				Total:	<b>2,625.00</b>
80630	1/27/2026	008544	PONTON INDUSTRIES INC	322255	024076	PARTS/SUPPLIES		<b>654.96</b>
80631	1/27/2026	000315	RDO EQUIPMENT CO	P3324742 W/2646842	024824 024846	PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES		<b>270.73</b>
80632	1/27/2026	007523	REVEAL MEDIA USA, INC	1542	024101	SUPPLIES		<b>3,612.84</b>
80633	1/27/2026	004728	ROSERUSH SERVICES, LLC	2026-1-92225	025172	SOFTWARE/TECHNICAL SUPPORT		<b>3,883.57</b>
80634	1/27/2026	001790	SIGNS UNLIMITED	5441 5442	025137 025137	DECALS DECALS		<b>395.00</b>
80635	1/27/2026	001136	STANDAGE TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE	1-31788 1-31894 1-31945 1-32010 1-32014 1-32021 1-32028 1-32029 1-32034 1-32096 1-32209 1-32232 1-32244 1-32306 1-32347 1-32366	025202 025202 025202 025202 025202 025202 025202 025202 025202 025202 025202 025202 025202 025202 025202	REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES/ REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES/		<b>616.25</b>
							Total:	<b>818.30</b>
								<b>1,486.03</b>
								<b>276.41</b>
								<b>510.15</b>
								<b>25.00</b>
								<b>105.04</b>
								<b>1,479.78</b>
								<b>1,982.36</b>
								<b>301.51</b>
								<b>130.04</b>
								<b>193.68</b>
								<b>361.42</b>
								<b>77.37</b>
								<b>389.51</b>
								<b>124.80</b>
								<b>25.00</b>

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Voucher List  
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Bank code :	union	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
80635	1/27/2026 001136 STANDAGE TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE	(Continued)			025202 025202		REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES/ REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES/ Total :	25.00 2,643.14 <b>10,954.54</b>
80636	1/27/2026 002783 THATCHER COMPANY	1-322370 1-322386			025177 025178		CHEMICALS CHEMICALS	22,704.00 16,243.63 <b>38,947.63</b>
80637	1/27/2026 007969 TRINITY ALTERNATIVE POWER	2025400106086 2026400100079			024483		REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES Total :	7,910.00 7,910.00 <b>7,910.00</b>
80638	1/27/2026 008069 TRIPPEPI SMITH & ASSOCIATES INC	16365			025187		PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	3,545.00 3,545.00 <b>3,545.00</b>
80639	1/27/2026 007841 TRIPLE H PARTS SUPPLY, INC	224346 536211 536263 536402			025126 025100 025138 025157		PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES PARTS/SUPPLIES	364.42 304.11 136.05 123.98 <b>928.56</b>
80640	1/27/2026 003324 ULINE	198731509			024506		PARTS/SUPPLIES	1,815.45 1,815.45 <b>1,815.45</b>
80641	1/27/2026 000991 USA BLUEBOOK	INV00870193			024695		PARTS/SUPPLIES	964.09 964.09 <b>964.09</b>
80642	1/27/2026 008629 VACA, BRYAN	012726			025188		SOCCER OFFICIAL	512.00 512.00 <b>512.00</b>
							Bank total :	<b>625,583.88</b>
							Total vouchers :	<b>839,659.74</b>

46 Vouchers for bank code : union

71 Vouchers in this report

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**Voucher List  
City of Blythe**

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Bank code :	Union	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
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**CLAIMS VOUCHER APPROVAL**

I hereby certify that warrants numbered 11390-11414 and 80567-80642 in the amount of \$839,659.74 have been reviewed for payment by the Director of Finance. I further certify Councilmembers of the City of Blythe, CA approved said warrants at the meeting of February 10, 2026.



Christa Elms  
Director of Finance

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Voucher List  
City of Blythe

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Bank code :	union	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
		80643	1/27/2026	008654 CIHAK, DALE	Ref000225207		UB Refund Cst #0277783	122.30
		80644	1/27/2026	008649 CRCA	Ref000225199		UB Refund Cst #015426	122.30
		80645	1/27/2026	007847 CURIEL, FELIPE	Ref000225209		UB Refund Cst #028057	235.61
		80646	1/27/2026	008653 FIELDS, BRIDGET	Ref000225206		UB Refund Cst #0277730	111.76
		80647	1/27/2026	008642 GEHLERT, LYLE	Ref000225203		UB Refund Cst #027281	107.31
		80648	1/27/2026	008656 LACEY, DANA	Ref000225210		UB Refund Cst #028182	44.19
		80649	1/27/2026	007993 MT CONSTRUCTION	Ref000225201		UB Refund Cst #026424	44.19
		80650	1/27/2026	008655 PEDROZA, FRANCISCA	Ref000225208		UB Refund Cst #027855	133.73
		80651	1/27/2026	008650 RIVAS, LIZETTE	Ref000225202		UB Refund Cst #027045	133.73
		80652	1/27/2026	008651 ROBINSON, SHANICA	Ref000225204		UB Refund Cst #027326	145.74
		80653	1/27/2026	005046 TORRES, RAMON	Ref000225200		UB Refund Cst #022255	145.74
		80654	1/27/2026	008652 VAN, DENNIS	Ref000225205		UB Refund Cst #0277706	111.61
							Bank total :	131.62
							Bank total :	1,679.88

12 Vouchers for bank code : union

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## Voucher List City of Blythe

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Bank code :	union	Voucher	Date	Vendor
				12 Vouchers in this report

Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
		Total vouchers :	1,679.88

## 12 Vouchers in this report

## CLAIMS VOUCHER APPROVAL

I hereby certify that the Utility Billing Refund warrants numbered 80643-80654 in the amount of \$1,679.88 have been reviewed for payment by the Director of Finance. I further certify that the Councilmembers of the City of Blythe, CA approved said warrants at the meeting of February 10, 2026.

## Climate Change

Christa Elms  
Director of Finance

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Bank code :	ap-dir	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
11415	2/3/2026	000064	EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPT	L1456241712			EMPLOYMENT TAX	1,547.00
11416	2/3/2026	000150	INLAND BUILDERS SUPPLY INC	240521	025277		FINANCE CHARGE	118.43
		G90179		H01840	024028		PARTS/SUPPLIES	74.65
		H15218		H15592	024156		PARTS/SUPPLIES	492.36
		H18859		H23440	025256		PARTS/SUPPLIES	68.48
		H23440		H36892	025257		PARTS/SUPPLIES	163.04
		H36892		H43173	024336		PARTS/SUPPLIES	41.04
		H43173		H43408	024371		PARTS/SUPPLIES	39.11
		H43408		H54505	025260		PARTS/SUPPLIES	54.32
		H54505		H63397	024564		PARTS/SUPPLIES	183.39
		H63397		H75812	024564		PARTS/SUPPLIES	288.27
		H75812		H76591	025277		PARTS/SUPPLIES	543.73
		H76591		H88477	024734		PARTS/SUPPLIES	53.23
		H88477		H91841	024819		PARTS/SUPPLIES	65.48
		H91841		H93203	024828		PARTS/SUPPLIES	38.27
		H93203		H97760	025245		PARTS/SUPPLIES	26.01
		H97760		I25441	025277		PARTS/SUPPLIES	326.23
		I25441		V01228	025245		PARTS/SUPPLIES	164.79
		V01228		V03784	024931		PARTS/SUPPLIES [CREDIT RETURN]	-81.53
		V03784		V05748	025215		PARTS/SUPPLIES	19.03
		V05748		V09808	025255		PARTS/SUPPLIES	32.57
		V09808		V25342	025258		PARTS/SUPPLIES	63.00
		V25342		V26679	025277		PARTS/SUPPLIES	19.34
		V26679		V26679	024931		PARTS/SUPPLIES	568.25
		V26679					PARTS/SUPPLIES	595.98
							PARTS/SUPPLIES	171.76
							Total :	4,099.23
11417	2/3/2026	000213	QUILL LLC	47303358	025151		SUPPLIES	41.31
				47314969	025151		SUPPLIES	439.81
				47315342	025154		SUPPLIES	117.43
				47531492	025318		SUPPLIES	51.10
							Total :	649.65

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Voucher List  
City of Blythe

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Bank code :	ap-dir	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
11418		2/3/2026	000241	SMART & FINAL IRIS CORP	430510090501	023975	SUPPLIES	282.19
11419		2/3/2026	000247	SOCALGAS	06912600076	025291	NATURAL GAS 12/23/2025-1/23/2026	26.85
11420		2/3/2026	000247	SOCALGAS	16242635007	025291	NATURAL GAS 12/23/2025-1/23/2026	31.45
					16242635007	025291	NATURAL GAS 11/24-12/23/2025	-3.30
							Total :	28.15
11421		2/3/2026	000247	SOCALGAS	16017775541	025291	NATURAL GAS 12/23/2025-1/23/2026	100.73
11422		2/3/2026	000247	SOCALGAS	13422599004	025291	NATURAL GAS 12/23/2025-1/23/2026	306.26
11423		2/3/2026	000283	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO	700240317342	025292	ELECTRICITY 1/1-1/31/2026	59.87
11424		2/3/2026	000283	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO	700475898313	025293	ELECTRICITY 12/23/2025-1/22/2026	123.75
11425		2/3/2026	000283	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO	700350166610	025294	ELECTRICITY 12/29/2025-1/27/2026	7,134.68
11426		2/3/2026	000283	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO	700350079007	025295	ELECTRICITY 12/29/2025-1/27/2026	10,016.89
11427		2/3/2026	000283	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO	700466637136	025296	ELECTRICITY 1/1-1/31/2026	10,016.89
11428		2/3/2026	000283	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CO	600001510681	025297	ELECTRICITY 11/26-12/28/2025	16,259.91
11429		2/3/2026	004501	US BANK CORP	DEC 2025	025302	CREDIT CARD CHARGES 12/2025	40,938.83
							Total :	40,938.83
							Total :	4,096.53

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Voucher List  
City of Blythe

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Bank code :	ap-dir	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
11430	2/3/2026	003035	VERIZON WIRELESS	6133500432	025299		WIRELESS SERVICE 12/14/2025-1/13/2026	196.14
11431	2/3/2026	003035	VERIZON WIRELESS	6133500433	025300		WIRELESS SERVICE 12/14/2025-1/13/2026	230.22
11432	2/3/2026	003035	VERIZON WIRELESS	6133500431	025301		WIRELESS SERVICE 12/14-1/13/2026	760.74
<b>18 Vouchers for bank code :</b>								<b>Bank total : 86,857.62</b>

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Voucher List  
City of Blythe

Bank code :	union	Bank code :	union	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Amount
80655	2/4/2026	007712 DALE, GARTH	020226				025275		PER AGREEMENT	6,000.00
80656	2/4/2026	008527 MANNING, TERESA	020826				025246		TRAVEL - PER DIEM 2/8-2/13/2026	245.00
80657	2/4/2026	008608 THOMPSON, JONATHAN	020826				025247		TRAVEL - PER DIEM 2/8-2/13/2026	245.00
80658	2/10/2026	007560 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC	1F1XWQ4JFGJP				025242		PARTS/SUPPLIES	206.63
80659	2/10/2026	000667 CITY OF BLYTHE	JAN 2026				025266		UTILITY SERVICES/CITY FACILITIES 1/2	4,591.52
80660	2/10/2026	003841 CIVICPLUS LLC	351515				025006		ONLINE CODE HOSTING	1,207.50
80661	2/10/2026	002331 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE	PE00000003187				025267		PSEC AGREEMENT 12/1-12/31/2025	11,080.16
80662	2/10/2026	005421 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE	PU00000006234				025268		FLEET SERVICES 12/1-12/31/2025	11,383.45
80663	2/10/2026	005603 CR&R INCORPORATED	000164227				024002		DISPOSAL SERVICES 1/1-1/31/2025	385.05
80664	2/10/2026	000037 CULLIGAN SOFT WATER SERVICE	0647046				023896		WATER SERVICE 1/24-2/20/2026	75.63
80665	2/10/2026	000084 D & L AUTO PARTS INC	224239				025089		PARTS/SUPPLIES	3.41
80666	2/10/2026	002791 FISHER WIRELESS SERVICES INC	236008				025269		REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES	127.50
80667	2/10/2026	005213 FRONTIER	17712026				025270		COMMUNICATIONS 1/7-2/6/2026	120.76
			7609219791				025270		COMMUNICATIONS 12/7/2025-1/6/2026	120.51

Voucher List  
City of Blythe

Bank code : union						
Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	
806667	2/10/2026	005213 FRONTIER	(Continued)	025271 025272 025011 025273 025274	COMMUNICATIONS 1/13-2/12/2026 COMMUNICATIONS 1/13-2/12/2026 COMMUNICATIONS 1/7-2/6/2026 COMMUNICATIONS 1/7-2/6/2026 COMMUNICATIONS 1/1-1/31/2026	141.26 158.12 6,553.91 566.41 3,299.55
					Total :	10,950.52
806668	2/10/2026	005978 FULTON DISTRIBUTING - SO CAL	686021 691729	025253 025254	SUPPLIES SUPPLIES	577.06 407.86
806669	2/10/2026	005295 KONICA MINOLTA	505514130 506056470	025279 025279	MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT 1/19-11/2026 MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT 1/21-12/31	101.86 254.65
806670	2/10/2026	005295 KONICA MINOLTA	9010727539	025278	MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT 12/1-12/31	1,697.27
806671	2/10/2026	000166 LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES	2885	025281	MEMBERSHIP DUES - COUNTY DIVISION	300.00 300.00
806672	2/10/2026	000166 LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES	45290-H0N4S6	025280	MEMBERSHIP DUES - CY2026	8,237.00
806673	2/10/2026	008201 OPTIMUM	1016111862	025282	INTERNET SERVICE 1/1-1/31/2026	650.00 650.00
806674	2/10/2026	008201 OPTIMUM	0771510132602 0771510132602	025284 025284 025284 025283 025283	INTERNET SERVICE 1/4-2/3/2026 INTERNET SERVICE 1/4-3/3/2026 COMMUNICATIONS 1/2-2/1/2026 COMMUNICATIONS 2/2-3/1/2026	206.32 206.32 267.29 268.13
806675	2/10/2026	008029 PALO VERDE PLUMBING CO	1870 1931	025285 025220	Total : REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SERVICES	948.06 324.50 133.79

watchlist 02/04/2026 9:11

## Voucher List City of Blythe

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Voucher List  
City of Blythe

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Bank code :	union	Voucher	Date	Vendor	Invoice	PO #	Description/Account	Total vouchers :	Amount
		49	Vouchers in this report						165,227.06

CLAIMS VOUCHER APPROVAL

I hereby certify that warrants numbered 11415-11432 and  
80655-80665 in the amount of \$165,227.06 have been  
reviewed for payment by the Director of Finance. I further  
certify Councilmembers of the City of Blythe, CA approved  
said warrants at the meeting of February 10, 2026.



Christa Elms  
Director of Finance

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CITY OF BLYTHE  
PAYROLL LISTING

Pay period 01/09/2026 to 01/09/2026  
Payday 01/09/2026

I hereby certify that payroll warrants numbered 55577 to 55578 in the amount of \$662.55 have been reviewed for payment by the Director of Finance. I further certify that Councilmembers of the City of Blythe, CA approved said warrants at the meeting of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Chris Euse  
Director of Finance

CITY OF BLYTHE  
PAYROLL LISTING

Pay period 12/19/2025 to 01/01/2026  
Payday 01/09/2026

I hereby certify that payroll warrants numbered 55579 to 55594, and direct deposits warrants numbered 64207 to 64286 in the amount of \$310,966.13 have been reviewed for payment by the Director of Finance. I further certify that Councilmembers of the City of Blythe, CA approved said warrants at the meeting of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Chris Evans

Chris Evans  
Director of Finance

CITY OF BLYTHE  
PAYROLL LISTING

Pay period 01/02/2026 to 01/15/2026  
Payday 01/23/2026

I hereby certify that payroll warrants numbered 55595 to 55608, and direct deposits warrants numbered 64287 to 64365 in the amount of \$307,753.38 have been reviewed for payment by the Director of Finance. I further certify that Councilmembers of the City of Blythe, CA approved said warrants at the meeting of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Chris Eluso  
Director of Finance

CITY OF BLYTHE

PAYROLL LISTING

Pay period 01/01/2026 to 01/31/2026  
Payday 02/05/2026

I hereby certify that payroll warrants numbered 55609 to 55620, and direct deposits warrants numbered 64366 to 64462 in the amount of \$80,712.27 have been reviewed for payment by the Director of Finance. I further certify that Councilmembers of the City of Blythe, CA approved said warrants at the meeting of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Christa Elhus  
Christa Elhus  
Director of Finance

**Minutes of the Blythe City Council Special Meeting**  
**January 9, 2026**

The January 9, 2026, Special Meeting of the Blythe City Council was called to order at 1:00pm in the Council Chambers by Mayor DeConinck. Also in attendance were Vice Mayor Rodriguez and Council Members Halby, Burton and Spraggins. Staff in attendance included: Interim City Manager and City Clerk Crecelius, City Treasurer and Finance Director Christa Elms and Acting Police Chief Walnoha. City Attorney Roberto participated via teleconference.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor DeConinck.

The Invocation was led by Council Member Burton.

**SPECIAL MEETING ITEMS:**

**1. Posting of the Agenda.**

The summary of agenda items were posted on the bulletin boards on the outside of the public entrance to the Council Chamber and near the inside entrance of the Council Chamber on Thursday, January 8, 2026.

**2. Authorization of an Emergency Bridge Loan to Palo Verde Healthcare District.**

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated things are changing rapidly and have slightly changed since the Agenda was posted yesterday. I believe it was about a year ago that we started receiving distressing reports from community members about the dire financial situation with the Palo Verde Healthcare District. After several of you started attending District Board Meetings the City In May, reached out to LAFCO requesting to dissolve the Palo Verde Healthcare District due to our concerns about their financial viability. In September, LAFCO directed staff that they would vote to dissolve the Board once the County had identified a successor agency. The County quickly put together a team that was on the ground trying to work with the hospital, providing supplies, establishing relationships with partner agencies, and assisting with medical billing. In the interim it had been operating on days of cash on hand that continually fluctuated. We have been under this looming threat that one day they were going to run out of cash, and the doors were going to close. As a City, and as the Hospital is a Special District, our hands are tied in what we can do. You are elected to oversee the City as the District Board is elected to manage the hospital. We've been working with our Lobbyist, our County partners, and State partners doing anything we can to assist. In November there were some critical dates and critical things that needed to happen for the hospital. By Wednesday, Thanksgiving week, the District needed to pay \$3.8 million to participate in the IGT program. By doing so, around January of this year, they would receive a return of almost \$9 million in critical funding needed to continue operations. I understand that they reached out to the County for a loan. The State told them the County could not make a loan for those purposes. After that, they went to a third party for a loan and made the IGT payment with the loan proceeds. It is my understanding the District had done something similar in the past with a local line of credit, and everything was fine. This week we started hearing that maybe those funds weren't coming, and that there were issues at the State level with them being able to use the loan to make that IGT payment. The City had

a call with the Conty on Wednesday, and that is when we decided to call today's Special Meeting to discuss a potential bridge loan for the hospital. They had an emergency meeting scheduled for this week. They did not have a quorum, and it was postponed to this evening at 5:00pm. The Agenda consisted of closure of the hospital by Saturday if they did not receive \$2 million. It's unclear where the \$2 million figure came from. Based on the County's information, their burn rate or what they need to operate for a week is \$330,000. That is where we derived the loan amount to give everyone some breathing room to work this out. Since the Agenda was posted we have learned that the State has denied their loan payment. That \$9 million payment they were expecting to receive this January is probably not coming. We are still working with our Lobbyist who is working with the Governor's Office. There was also a request made to our Federal partners as some of the rules and regulations come from the Federal Government and not necessarily the State. There is work to be done on that participation. In the interim we cannot have the doors close. Once it closes, the licensing is in jeopardy. The hospital would need to re-open to today's standards. It would be impossible with the current state of that facility. Staff recommends that you loan the hospital some bridge emergency funding. Staff needs direction on the terms of that loan agreement such as the interest rate. Currently the agreement has a 3% interest rate after a six-month grace period for repayment. This was drafted with the information that shortly they would receive that IGT payment. So we would basically loan them the money for a week, they would get their IGT payment, repay the loan and everyone would go on their way. We need direction on a repayment schedule. Do you want a final hard repayment schedule? As proposed, the loan has a final payment date of June 10, 2028. There are some strings with this money. Nobody is standing in line to offer the District any money. They have asked and been told no. Frankly; nobody has any trust that the money will be spent appropriately or be used in a fashion to correct the structural deficit at the hospital and put it on a path toward financial success. The County has been amazing since LAFCO put them on the spot to find a successor agency. They have been standing, willing, able and ready to assist. But they don't have all the access they need. To start on the path of rebuilding the community's faith and trust in our local healthcare system. Staff is recommending that this money be contingent upon the District Board authorizing the County to step in as the day-to-day management and operator of this hospital and if it's not the county, then a successor agency who has been vetted and approved by the County.

Mayor DeConinck asked if receiving the IGT payment was a done deal. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated it's a done deal unless there are concessions made at the State or Federal level to approve them using Loan funds for the program.

Council Member Halby asked about the formation of the Board if the County stepped in. Interim City Manager Crecelius stated this would be day-to-day management. We are not talking about Board make up. They do have two seats that need to be filled so that they can make decisions and take action to help keep the hospital open. This would basically be the CEO, CFO, CNO, the high-level management of the organization. The County has expertise, they have a health system with staff who are more than capable of running a hospital, doing medical billing, and sharing resources and supplies.

Council Member Halby asked if the County was willing to do this.

Mayor DeConinck stated it's not in writing; but in conversation with them, if we get it started, they are willing to keep moving forward.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez stated that mirrors his conversation with Supervisor Perez last week. I understand there are concerns in the community that once the Board gets this money, the Board can still do what they want and continue the same path. That is the gamble we are taking.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated this loan is a big risk to the City. There is a good chance we will never see this money again. As much as we have tried, they have pushed back on our assistance. As I've mentioned, we are all ready to help but we felt very much kept at arm's length. Through the holidays there was no information coming from anyone and unfortunately, I thought no news was good news. They had the loan; they submitted it to the IGT program, and they were waiting for reimbursement. Then this week when they posted the emergency meeting agenda, we learned we were in such dire straits and at the brink of closure. So, we are taking a big risk. We are asking the Board to look at it in the way of whether they are willing to give up some control to keep the hospital open or do they want to continue to do what they have been doing for the past year and close those hospital doors on Saturday at midnight? I think we are asking everyone for a lot of trust and faith and hopefully they will realize that again, nobody else is standing up offering money. This is the last-ditch effort to keep them going in the near future.

Mayor DeConinck stated the County did advance them some funding.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated yes, they advanced their property tax dollars, and they also cut short a lease the District had at a County facility to save them some money. I understand they have not paid the bill for quite some time, and the County is not going after them for that. The County has been doing what they can, but there is the issue of gift of public funds. We are public entities. We are the stewards of public money, and we have to make sure it's being spent in the interest of the taxpayers. There is a concern about giving it to the hospital under current management conditions.

Council Member Burton stated they need the money, but when you put the stipulations that you have and they deny it and the doors close, how much will it cost to re-open? Are we going to help them or not? If we get this week, for the lives of the community, that's a lot of time for someone's life to be saved. Every citizen is worth another week. If they say no, those are the lives of the people that could be lost if the doors close. After that week maybe we can come with other stipulations. I have a problem with the stipulations as their Board could say no.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated if they say no, I think it's very clear to the community where they stand. That they are more worried about themselves than keeping this hospital open. What are they willing to do for this community to keep this hospital open? Nobody is going to give them money unless something major changes.

Mayor DeConicnk stated to make this go forward the County is already in place. From then on, the County will be able to step up to the plate. This is something necessary to make it happen.

Council Member Spraggins stated there is a risk and if the current Board steps down, the County is more likely to step in and help secure the future of the community and hospital.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated it is the Palo Verde Health Care District. We have no authority. If they walk out at 11:59pm on Friday, I don't think that we can walk in at 12am and take over as the licensing as everything is still under the District. We have work together. In terms of how staff feels, how I believe the County feels, the only way to effectively help the hospital is in this manner. We are not saying take over the Board. There are two empty seats that should be filled sooner than later to get some business done. In terms of the management, working through the bankruptcy and the fiscal crisis, appropriate staffing, they need some help. They need to allow us to provide that help.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez stated this is not overnight. We have been at this since May, so seven months. We have tried every avenue not to be in this position. Nothing has changed in the last seven months. So there must come a time when something has to change for the situation to change. In our view this is at that time. This is taking a big risk of the City's finances to offer this up. But it does have to come with strings. They made an effort with the \$3 million loan, but there was interest with that that they now have to pay, financing fees. So the loan is more expensive than the day they took it and they are getting nothing in return. They are getting more and more into a hole. These are the decisions that brought them to this point and that is why everyone is hesitant to give them money. I am not saying they had an evil heart. They tried their best, but this is where it led. We are offering a different path.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated this year the adopted budget included just under \$500,000 in surplus funds. Revenues exceeded our projected expenditures by just under \$500,000. We are asking that you adopt a Budget Amendment to allocate those surplus funds to this loan. That means that between now and the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2026, we now have minimal reserves for anything that comes up. Obviously, you have a reserve policy, and you have funds if there is a complete disaster or emergency, but the City does not have deep pockets here. We ourselves took 10+ years to dig ourselves out of a bad financial situation. This one week is really a good faith effort by the City to step up to the plate. But the strings are there so that our partners will stand behind us and assist when our funds run out.

Council Member Halby would like it in writing that there will be some assurances from the Board to fill those two seats. That is a key component that the Board is back to full strength along with the strings attached to the County coming in with a management team. I don't see any other path forward. If we give them this money with no strings, we will be back here next Friday talking about another \$330,000 and that doesn't make an

sense. If we have the County to help move forward, that is the only viable way.

Public Comment:

Dr. Shalobei stated you don't have the money for this hospital to stay open for a year. It will take the County and a good management team and Board. This Board can't do it; it needs to be changed. The Board doesn't run the hospital, but they make all the decisions. If you don't have a good Board, it doesn't matter who the management is, they will fire them tomorrow. They spent \$2 million on a clinic to give their friend Sylvia a job. You can't give them money with no strings attached. It sets the wrong precedent. I do not trust a word that comes out of Carmela or Trina. If you bring in new administration from the County and the County fires someone Carmela loves, the administration will be fired, they are still the Board. Don't do anything without changing the board. If the Board does not change, nothing will change. They spend \$60,000 a month on the Clinic. Close the Clinic. Sandy Hudson told them to cancel the security contract for \$60,000 a month and they wouldn't do it. They won't take any measures to save the hospital money to save the hospital. This is the way they have been managing. I went to the Bankruptcy Court. I was the only creditor there. They lied to the court and said the IGT money would be fine. I told the Judge it didn't make sense that you would be able to use a loan for that program.

Sylvia Herrera, practitioner of the community clinic, stated she is not friends with Carmela. They keep me because I am cheap. I don't make \$60,000 a month. I see more patients. I work hard in the hospital. I have a petition that people have signed to keep the community clinic and hospital open.

Board President Carmela Garnica thanked Blythe for providing this opportunity to keep the doors open for a week. We need to remember that Medi-cal pays 9 cents on the dollar as reimbursement to the hospital. Big cities have other funding mechanisms to help them. In Blythe we say it's our hospital because it's our tax dollars. There is only \$200,000 going to that hospital. The District Library gets \$400,000. Regardless of who is on the Board, there needs to be an ongoing funding mechanism, so we do not go through this every 20 years. We need to find that funding source as the hospital is the most important infrastructure in Blythe. I am grateful the City is working in collaboration with us. Thank you for sharing the wealth so we can stay open.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez said ultimately the County will probably ask for the Board's resignation. Eventually they will want to change the governance. Are you willing to step down? I understand that Mrs. Hudson has a letter ready to go. I don't know about Mrs. Sartin. If that question is asked of you, are you willing to step down?

Board President Carmela Garnica stated anytime you give money in trade for elected officials its extortion. I am not going to answer that right now.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez stated I am not saying in exchange for the money. I am asking if the County asks you to put new governance in, that is what we are concerned of, that is what the committee's concern is. Answer to your constitution and the County will ask

this question and will not continue to move forward.

Board President Carmela Garnica stated there is a process for removal.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez stated I am putting you on the spot because we have an audience here, but it is going to come to that.

Board President Carmela Garnica stated we will cross that bridge when we get there. I can't answer that right now. It's not my place right now. My focus is to keep the hospital open. That is all I am worried about right now.

Mayor DeConinck stated we are working with the County, and they are trying to put the best foot forward. We are asking to put something in place to allow the County to come in to see what needs to be done and go by their recommendations. They might not think of something until they get involved. They are key as they have the knowledge.

Carmela Garnica stated as a community member are you referring to the County as RUH? Keep the hospital open. I can't speak as a Board member, but as a person I am open to any negotiation to help us stay open. We owe it to these families.

Dayna Dutton stated she has been at the hospital for a little over three years as an ER nurse. Thank you for stepping in and stepping up.

Leslie Jessop Watkins stated this day can go one of two ways and hope we have a hospital after midnight. There are cycles, positive, negative, trying, easy. Often, it's time for the cycle to end as life has had its sunset. As the prior owners of Blythe Ambulance, it was our responsibility to know when it was time to welcome the sunset after 32 years of our family serving the community. There were factors we were unable to overcome, political, regulatory, outright fraud and greed by others and the instability of our local hospital. That was 15 years ago. We are amazed it has taken this long for everything to come to fruition. Rory and I want to thank everyone at the Council seats, staff tables, online and in this room for the fortitude displayed and energy given in this last year. The attempts to bring light to this brewing disaster have not gone unnoticed. As we made that decision 15 years ago it is now time for the Board and Administration to acknowledge the same. The cycle has ended. It's time to let go and no longer be independent from the rest of the County. It is vital that we accept the City and County's support to have a viable emergency room and health care system in our community. The City and County are willing to assist and provide for the community. The County has the resources to maintain the operations of the Emergency room and affiliative services. The County understands the strain of our 911 EMS system and our volunteer fire department. If there is not an emergency room in Blythe, people will die. If they survive, they will have irreparable lifelong issues. It's time for the sunset of our existing Healthcare District Board and administration. We appreciate the opportunities that lie ahead if we as a community can acknowledge the sunset and accept a different path forward.

Dee Coats asked if the City could afford to lose the loan money. What will the County do

when they come in? Are they going to bring the finances in, will it be a full-blown hospital or an Emergency Room only? Does this include the clinic? The Clinic is a good option, but we can't afford both. We need the hospital more than the clinic right now. We do have IEHP and SAC Health that they can go to. If we turn it over to the County, at least we will have a hospital and emergency services. As Leslie said if we don't have a hospital, people will die and I don't want that on our shoulders as a community. It's time for Ms. Garnica and Trina to let go and let the County guide us from here. It's not yours personally, it's the community's and we need to work together to keep the hospital open.

City Clerk Crecelius stated written correspondence was received that will be included as part of the record.

Public Comment was closed.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated the current strings when started were a \$330,000 loan with the caveat that they would allow the County to come in and be the day-to-day management and operation of the hospital I assume the County will do a top down review. There are inefficiencies, I understand the Clinic see about 20 patients per day. Those patients can be absorbed by other providers. They are going to have to take a hard look at things and make some tough decisions. The Board is going to have to make some tough decisions they haven't yet made, just as the City did in 2008/09. After listening to the President of the Board speak, I am highly concerned they will be able to do that. You asked her a question she said she wasn't able to answer, but her response was her answer. She is not willing to make these decisions to keep the hospital open. At this time, I don't know what else we can do outside of what has been presented to give them another week. I spoke to Lena Wade, Counsel for the District yesterday. She said she would support the Board taking this loan with these terms It was with the understanding that the current CEO is out. Hopefully we have those assurances and if they agree to this loan, they will do what we ask to keep the hospital open past Saturday and past next week. Nobody is in line to give them any money unless they make these changes.

Council Member Burton stated he served on the Hospital Board himself. I want whatever it takes for the community. I don't want to sound like I am against it, but everyone's life is important.

Council Member Halby said we are hanging our necks out here. I have been on Council going on 9 years. It has been a lot of work getting our budget back to where we are now. Barely peeking out of the hole. Now this is going to set us back. That is why we are asking for concessions. Now we are on the line, and it may potentially sink us as a Council. For the betterment of the City, I am willing to take that risk, but this is why we are asking for these concessions.

The Council asked various questions about timing for the Loan Agreement, the PVHD accepting the loan, the County's response and Board make up.

The Mayor re-opened Public Comment.

Sandra Hudson stated she is a current Board Member. I have served over the years and have been back on the Board for the past year. I got on originally to help my community. I was there when the City loaned the money and when it was paid back. I would ask Carmela as the Board Chair to resign just like I am going to do so this community has the opportunity to have healthcare. It's not too much, put your pride aside and your ego down and let's do what is right for our community. We all live here and all have to survive. I appreciate your help.

Leslie Jessop Watkins stated in terms of the IGT and if that money comes back around, I have correspondence from the Department of Healthcare Services that states they declined to accept the District's IGT participation. The funds will be returned. They are taking it away for probably a year. I believe that door is closed. In October when they were discussing this loan, I researched the regulations and you can pre-ask questions. Several hospitals have asked this question over the years and have been told no. Those opinions are published. That could have precluded us from the \$400,000 spent on this loan that would not have been approved. It wasn't going to happen and now we have it in writing. They will give the loan money back, but where does it go? Does the lending company sweep it? Does it go into the General fund? That is a question that needs to be answered. This was highly preventable and the public spoke about this at the meeting and the Board laughed at us.

Dr. Shalobei stated they were clueless to what they approved. This Board and administration have no right to touch the money. It goes back to the lender along with the \$100,000 per month interest. This is the money they want you to give them now. If it were me, I would resign because I care about this community and hospital. She will not do that; she does not care. She only cares about her own self-interest.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated if you approve the Budget Amendment to fund the loan there are some terms of the Loan Agreement that I need direction on. The interest rate, the 6-month grace period and payment scheduled. As proposed, it's a 3% interest rate with 6-month grace period with maturity date and final payment due by June 10, 2028.

Council provide direction on the terms of the loan as presented and as approved by the City Attorney.

Mayor DeConinck asked if we could do this legally with a six-month grace period.

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated yes. Our concern is not the interest but it being a gift. But with a loan structure and interest it is not a gift of public funds. The Recommendation is to adopt Resolution No. 2026-001 to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$330,000 from the adopted fiscal year 2025/26 Budget surplus to provide gap funding to the Palo Verde Healthcare District, approve a loan in the amount of \$330,000 to Palo Verde Healthcare District and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute a loan agreement with the Palo Verde Healthcare District once reviewed and

approved by the City Attorney.

Council Member Halby stated the ideal situation is that we can give the Hospital an interest-free loan for 6 months. If we get our money back, we are good. We don't need to make money on the loan we just want to help.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez moved approval of staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Council Member Burton with a unanimous aye vote.

***RESOLUTION NO. 2026-001. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A BUDGET AMENDMENT OF \$330,000, APPROVING A LOAN OF \$330,000 TO THE PALO VERDE HEALTHCARE DISTRICT, AND AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LOAN AGREEMENT WITH THE PALO VERDE HEALTHCARE DISTRICT AND ALL RELATED DOCUMENTS IN A FORM APPROVED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY***

**ADJOURN:** The City Council meeting was adjourned at 2:28pm.

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Joseph DeConinck, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Mallory Crecelius , City Clerk

## **Minutes of the Blythe City Council Meeting**

### **January 13, 2026**

The January 13, 2026 meeting of the Blythe City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers by Mayor DeConinck. Also in attendance were Vice Mayor Rodriguez and Council Members Halby, Burton and Spraggins. Staff in attendance included: Interim City Manager and City Clerk Crecelius, City Attorney Roberto, City Treasurer and Finance Director Elms, Chief Building Official Brown, Public Works Director Elegores, Acting Police Chief Walnoha and Fire Chief Hasler.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor DeConinck.

The Invocation was led by Council Member Burton.

Mayor DeConinck asked for a moment of silence in memory of Joe Cota, former Recreation Center Director and involved community member.

#### **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION:**

City Attorney Roberto stated there was no reportable action.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** *Items on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted with one motion of the Council. If any item requires individual consideration, it will be removed from the consent calendar and acted upon separately.*

**1. Posting of the Agenda.**

The agenda was posted on the bulletin boards on the outside of the public entrance to the Council Chamber and near the inside entrance of the Council Chamber and on the City's website on Friday, January 9, 2026.

**2. Approval of the Warrant Register.**

Recommendation: Approve **1/13/26**, warrants numbered 11321 through 11368 and 80491 through 80545 in the amount of \$919,881.94; **1/13/26**, Utility Billing Refund warrants numbered 80546 through 80557 in the amount of \$1,573.64, and **1/13/26**, warrants numbered 11369 through 11389 and 80558 through 80596 in the amount of \$208,073.01.

**3. Approval of the Payroll Register.**

Recommendation: Approve **1/13/26**, warrants numbered 55525 through 55528 and Direct Deposits warrants numbered 63906 through 63907 in the amount of \$22,559.82; **1/13/26**, warrants numbered 55529 and Direct Deposits warrants numbered 63908 through 63935 in the amount of \$154,407.88; **1/13/26**, warrants numbered 55530 through 55545 and Direct Deposit warrants numbered 63936 through 64014 in the amount of \$303,117.41; **1/13/26**, warrants numbered 55547 through 55561, and Direct Deposits warrants numbered 64015 through 64093 in the amount of \$332,707.15; **1/13/26**, warrants numbered 55562 through 55564 and Direct Deposits warrants numbered 64094 through 64108 in the amount of \$31,140.60, and **1/13/26**, warrants numbered 55565 through 55576 and Direct Deposits warrants numbered 64109 through 64206 in the amount of \$97,095.19.

**4. Minutes of the December 9, 2025 City Council Meeting.**

Recommendation: Approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2025, Meeting.

**5. City of Blythe Permits Issued in the Month of December 2025.**

Recommendation: Receive and file the monthly report.

**6. City of Blythe Fire Department Monthly Activity Report for December 2025.**

Recommendation: Receive and file the monthly report.

7. **City of Blythe Police Department Monthly Activity Report for December 2025.**  
Recommendation: Receive and file the monthly report.
8. **Quality of Life Program Activity Report for December 2025.**  
Recommendation: Receive and file the monthly report.
9. **Investment Report for Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2025-2026.**  
Recommendation: Accept and file the Quarterly Investment Report.
10. **Authorize Acceptance of Work – Community Center Floor Repair Project.**  
Recommendation: Authorize the Interim City Manager to accept the work performed by MT Construction Team, Inc., for the project known as the Community Center Floor Repair Project once completed to the satisfaction of the Chief Building Official, authorize the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion and authorize staff to release project bonds once appropriate.
11. **Adoption of the 2025 California Codes.**  
Recommendation: Adopt Ordinance No. 945-25:

*ORDINANCE NO. 945-25. AN OR OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING TITLE 15 (BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION) OF THE BLYTHE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE 2025 CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARD CODE, WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS, AND FINDING THE ORDINANCE IS EXEMPT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15061(B)(3) (COMMON SENSE EXEMPTION)*

Council Member Spraggins asked to pull item No. 8.

Public comment. Rodney Tuthill, Assistant District Attorney with the Eastern Region introduced himself to Council and made comments related to his work with the Blythe Police Department.

Council Member Burton moved approval of Consent Calendar items 1-7 and 9-11. The motion was seconded by Vie Mayor Rodriguez with a unanimous aye vote.

**Quality of Life Program Activity Report.** Council Member Spraggins asked Acting Chief Walnoha to read the Quality-of-Life Program Report for December 2025.

No public comment. The item was received and filed.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING: None**

#### **CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

**Palo Verde Hospital Ad Hoc Committee Update.** Interim City Manager Crecelius stated at our Special Meeting on Friday, we met to discuss terms of a loan for \$330,000 to provide a week of operating capital for the Hospital so the doors did not close at midnight this past Saturday. The City Attorney prepared the agreement and provided it to the District prior to their meeting Friday evening. At that meeting, the Board provided authorization for the execution of that agreement once reviewed and approved by their Counsel. Last Sunday night we had an executed agreement. The funding had some strings, the District had to allow the County to come in, in a management role. If it wasn't going to be the County, the management company needed to be reviewed and approved by the County to take over the management and operation of Palo Verde Hospital. The second requirement was for the Board to fill the vacant seats. We've had discussions with the County related to this, and as of yesterday, the County was still waiting to hear from the District. I reached out to District Counsel, and she shared that a meeting was scheduled for yesterday evening. It's my understanding that the County team had a meeting scheduled today and were going to circle back with the District tonight at 6:30pm. We are all

waiting to see what happens, if the District will allow the County in and honor their commitment to the City.

Vice Mayor Rodriguez stated the hospital put out their Agenda for tomorrow and there is a presentation from a Doctor out of El Centro on the Agenda. A recall petition was filed today on Director Sartin. Those signatures will need to be validated. Board President Carmela Garnica is supposed to be on a radio program this evening at 6:30pm.

Mayor DeConinck complemented the City Attorney on getting this done and the timeline over the weekend to put this together before it was executed late Sunday evening.

Public comment. Leslie Jessop-Watkins stated over this last week Mallory, the City Attorney, Johnny, everyone has been so dedicated without question with diligence and profound process in wanting to do right for what is our community. I cannot thank everyone enough for the professionalism, late hours and resources. I appreciate that, and I know everyone in our community does, regardless of the outcome.

Scott Lord, Business Manager of Mercy Air stated we are here to open a base at the airport to have a local asset in the community. We met with the hospital a few years ago and understand the need to have an asset here. We are ready to get going, and it has been a lot of work up to this point. We will service Riverside County for scene calls and do interfacility transfers to the closest hospital, which would be Desert Regional for trauma. There are concerns with the out-of-pocket costs. Our average out of pocket cost is \$51.06. This is after the co-pay. We are in network with Medicare and Medical. There is also the No Surprise Act, which passed in 2021 where we cannot balance bill the patient.

The item was received and filed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.** Finance Director Elms stated the City is required to complete an independent audit of its financial statements at the end of each year. The Audit for 2024/25 was conducted by CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) and is concluded. It is the City's policy to present the results of the audit in an open meeting. I will turn the floor over to Daphney Munoz with CLA.

Daphney Munoz, Principal with CliftonLarsonAllen presented the results of the audit for year end June 30, 2025. We conducted the audit of the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. We also provided Audited Financial Statements for the Blythe Financing Authority. As the City spent more than \$750,000 in federal funds we will perform a Single Audit. This is a compliance audit. The Auditor's opinion is an unmodified Opinion. This is a clean opinion. We considered the City's internal controls in the financial reporting. If we find anything that we think merits attention, it will be included in the report. However, we did not have any findings, or nothing to report. There were no difficulties during the audit or no disagreements with management. Management has provided us with a representation letter which represents that no information has been withheld as part of the audit process.

Council Member Halby thanked the Finance Director and her staff and Mrs. Munoz and her team. The Finance Committee reviewed this earlier today. We appreciate all the diligence and hard work.

No public comment. The item was received and filed.

**Report on Emergency Action Taken by Interim City Manager for the Emergency Repairs to the Sinkhole, Sewer Main and Manholes Near 900 N. Broadway.** Public Works Director Elegores stated this is a report on the emergency action taken by the Interim City Manager for the emergency action taken to repair the sink hole, manhole and sewer main near 900 N. Broadway. This fiscal impact is \$175,210 from the sewer utility fund. In late December 2025, staff received a report that there was a sinkhole located across from 892 N. Broadway. Based upon further investigation by staff, in consultation with Cholla Construction, staff determined the sinkhole was caused by a collapsed sewer line. The collapsed sewer line is resulting in sewer waste backup from residents discharging to that approximately 3,000 linear foot segment of the sewer line. Staff have been manually pumping the 10 manholes along this segment. As of December 31, 2025, a portion of the southbound lane of N. Broadway was closed as a safety precaution due to the sink hole located in the right of way. Public Contract Code section 1102 defines an “emergency” as “a sudden, unexpected occurrence that poses a clear and imminent danger, requiring immediate action to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, or essential public services.” The sinkhole in the roadway caused by the collapsed sewer line poses a health and safety issue. Further, the collapsed sewer line is resulting in sewer waste backup in the manholes located near the collapsed sinkhole. Such backup could result in sewage leaks, which are a public health and safety issue and could result in fines from the State. The project generally consists of emergency repairs to the collapsed sewer main, sinkhole, and manholes immediately upstream and downstream from the collapsed sewer main near 900 N. Broadway. Cholla Construction’s scope of work includes providing vacuum tanker trucks to evacuate the collection system upstream of the repair to facilitate the plugging and isolation of the repair area, removal of asphalt paving and restoring the road section as necessary, providing labor, equipment, and materials to repair up to 20 lineal feet of 8” sewer main in the vicinity of the sinkhole and providing labor, equipment, and materials to rehabilitate and epoxy-coat two manholes. Staff will provide support to Cholla Construction during the project. Therefore, it is recommended Council review the emergency action taken by the Interim City Manager for the emergency sinkhole, sewer main and manhole repairs near 900 N. Broadway. It is further recommended that the Council authorize the Interim City Manager to accept the work when completed to the satisfaction of Public Works Department staff and authorize the City Clerk to file the Notice of Completion upon such acceptance and to release project bonds once appropriate.

No public comment. Vice Mayor Rodriguez moved approval of staff’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Council Member Burton with a unanimous aye vote.

**ORAL REPORTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

2011 E. Donlon Street made comments on the water/salt issue and asked about the status.

The owner of Comfort Inn and Suites asked how long we are going to exist without softeners. Was there an Ordinance passed on the softeners?

Interim City Manager Crecelius stated yes, I believe Section 13.08 of the Blythe Municipal Code talks about salinity and water. However, to follow up Mayor, you asked for an item to be placed on the Agenda to discuss this. I have asked the Public Works Director to prepare that staff report for the February meeting. Until the State allows us to increase the allowable tds limits our hands are tied because violating it would result in hefty fines. I do want to engage with the State to see what we can do for these business owners.

Mayor DeConinck stated we are working on it. Things were put into place back in the day and the State came in and was going to fine us.

**ADJOURN:** The City Council meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

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Joseph DeConinck, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Mallory Crecelius, City Clerk

2/5/2026  
11:05:22AM

**City of Blythe  
PERMITS ISSUED**  
**For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026**

Page 1

Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
BP2601-003 1/6/2026	BURNPERMIT FINALED	2198 RIVIERA DRIVE 875270010 Permit Name Tumbleweeds & Piled Wood Waste/Brush	MICHAEL & KATHERINE PARR	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total for: BURNPERMIT</b>				<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
B2601-009 1/15/2026	DEMO-INT ISSUED	365 NORTH FIRST STREET 845071013 Permit Name Remove all Fire Damage	FREEDOM FAMILY TRUST M T CONSTRUCTION TEAM	5,000.00	181.00	181.00
B2601-013 1/21/2026	DEMO-INT ISSUED	449 NORTH SEVENTH STREET 845091020 Permit Name Exploratory Demo of Fire Damage	MCLP ASSET COMPANY INC D'OROS CONSTRUCTION	5,000.00	181.00	181.00
<b>Total for: DEMO-INT</b>				<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>362.00</b>	<b>362.00</b>

Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
B2601-017 1/27/2026	ELEC ISSUED	129 SOUTH SECOND STREET 848062016 Permit Name Various Elec Improvements	FERNANDO & MANUELA GUEI JOHNSON CYLE ELECTRIC INC	96,700.00	653.08	653.08
<b>Total for: ELEC</b>				<b>96,700.00</b>	<b>653.08</b>	<b>653.08</b>

Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
B2512-022 1/8/2026	ENCROACHMENT ISSUED	2 miles W of Defrain to Intake Blv Permit Name 6th Ave Resurfacing Project	CITY RIGHT OF WAY GRANITE CONSTRUCTION CO.	6,608,000.00	0.00	0.00
B2512-009 1/14/2026	ENCROACHMENT ISSUED	100 block NORTH PALM DRIVE Permit Name #2043650472, Service replacement	CITY OF BLYTHE THE GAS COMPANY	0.00	687.00	687.00
<b>Total for: ENCROACHMENT</b>				<b>6,608,000.00</b>	<b>687.00</b>	<b>687.00</b>

Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
B2512-030 1/26/2026	EVC FINALED	241 SOUTH NEIGHBOURS BOU 824142015 Permit Name [2] Chargers & ADA Porta Potty	DRIVE BLYTHE LLC PAR WESTERN LINE CONTRAC	24,000.00	1,244.36	1,244.36
<b>Total for: EVC</b>				<b>24,000.00</b>	<b>1,244.36</b>	<b>1,244.36</b>

Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
PERM133						

City of Blythe  
PERMITS ISSUED

For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026

B2409-019 1/16/2026	EXCAV	100 block SOUTH LOVEKIN BL	CITY OF BLYTHE RIGHT OF WAY NETWORK CABLING SYSTEM	0.00	687.00	687.00
	ISSUED	Permit Name	Emergency Repair			

<b>Total for: EXCAV</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>687.00</b>	<b>687.00</b>
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Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
B2601-011 1/20/2026	MECH	475 WEST RICE STREET 848024031	ERIN RENEE BARNES STEADFAST HEATING AND AIR	4,000.00	269.00	269.00
	ISSUED	Permit Name	Changeout Condenser & Evap Coil			

<b>Total for: MECH</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>269.00</b>	<b>269.00</b>
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Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
B2601-020 1/26/2026	OTHER	660 NORTH NINTH STREET 857065002	CHEYENNE GRIFFIN	20,000.00	181.00	181.00
	ISSUED	Permit Name	DEMO OF POOL			

B2601-010 1/23/2026	OTHER	127 NORTH BROADWAY 845133018	HECTOR & ELSA GOMEZ OWNER	5,500.00	320.08	320.08
	ISSUED	Permit Name	Demo & Rebuild Exterior Stairs			

B2601-003 1/5/2026	OTHER	1020 EAST BARNARD STREET 851061015	RENOVA PROPERTIES BURROW CONSTRUCTION	3,000.00	181.00	181.00
	FINALED	Permit Name	Pool Demo & Fence Work			

B2601-018 1/23/2026	OTHER	951 EAST CHANSLORWAY 857075008	HARKINSON FAMILY LIVING TOM STEPHENSON CONSTRUC	13,500.00	296.11	296.11
	FINALED	Permit Name	Reroof & Plumbing			

<b>Total for: OTHER</b>	<b>42,000.00</b>	<b>978.19</b>	<b>978.19</b>
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Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
B2601-021 1/29/2026	PATIO	380 NORTH LOVEKIN BOULEV 845022032	OSCAR & SERGIO RODRIGUEZ	8,412.80	298.84	298.84
	ISSUED	Permit Name	WOOD CARPORT WITH METAL ROOF SHEETS			

B2601-004 1/5/2026	PATIO	380 SOUTH SIXTH STREET 848171026	JUDITH L RUBIN OWNER	1,835.52	265.70	265.70
	ISSUED	Permit Name	Replace front porch			

<b>Total for: PATIO</b>	<b>10,248.32</b>	<b>564.54</b>	<b>564.54</b>
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Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
B2601-005 1/7/2026	PLUMB WATER HEATER	321 NORTH SOLA AVENUE 851022018	LYNNETTE R GONZALEZ LUSK PLUMBING	100.00	38.00	38.00
	ISSUED	Permit Name	WATER HEATER			

2/5/2026  
11:05:22AM

**City of Blythe  
PERMITS ISSUED  
For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026**

Page 3

B2512-011 1/16/2026	PLUMB WATER HEATER FINALED	835 WEST FOURTEENTH AVEN 836142011 Permit Name WATER HEATER	CHEATWOOD ROY D 2013 REV CRECELIUS INC	991.00	38.00	38.00
B2512-034 1/16/2026	PLUMB WATER HEATER ISSUED	375 SOUTH LOVEKIN BOULEV 836141013 Permit Name WATER HEATER	DDO CAL INC & ZEE PROPERTY CRECELIUS INC	5,300.00	38.00	38.00
B2601-019 1/27/2026	PLUMB WATER FINALED	486 NORTH SECOND STREET 845063002 Permit Name NEW WATER LINE	VICTORIA ALEXANDER LUSK PLUMBING	1,000.00	234.00	234.00
<b>Total for: PLUMB</b>				<b>7,391.00</b>	<b>348.00</b>	<b>348.00</b>

Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
B2601-001 1/2/2026	RERF TEAR OFF ISSUED	349 EAST CHANSLORWAY 842100008 Permit Name TEAR OFF, 2100 sq ft	GEORGE & LAVONNE HALBY MORENO CONSTRUCTION & B	10,000.00	226.41	226.41
B2601-008 1/9/2026	RERF TEAR OFF FINALED	1349 SAN GORGONIO STREET 836153018 Permit Name TEAR OFF, 1800 sq ft	ANGEL YAEL LARA OWNER	8,000.00	191.53	191.53
B2601-002 1/2/2026	RERF OVER EXIST FINALED	479 NORTH ACACIA STREET 851141002 Permit Name OVER EXISTING, 4000 sq ft	LINDA J SANCHEZ OWNER	4,500.00	182.59	182.59
B2601-012 1/21/2026	RERF TEAR OFF ISSUED	1111 WEST HOBSONWAY 836080057 Permit Name TEAR OFF, 3500 sq ft	HURST LIVING TRUST OWNER	10,000.00	227.91	227.91
<b>Total for: RERF</b>				<b>32,500.00</b>	<b>828.44</b>	<b>828.44</b>

Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
RC2312-005 1/27/2026	RIVCOUNTY ISSUED	12501 22ND AVENUE 872130001 Permit Name GRADING	CHAFFIN HOLDINGS INC TBD	212,496.77	2,762.12	2,762.12
<b>Total for: RIVCOUNTY</b>				<b>212,496.77</b>	<b>2,762.12</b>	<b>2,762.12</b>

Permit No./Issued	Type/Sub-Type/Status	Site Address and Parcel No.	Owner and Contractor	Valuation	Fees	Paid
B2507-007 1/26/2026	SOLAR BATTERY APPROVED	132 MULE DEER COURT 824170052 Permit Name Ground Mount PV + ST & MPU	HERNANDEZ & KIDD-HERNAN FREEDOM FOREVER SOUTHE	32,000.00	1,205.66	1,205.66
B2601-006 1/28/2026	SOLAR APPROVED	601 PARKER PLACE 842025017 Permit Name ROOF SOLAR PV + ST	CRAIG & FRANCES KENNEDY LGCY INSTALLATION SERVICE	11,257.40	692.86	692.86
B2601-007 1/28/2026	SOLAR APPROVED	321 ALICE LANE 848162003 Permit Name ROOF SOLAR PV + ST	MALDONADO & BALTAZAR LGCY INSTALLATION SERVICE	10,453.30	844.86	844.86

**City of Blythe  
PERMITS ISSUED  
For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026**

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Total for: SOLAR	53,710.70	2,743.38	2,743.38
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**27 Permits Issued from 1/1/2026 Thru 1/31/2026**

Total Valuation:	\$7,101,046.79
Total Fees:	\$12,127.11
Total Fees Paid:	\$12,127.11

**City of Blythe**  
**Projects by Type, Status and Date**  
**For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026**

**PLANNER NAME: RICKY AGUILAR**

Project Number	Project Type Owner Name Site Address	Project Name	Date Applied Date Expired	Status of Project Date Approved Date Closed
G2601-001	GRAFFITI TRUST OF WARD DONALD RAY DTD 1937 EAST HOBSONWAY	covered graffiti	1/6/2026	COMPLETED
	<b>Comments:</b>			
G2601-002	GRAFFITI ARTEM ENTERPRISES LLC 1901 EAST HOBSONWAY	covered graffiti	1/6/2026	COMPLETED
	<b>Comments:</b>			
G2601-003	GRAFFITI OPPORTUNITY ENTERPRISES SD LLC 945 EAST HOBSONWAY	covered graffiti	1/6/2026	COMPLETED
	<b>Comments:</b>			
G2601-004	GRAFFITI 300 block of E DONLON ST	service metter	1/6/2026	COMPLETED
	<b>Comments:</b>			
G2601-005	GRAFFITI 200 block of E HOBSONWAY	city trash can	1/7/2026	COMPLETED
	<b>Comments:</b>			
G2601-006	GRAFFITI THOMAS FARRAGE TRUST 248 WEST HOBSONWAY	covered graffiti	1/7/2026	COMPLETED
	<b>Comments:</b>			
G2601-007	GRAFFITI THOMAS M. FARRAGE 138 SOUTH MAIN STREET	covered graffiti	1/7/2026	COMPLETED
	<b>Comments:</b>			
G2601-008	GRAFFITI DAVID LAMB & 425 WEST CHANSLORWAY	covered graffiti	1/7/2026	COMPLETED
	<b>Comments:</b>			
G2601-009	GRAFFITI 100 block of N 1ST ST	bus stop	1/7/2026	COMPLETED
	<b>Comments:</b>			

City of Blythe  
Projects by Type, Status and Date  
For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026

G2601-010 GRAFFITI covered graffiti COMPLETED  
DEAN LESTER 1/7/2026  
508 EAST HOBSONWAY

Comments:

G2601-011 GRAFFITI stop sign COMPLETED  
1000 block of W BARNARD ST 1/13/2026

Comments:

G2601-012 GRAFFITI stop sign COMPLETED  
900 block of W BARNARD ST 1/13/2026

Comments:

G2601-013 GRAFFITI fire hydrn COMPLETED  
100 block of S 7TH ST 1/13/2026

Comments:

G2601-014 GRAFFITI stop sign COMPLETED  
100 alley way of E DEKEMA ST 1/13/2026

Comments:

G2601-015 GRAFFITI stop sign COMPLETED  
100 block of N SOLANO AVE 1/13/2026

Comments:

G2601-016 GRAFFITI fire hydrn COMPLETED  
100 block of N SOLANO AVE 1/13/2026

Comments:

G2601-017 GRAFFITI covered graffiti COMPLETED  
AUTOMOTIVE INVESTMENT GROUP 1/14/2026  
500 WEST HOBSONWAY

Comments:

G2601-018 GRAFFITI covered graffiti COMPLETED  
LA CASITA CAFE INC 1/14/2026  
830 WEST RICE STREET

Comments:

G2601-019 GRAFFITI covered graffiti COMPLETED  
SEVENTH & VALLEY JOINT VENTURE 1/14/2026  
201 SOUTH LOVEKIN BOULEVARD

Comments:

**City of Blythe**  
**Projects by Type, Status and Date**  
**For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026**

G2601-020 GRAFFITI covered graffiti 1/14/2026 COMPLETED  
890 HOBSON LLC  
890 EAST HOBSONWAY

**Comments:**

G2601-021 GRAFFITI bus stop 1/14/2026 COMPLETED  
100 block of N MAIN ST

**Comments:**

G2601-022 GRAFFITI speed limit sign 1/14/2026 COMPLETED  
300 block of E DEKEMA ST

**Comments:**

G2601-023 GRAFFITI playground 1/14/2026 COMPLETED  
CITY OF BLYTHE  
400 BLOCK NORTH BROADWAY

**Comments:**

G2601-024 GRAFFITI stop sign 1/14/2026 COMPLETED  
1300 block of TESORO WAY

**Comments:**

G2601-025 GRAFFITI cement baracade 1/21/2026 COMPLETED  
400 block of W DONLON ST

**Comments:**

G2601-026 GRAFFITI no right turn sign 1/21/2026 COMPLETED  
300 block of S COMMERCIAL ST

**Comments:**

G2601-027 GRAFFITI cement baracade 1/21/2026 COMPLETED  
300 block of S MAIN ST

**Comments:**

G2601-028 GRAFFITI covered graffiti 1/21/2026 COMPLETED  
OPPORTUNITY ENTERPRISES SD LLC  
945 EAST HOBSONWAY

**Comments:**

G2601-029 GRAFFITI covered graffiti 1/21/2026 COMPLETED  
UJAS BLYTHE  
825 WEST HOBSONWAY

**Comments:**

**City of Blythe**  
**Projects by Type, Status and Date**  
**For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026**

G2601-030	GRAFFITI BLYTHE LODGE NO 1799 BPOE 244 WEST HOBSONWAY	covered graffiti	1/23/2026	COMPLETED
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**Comments:**

G2601-031	GRAFFITI FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GO 141 SOUTH WILLOW AVENUE	covered graff	1/23/2026	COMPLETED
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**Comments:**

**Total Projects for RICKY AGUILAR For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026: 31**

**City of Blythe**  
**Projects by Type, Status and Date**  
**For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026**

**PLANNER NAME:**

Project Number	Project Type	Project Name	Date Applied	Status of Project
	Owner Name		Date Expired	Date Approved
	Site Address			Date Closed
VP2601-001	VACANT PROPERTY MCLP ASSET COMPANY INC 449 NORTH SEVENTH STREET		1/6/2026	RECIEVED

**Comments:**

**Total Projects for For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026: 1**

**City of Blythe**  
**Projects by Type, Status and Date**  
**For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026**

**PLANNER NAME: MALLORY CRECELIUS**

Project Number	Project Type	Project Name	Date Applied	Status of Project
	Owner Name		Date Expired	Date Approved
	Site Address			Date Closed
PRC2601-001	PRC	Lovekin Industrial Parking & Storage	1/21/2026	STAFF REVIEWING

**Comments: ALSO INCLUDES APN 869042008, 670 SOUTH SOLANO AVENUE**

**Total Projects for MALLORY CRECELIUS For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026: 1**

2/5/2026  
11:19:12AM

**City of Blythe**  
**Cases Opened (By Type)**  
**For the Period 1/1/2026 thru 1/31/2026**

<b>Type of Case</b>	<b>Number opened</b>
ANIMAL	0
AVA	0
BLDG	0
COMPLAINT	1
DEBRIS	6
DUMPING	5
FAULTY SEWER	0
FIRE	1
GRAFFITI	0
HAZMAT	0
SHOPPING CARTS	0
SIDEWALK	0
TRANSIENTS	0
TRASH	0
VERMIN	0
WATER	0
WEED	7
WITNESS IN FIELD	1
ZONING	0

**Total Cases Opened: 21**

*Cases closed in January: 32*

*Remaining active cases: 261*

**CITY OF BLYTHE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**MONTHLY INCIDENT AND ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**January 2026**

<u>Incident</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public Assist / Rescue / Medical Aid	39
Structure	2
Vehicle Fire	1
Brush, Grass, Leaves	3
Other	2
<b>Total # of Incidents</b>	<b>47</b>

<u>Activity</u>	
Drills	4
Staff Meeting	1
Races	2
<b>Total Activities</b>	<b>7</b>

**Respectfully Submitted**

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**Ronald Hasler, Fire Chief**



## BLYTHE POLICE DEPARTMENT

240 North Spring Street • Blythe, CA 92225 • (760) 922-6111

*Keith Walnoha, Acting Chief of Police*



### Monthly Incident and Activity Report

January 2026

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<u>Incident</u>	<u>Total</u>
Resident Burglaries	0
Commercial Burglaries	1
Vehicle Burglaries	0
Domestic Violence	6
Battery	1
Grand Theft	0
Petty Theft	3
Shoplifting	1
Traffic Collision-Injury	1
Traffic Collision-Non injury	2
Traffic Collision-Hit and Run	0
Driving Under the Influence	4
Vandalisms	9
Trespassing	0
Prowlers	0
Public Intoxication	6
Alarm	29
Abandoned Vehicle Abatement	5
AVA Vehicles Tows	0
Vehicle Red Tags	7
Hospital Helicopter Landings	9
Documented Police Reports	133
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>1581</b>



## **BLYTHE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

240 North Spring Street • Blythe, CA 92225 • (760) 922-6111

*Keith Walnoha, Interim Chief of Police*



## **Quality of Life Program**

The statistics listed below reflect total numbers of the Quality-of-Life Program for January 2026.

<b><u>Quality of Life Detail:</u></b>	<b>January</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
People contacted.	99	99
People given bus tickets and left town to seek resources elsewhere.	2	2
People assisted with obtaining their ID or Social Security Cards to register for housing and assistance.	2	2
People transported to or referred to DPSS/Mental Health.	87	87
People detained under 5150 Welfare and institutions Code and transported for treatment.	6	6
People sent to rehab.	1	1
People sent for substance abuse.	1	1
People picked up by a family member and taken home out of town.	0	0
Patrol assisted	5	5
Enforcement action taken(Arrests and Warrants)	0	0
<b><u>Traffic Detail:</u></b>		
Citations issued for various traffic related violations.	0	0
Traffic enforcement/ vehicle stops resulting in warnings for minor violations.	1	1
Vehicles stored	0	0
Complaints/Red/Yellow tags	2	2



## CITY OF BLYTHE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

### STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** February 10, 2026

**SUBJECT:** 495 N. Main St. – Proposed Lien for Costs of Abatement

**PRESENTED BY:** Mallory Crecelius, Interim City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Brittany Roberto, City Attorney

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that Council:

1. Determine that the proposed lien in the amount of \$112,907.11 for the costs of abating the public nuisances at 495 N. Main St. become a lien against 495 N. Main St.
2. Direct staff to record the lien.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Potential recovery of \$112,907.11 for the costs of abatement.

**BACKGROUND:** In September 2024, the City conducted a nuisance abatement hearing regarding various violations of the Blythe Municipal Code (BMC) that constitute public nuisance conditions at 495 N. Main St. Staff provided notice of the hearing in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 8.28 of the BMC. The property owner did not appear at the hearing. Following the hearing, the Hearing Officer determined that the BMC violations constituted public nuisances and ordered the property owner to ensure that all nuisance conditions were abated within 14 calendar days of the order. Staff provided the property owner with notice of the Hearing Officer's Findings and Order.

The property owner did not abate the nuisance conditions within the time prescribed. In April 2025, the City obtained an abatement warrant to abate the nuisance conditions. The work was performed by R&L Watkins.

In September 2025, the City conducted a hearing regarding the costs of abatement, which totaled \$114,263.74, including City staff time totaling \$2,713.23, attorneys' fees totaling \$5,000.51, lead and asbestos testing fees totaling \$1,350.00, and abatement services performed by R&L Watkins totaling \$105,200.00. Staff provided the property owner with notice of the hearing in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 8.28 of the BMC. The property owner appeared at the hearing and objected to the asbestos report and costs of abatement. Following the hearing, the Hearing Officer reduced City staff time expenses from \$2,713.23 to \$1,356.30, reducing the costs of abatement to \$112,907.11. The Hearing Officer's Order Confirming the Costs of Abatement indicated that the costs of abatement shall be assessed as a special assessment against the property in accordance with California Government Code section 38773.5 and directed the property owner to pay the costs of abatement within 30 calendar days, or a notice of special assessment would be filed with the County Auditor. The Order also outlined appeal procedures. City staff provided the property owner with notice of the Order. No appeal was filed. To date the property owner has not paid the costs of abatement.

**STAFF REPORT:** Due to the time when the Hearing Officer's Order on the costs of

abatement was issued, the soonest the special assessment could be placed on the tax roll is the 26-27 fiscal year. Staff does not expect to be able to file the notice of assessment until approximately July 1, 2026. Due to the potential delay in being able to file and record the notice of special assessment, staff researched other avenues for recording a lien against the property.

California Government Code section 54988 (“Section 54988”) provides that in addition to any other remedy provided by law, the legislative body of a city is permitted to collect any fee, cost or charge incurred in the abatement of public nuisances. Section 54988 further provides that if the fee, cost, or charge has not been paid within 45 days of notice thereof, a city may collect the fee, cost, or charge by making the amount of the unpaid fee, cost, or charge a proposed lien against the property that is the subject of the enforcement activity. Section 54988 requires a city to provide the owner of the property with written notice in plain language of the proposed lien, a description of the basis for the amounts comprising the lien, a minimum of 45 days after notice to pay the fee, cost, or charge, and an opportunity to appear before the legislative body and be heard regarding the amount of the proposed lien.

On November 21, 2025, City staff provided the property owner with a Notice of Proposed Lien in accordance with the requirements of Section 54988. The Notice provided that the owner had until January 5, 2026 to pay the costs of abatement. The Notice also provided the property owner with an opportunity to request a hearing before the City Council, and informed the property owner that if the owner did not timely request a hearing, the owner would be deemed to have waived his right to contest the amount of the lien. The property owner did not request a hearing. As noted above, to date, the property owner has not paid the costs of abatement.

Pursuant to Section 54988, if the City Council determines that the proposed lien shall become a lien, the City Council may cause the lien to be recorded. Upon recordation, the lien attaches to the property and has the same force, priority, and effect as a judgment lien.

Therefore, staff recommends that Council determine that the proposed lien in the amount of \$112,907.11 for the costs of abating the public nuisances at 495 N. Main St. become a lien against 495 N. Main St. It is further recommended that Council direct staff to record the lien.

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**ATTACHMENTS:** Notice of Proposed Lien

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED LIEN

DATE: November 21, 2025

TO: Anthony Rossetti  
2430 Piedmont Drive  
Riverside, CA 92506

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54988, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED of a proposed lien for the actual costs incurred by the City of Blythe ("City") to abate public nuisances at 495 N. Main Street, Blythe, CA 92225 (the "Property"). Under the authority of Chapter 8.28 of the Blythe Municipal Code, the City abated the public nuisances on the Property, and on September 8, 2025, the Hearing Officer confirmed the costs of abatement. These costs total \$112,907.11 and are detailed on Attachment A. The total amount is due 45 days from the date listed above, or by January 5, 2026. Your check should be made payable to the City of Blythe and mailed to:

City of Blythe  
235 N. Broadway  
Blythe, CA 92225  
Attention: Adrian Ramirez

If payment is not timely made, the City Council may cause a notice of lien to be recorded. The lien will attach upon recordation in the Office of the Riverside County Clerk-Recorder and will have the same force, priority, and effect as a judgment lien.

You are FURTHER NOTIFIED that if you wish to be heard regarding the amount of the proposed lien (total amount due) you may request a hearing before the City Council by signing below and filing this form with the City Clerk within 14 calendar days of the date at the top of this notice, or by December 5, 2025. If you do not file a timely request for a hearing, you will be deemed to have waived your right to contest the amount of the lien. If you make a timely request, the City Clerk will then notify you of the date of the City Council hearing.

Executed on 11/21, 2025

  
Adrian Ramirez  
Enforcement Official

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025

To: City Clerk

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby request a hearing before the City Council on the amount of the proposed lien.

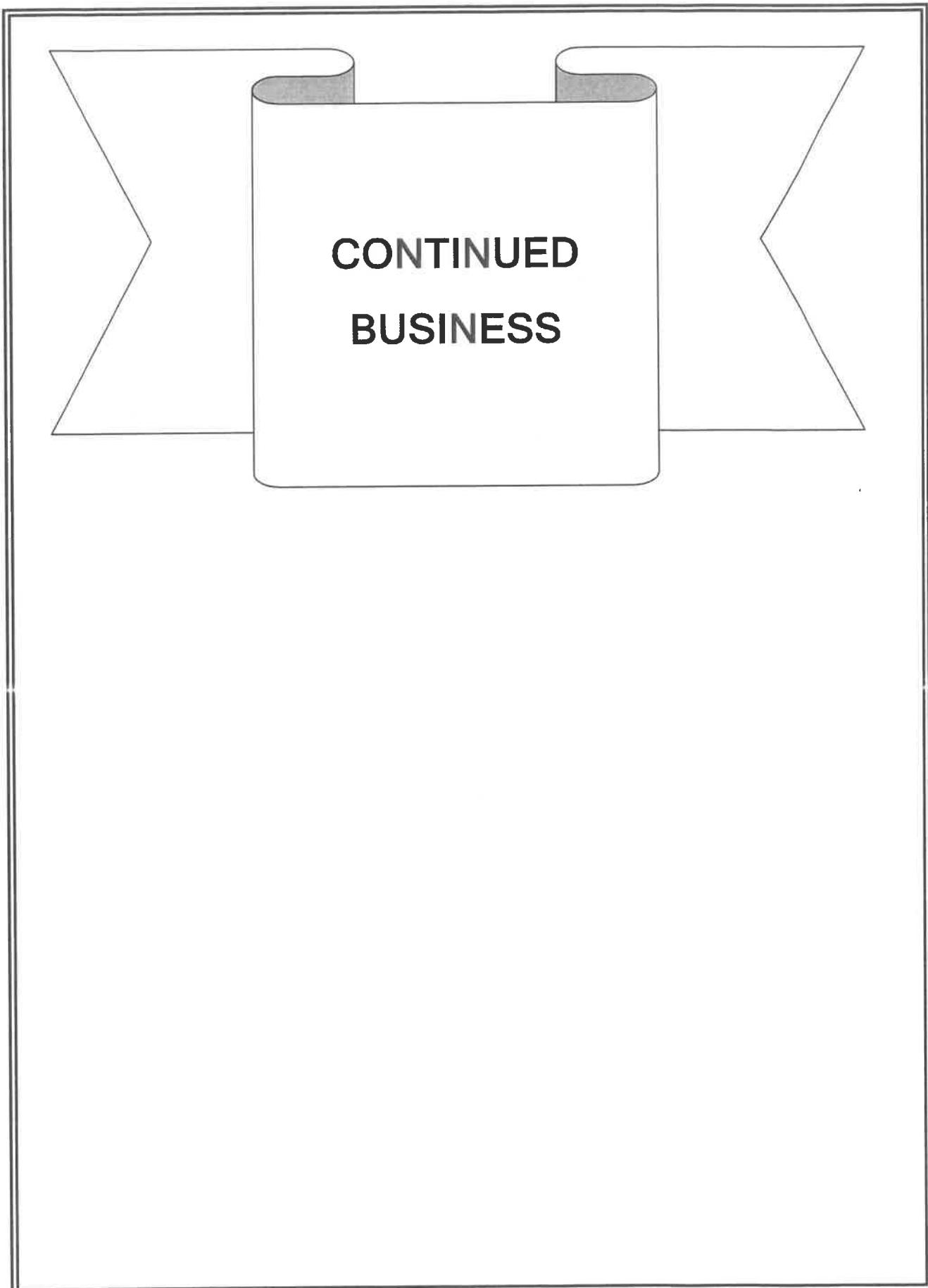
Property Owner's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Abatement Cost Detail  
495 N. Main St., Blythe, CA 92225**

<b>Item:</b>	<b>Cost:</b>
City Staff Time:	\$1,356.60*
Lead and Asbestos Test	\$1,350.00
Attorneys' Fees/Costs:	\$5,000.51
Abatement Services:	\$105,200.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$112,907.11</b>

\*Hearing Officer reduced City staff time expenses from \$2,713.23 to \$1,356.60



**CONTINUED  
BUSINESS**



## CITY OF BLYTHE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

### STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** February 10, 2026

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**SUBJECT:** Palo Verde Hospital Ad Hoc Committee Update

**PRESENTED BY:** Mallory Crecelius, Interim City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Mallory Crecelius, Interim City Manager

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**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended Council receive and file a report from the Hospital Ad Hoc Committee.

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**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

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**BACKGROUND:** After receiving information from concerned citizens related to the financial state of the Palo Verde Healthcare District earlier this year, the City contacted Riverside County Supervisor V. Manual Perez's Office to offer assistance. The City requested assistance in identifying the oversight body for the Palo Verde Healthcare District's Board of Directors.

After learning the hospital had shuttered operations except for the Emergency Room, Laboratory and Radiology, City officials contacted our State and Federal partners requesting assistance. In May, the Mayor appointed Vice Mayor Rodriguez and Council Member Burton to serve on a Hospital Ad Hoc Committee. In June, the City sent a letter to the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) requesting that LAFCO conduct a Municipal Service Review (MSR) of the Palo Verde Healthcare District. The item was placed on June 26, 2025, Agenda and the Commissioners unanimously voted to direct staff to proceed with the MSR.

On September 25, 2025 the MSR report was presented to the LAFCO Board of Directors. The LAFCO Commissioners requested a dissolution plan that includes establishing a successor agency. Once a plan is in place, LAFCO will move to dissolve the Palo Verde Healthcare District. The County of Riverside, in partnership with the City of Blythe, formed a joint working group to develop the succession plan.

Since LAFCO moved to dissolve the Palo Verde Health Care District, the Palo Verde Health Care District Board of Directors filed Chapter 9 Bankruptcy further complicating matters and the fiscal situation of the District.

On January 7, 2026, the Palo Verde Health Care District Board of Directors posted an Emergency Meeting notice. The Staff report stated the hospital would close on Saturday, January 10, unless \$2 million was obtained. In a Special Meeting on January 9, 2026, the City Council voted to provide Bridge Loan Funding in the amount of \$330,000 to keep the hospital operational for another week to allow time for the County to come in and assist. The Loan was contingent upon the Board allowing the County to provide oversight and the day-to-day management of the hospital.

On January 27, 2026, the County Board of Supervisors ratified a \$1 million loan to the PVHD and approved a strike force led by the Riverside University Health System to independently

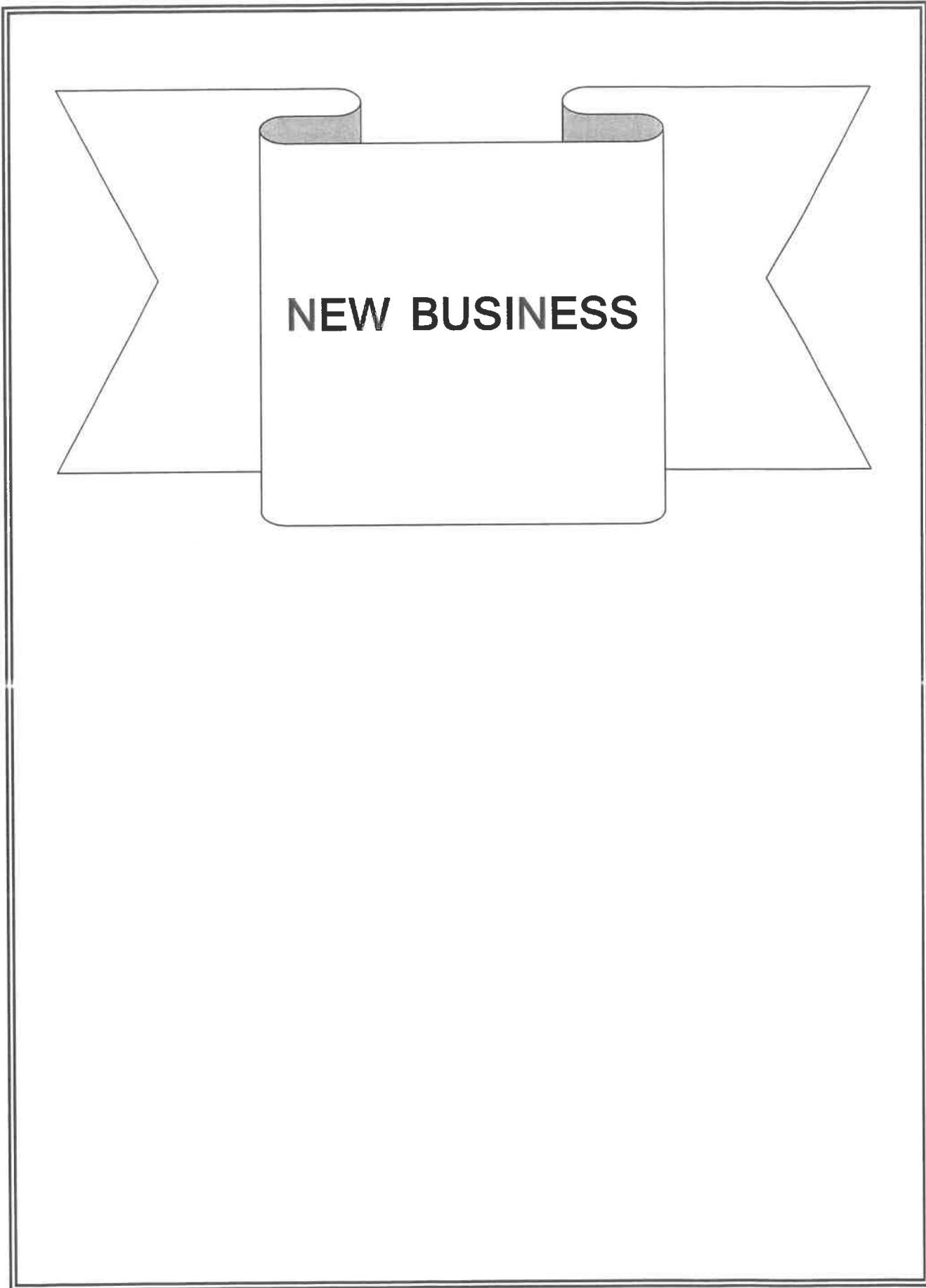
stabilize and manage the Palo Verde Hospital Emergency Department for a period of 180 days. It is my understanding the strike force entered the Emergency Department sometime the week of February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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**STAFF REPORT:** The Ad Hoc Committee will provide an update.

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**ATTACHMENTS:** None



**NEW BUSINESS**



## CITY OF BLYTHE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

### STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** February 10, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Report on Emergency Action Taken by Interim City Manager for the Emergency Repairs to the Sinkhole, Sewer Main and Manholes Near 900 N. Broadway

**PRESENTED BY:** Mallory Crecelius, Interim City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Brittany Roberto, City Attorney

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended Council review the emergency action taken by the Interim City Manager for the emergency sinkhole, sewer main and manholes near 900 N. Broadway. It is further recommended that Council, by a 4/5 vote, determine there is a need to continue the emergency repairs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** \$256,382.00 from the sewer utility fund.

**BACKGROUND:** In late December 2025, staff received a report that there was a sinkhole located across from 892 N. Broadway. Based upon further investigation by staff, in consultation with Cholla Construction, staff determined the sinkhole was caused by a collapsed sewer line. The collapsed sewer line resulted in sewer waste backup from residents discharging to that approximately 3,000 linear foot segment of the sewer line.

Public Contract Code section 1102 defines an “emergency” as “a sudden, unexpected occurrence that poses a clear and imminent danger, requiring immediate action to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, or essential public services.”

Per Section 2.66.070(B) of the Blythe Municipal Code (BMC) and the City’s Purchasing Policy, in cases of emergency, when it is impractical to convene a meeting of the City Council, the City Manager is authorized to order the repair or replacement of a public facility, take any directly related and immediate action required by that emergency, and procure the necessary equipment, services and supplies for those purposes, without giving notice for bids to let contracts. If the City Manager takes such action, the City Manager is required to report to the City Council at its next regularly scheduled meeting the reasons justifying why the emergency will not permit a delay resulting from a competitive solicitation for bids and why the action is necessary to respond to the emergency.

The sinkhole in the roadway caused by the collapsed sewer line is a health and safety issue. Further, the collapsed sewer line results in sewer waste backup in the manholes located near the collapsed sinkhole. Such backup could result in sewage leaks, which are a public health and safety issue and could result in fines from the State. On January 8, 2026, the Interim City Manager determined the sinkhole and collapsed sewer line constituted an emergency, as defined by Public Contract Code section 1102. The City entered into an agreement dated January 9, 2026 with Robert Yates dba Cholla Construction (“Cholla”) for the work. At the January 13, 2025 Council meeting, the Interim City Manager provided a report to the Council

regarding the reasons justifying why the emergency would not permit a delay resulting from competitive bidding and why the action was necessary to respond to the emergency.

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**STAFF REPORT:** Pursuant to Section 22050(c)(2) of the Public Contract Code, the City Council is required to review the emergency action at least at every regularly scheduled meeting until the action is terminated, to determine, by a four-fifths vote, that there is a need to continue the action.

The initial time for completion of the repair work was expected to be 14 working days. However, once Cholla commenced work, the repairs could not be completed due to the significant volume of groundwater entering the work area. Cholla did not initially include dewatering in the scope of work based on the expectation that the repairs could be completed without the additional time and cost associated with a dewatering system. However, field conditions made dewatering necessary, and Cholla submitted a change order to amend the scope of work to include dewatering, increase their compensation, and extend the time for completion. The City and Cholla entered into an amendment to the agreement dated January 23, 2026, to amend the scope of work, increase Cholla's compensation to \$256,382.00, and extend the time for completion to 54 working days.

The emergency action is still necessary in order to repair the collapsed sewer line, manholes located immediately upstream and immediately downstream from the collapsed sewer line, and the street immediately to protect public health and safety and to avoid potential fines from the State.

Therefore, it is recommended that Council review the emergency action taken by the Interim City Manager for the emergency sinkhole, sewer main and manhole repairs near 900 N. Broadway. It is further recommended that Council, by a 4/5 vote, determine there is a need to continue the emergency repairs.

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**ATTACHMENTS:** None



## CITY OF BLYTHE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

### STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** February 10, 2026

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**SUBJECT:** Preparation of an Ordinance Relating to the Regulation of the Sale and Distribution of Kratom Products in the City of Blythe

**PRESENTED BY:** Mallory Crecelius, Interim City Manager

**PREPARED BY:** Mallory Crecelius, Interim City Manager

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Council provide direction to staff on the preparation of an Ordinance to regulate the sale and distribution of kratom products in the City of Blythe.

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**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**BACKGROUND:** Kratom is a Southeast Asian botanical with opioid effects due to its active compounds of mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH). Kratom is largely unregulated in the United States, but rising concerns and health risks including addiction, overdose, liver injury and death have prompted new federal and state regulation efforts.

Kratom is often found in energy drinks and pills at gas stations, smoke shops and other retail and online venues. Narcotics experts believe that high concentrate 7-OH can have similar effects as opioids, creating withdrawal, dependency and in some cases, overdose.

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**STAFF REPORT:** Council Member Spraggins directed staff to place this item on the Agenda for discussion. Staff would like direction from Council on the preparation of an Ordinance to prohibit the sale and distribution of concentrated synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) and regulating natural kratom in the City of Blythe.

La Quinta was the first City in the Coachella Valley to pass regulations on Kratom products. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors passed a similar Ordinance to regulate Kratom based products in October 2025. Orange County and the cities of San Diego, Oceanside, Newport Beach, Solna Beach and Jurupa Valley have implemented similar ordinances to regulate the sale and distribution of Kratom products. The Riverside County Sheriff's Office and California Narcotic Officers' Association support and encourage cities to adopt an Ordinance regulating the sale of kratom products.

The Riverside County Ordinance sets a minimum purchase age of 21, restricts products with more than 2% 7-OH in the alkaloid fraction, prohibits concentrated synthetic 7-OH products and established penalties to ensure safe marketing and protection of minors.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Ordinance Adopted by the City of La Quinta
2. Ordinance Adopted by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors
3. CNOA Support Letter for Prohibiting the Sale and Distribution of 7-OH Products

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA QUINTA, CALIFORNIA, ADDING CHAPTER 5.94 TO TITLE 5 OF THE LA QUINTA MUNICIPAL CODE, RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM PRODUCTS IN THE CITY OF LA QUINTA**

**WHEREAS**, the U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has reported that consumption of kratom produces both stimulant effects in low doses and sedative effects in high doses, and can lead to psychotic symptoms, psychological and physiological dependence, addiction, hallucinations, delusion, confusion, nausea, itching, sweating, dry mouth, constipation, increased urination, loss of appetite, anorexia, weight loss, and insomnia, and has labeled kratom a "Drug of Concern;" and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has reported that approximately 1.7 million Americans used kratom in 2021, often to self-treat various conditions without medical supervision. The agency has cautioned that kratom is not approved for use as a dietary supplement and has been linked to serious health risks, including seizures, liver toxicity, physical dependence, substance use disorder, and neonatal abstinence syndrome—where infants exposed to kratom before birth experience withdrawal symptoms such as jitteriness, irritability, and muscle stiffness and, in some cases, death; and

**WHEREAS**, Health officials, including the FDA, have raised concerns over the safety of kratom products, particularly those with higher concentrations of 7-OH, which may increase the potential for abuse and harm public health; and

**WHEREAS**, the FDA has not approved any prescription or over-the-counter drug products containing kratom or its two main chemical components, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine; and

**WHEREAS**, kratom products are not federally regulated in the United States and are not subject to government-mandated safety testing, resulting in a lack of oversight and no established safety standards regarding ingredients, purity, or dosage; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments and municipalities have regulated or prohibited the sale and possession of kratom with their respective jurisdictions including but not limited to Riverside County, Orange County, and Cities of San Diego, Oceanside, Newport Beach, Solana Beach, and Jurupa Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, the La Quinta City Council, in its commitment to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of its residents by ensuring that products available for sale in the City of La Quinta do not pose undo health risks, and hereby regulate kratom and restrict the sale and distribution of Kratom and 7-OH products containing more than 2% of 7-OH

Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Adding to the La Quinta Municipal Code Ch. 5.94 relating to Regulation of Kratom  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026  
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in the alkaloid fraction, in order to reduce potential risks to individuals and in furtherance of the general public health, safety, and welfare.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the City Council of the City of La Quinta does hereby ordain as follows:

**SECTION 1.** **RECITALS:** The Recitals set forth above constitute findings of the City Council and are incorporated herein and made an operative part of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 2.** **ADOPTION:** Chapter 5.94 is hereby approved and adopted by the City Council and shall be added to Title 5 of the La Quinta Municipal Code as written in "Exhibit A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

**SECTION 3.** **CEQA:** The City Council finds that adoption of this Ordinance is not subject to environmental review under, or, in the alternative, is exempt from, the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 *et seq.* ("CEQA") and implementing regulations, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq.* ("CEQA Guidelines"), as the adoption of this Ordinance is not a "Project" as defined by CEQA. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15060(c)(3).) Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(a), a "Project" means the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. The requested action is to amend the La Quinta Municipal Code to regulate and restrict the sale of a potentially harmful substance within the City's jurisdictional boundary at-large, and it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of the proposed Ordinance would have a significant effect on the environment. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15061(b)(3)). The requested action is further exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2), as it will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment.

**SECTION 4.** **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

**SECTION 5.** **POSTING:** The City Clerk shall, within 15 days after passage of this Ordinance, cause it to be posted in at least three public places designated by resolution of the City Council (Resolution No. 2022-027), shall certify to the adoption and posting of this Ordinance, and shall cause this Ordinance and its certification, together with proof of posting to be entered into the permanent record of Ordinances of the City of La Quinta.

**SECTION 6.** **CORRECTIVE AMENDMENTS:** The City Council does hereby grant the City Clerk the ability to make minor amendments and corrections of typographical or clerical errors to "Exhibit A" to ensure consistency of all approved text amendments prior to the publication in the La Quinta Municipal Code.

Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Adding to the La Quinta Municipal Code Ch. 5.94 relating to Regulation of Kratom  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026  
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**SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY:** If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each and every section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsections, subdivisions, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions thereof be declared unconstitutional.

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED**, at a regular meeting of the La Quinta City Council held this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1004****AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE****REGULATING THE SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM PRODUCTS**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside does ordain as follows:

**Section 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors to prohibit the sale, distribution, or possession of kratom and hydroxymitragynine (also known as 7-OH) products within unincorporated Riverside County that contain more than 2% of 7-OH in the alkaloid fraction, recognizing the significant health risks associated with elevated concentrations of this alkaloid.

Kratom (*mitragyna speciosa*) is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia, and its leaves are often consumed in powdered or extract form for their stimulant and sedative effects. The active compounds in kratom include mitragynine and 7-OH. While mitragynine is present in higher concentrations, 7-OH is more potent and is largely responsible for the stronger pain-relieving, sedative, and euphoric effects.

Research has shown 7-OH has euphoric and mood-enhancing effects, particularly at higher doses, which can increase its appeal for recreational use. Research has also shown that 7-OH binds to opioid receptors in the brain with greater affinity than morphine, making it significantly more powerful in relieving pain. This greater potency raises significant concerns about its safety profile, especially regarding the potential for addiction, overdose, and adverse physical and psychological effects, including nausea, vomiting, and potential psychosis. These risks are compounded when products contain higher concentrations of 7-OH.

Health advisories have raised concerns over the safety of kratom products, particularly those with higher concentrations of 7-OH, which may increase the potential for abuse and harm to public health. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued several warning letters to various companies for illegally marketing products containing enhanced levels of 7-OH culminating in a formal request to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on July 29, 2025, to place 7-OH products on the controlled substance list.

1                   Health officials, including the FDA, have raised concerns over the safety of kratom products,  
2 particularly those with higher concentrations of 7-OH, which may increase the potential for abuse and harm  
3 public health.

4                   At least one county in California, and several cities in California, has recently taken steps to  
5 regulate or ban kratom products, recognizing the need to protect public safety, especially among vulnerable  
6 populations.

7                   The Board of Supervisors, in its commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of  
8 its residents by ensuring that products available for sale do not pose undue health risks, hereby restricts the  
9 sale and distribution of kratom and 7-OH products containing more than 2% of 7-OH in the alkaloid  
10 fraction, thereby reducing potential risks to public health and safety.

11 **Section 2. AUTHORITY.**

12 This ordinance is enacted pursuant to the County's plenary police powers to protect public safety, health  
13 and welfare.

14 **Section 3. DEFINITIONS.**

15 As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

16                   a. 7-OH product means a product containing hydroxymitragynine.

17                   b. Attractive to children means any of the following:

18                   1) Use of images that are attractive to children, including, but not limited to, images of any of  
19                   the following, except as part of required health warnings:

20                   a) Cartoons, toys, or robots.

21                   b) Any real or fictional humans.

22                   c) Fictional animals or creatures.

23                   d) Fruits or vegetables, except when used to accurately describe ingredients or flavors  
24                   contained in a product.

25                   2) Likeness to images, characters, or phrases that are popularly used to advertise to children.

26                   3) Imitation of candy packaging or labeling, or other packaging and labeling of cereals, sweets,  
27                   chips, or other food products typically marketed to children.

28                   4) The terms "candy" or "candies" or variants in spelling such as "kandy" or "kandee."

- 1       5) Brand names or close imitations of brand names of candies, cereals, sweets, chips, or other
- 2       food products typically marketed to children.
- 3       6) Any other image or packaging that is easily confused with commercially available foods that
- 4       do not contain kratom and are typically marketed to children.
- 5       7) Any other packaging used that is attractive to children considering all relevant facts and
- 6       circumstances.
- 7       c. Kratom leaf means the leaf of the kratom plant, also known as mitragyna speciosa, any form.
- 8       d. Kratom leaf extract means the material obtained by extraction of kratom leaves by any means.
- 9       e. Kratom product means a product consisting of kratom leaf, kratom leaf extract, or both; any part
- 10      of a leaf of the plant mitragyna speciosa in fresh, dehydrated or dried form or a kratom extract
- 11      or any product that contains any kratom alkaloid or metabolite.
- 12      f. Total kratom alkaloids means the sum of mitragynine, speciociliatine, speciogynine, paynantheine, and 7-OH in a kratom product.
- 13      g. Synthesized means an alkaloid or alkaloid derivative that has been created by chemical synthesis
- 14      or biosynthetic means (including but not limited to: fermentation, recombinant techniques, yeast
- 15      derived enzymatic techniques) rather than traditional food preparation techniques such as
- 16      heating or extracting. It also includes alkaloids that have been further exposed to chemicals or
- 17      processes that would confer a structural change in the alkaloids contained within the extract.
- 18

**19      Section 4. PROHIBITION ON SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF KRATOM AND 7-OH**  
20      **PRODUCTS.**

- 21      a. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell, attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product to a person under 21 years of age.
- 22      b. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell, attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product with a level of 7-OH that is greater than 2 percent of the total kratom alkaloids in the product.
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- c. Except as otherwise authorized by law, an individual, business, or other entity shall not sell, attempt to sell, offer, provide, or distribute a kratom product or 7-OH product that is attractive to children.
- d. Any individual, business, or other entity that sells, attempts to sell, offers, provides, or distributes a kratom product or 7-OH product shall conduct age-verification to ensure compliance with subdivision (a).
- e. No person or entity shall offer for sale any kratom product that contains or is adulterated with synthesized or semi-synthesized kratom alkaloids or kratom constituents.

## **Section 5. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.**

10 Any person or entity who violates this ordinance is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof  
11 may be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or by imprisonment in the  
12 County jail for a period of not more than six (6) months or by both such fine and imprisonment. This section  
13 shall not serve to limit any other legal remedies or actions that the County may have to address violations  
14 of section 4.

15 | **Section 6. SEVERABILITY.**

16 If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this article is held invalid or unconstitutional  
17 by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable and such holding shall not  
18 affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would  
19 have adopted this article irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof and intends that the  
20 invalid portions should be severed, and the balance of the article be enforced.

21 | Section 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

22 This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF  
THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By: \_\_\_\_\_

### Chairman

1 ATTEST:

2 CLERK OF THE BOARD

3

4 By: \_\_\_\_\_

5 Deputy

6 (Seal)

7

8

9 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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11 By: 

12 Minh C. Tran

13 County Counsel

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# California Narcotic Officers' Association

28245 AVENUE CROCKER STE 230 - SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA 91355-1201  
(661) 775-6960 • (877) 775-NARC • FAX (661) 775-1648 [WWW.CNOA.ORG](http://WWW.CNOA.ORG)

January 19, 2025

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**BOB COOKE**  
WSIN

1st Vice President  
**DEVIN CHASE**  
Torrance PD (Ret.)

2nd Vice President  
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**JOE STEWART**  
CNOA

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(Ret.)

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Fresno PD (Ret.)

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**BRETT LETENDRE**  
CA ABC

Immediate Past  
President  
**ERNIE COLASSO**  
Orange Co. D.A.

Honorable Councilman Steve Sanchez  
La Quinta City Council  
78-495 Calle Tampico,  
La Quinta, CA 92253

## Re: Support for Prohibiting the Sale and Distribution of 7-OH Products

Dear Councilman Sanchez,

On behalf of the California Narcotic Officers' Association (CNOA), I am writing to express our strong support to prohibit the sale, distribution of concentrated synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) and regulating natural kratom in La Quinta.

7-OH, the psychoactive component of kratom leaves, is being synthetically concentrated into various products that are sold in gas stations, smoke shops, and other retail and online venues in the county. High doses of concentrated synthetic 7-OH and/or co-used with alcohol or other sedatives can cause severe respiratory depression and death. As they are unregulated, many contain unknown concentrations synthetic 7-OH, increasing the risk of unintentional overdose.

Medical research has shown that 7-OH binds to the same receptors in the brain as traditional opioids, creating a risk for dependency, withdrawal, and overdose when combined with other substances. Despite being marketed as a "natural" product, concentrated synthetic 7-OH has no approved medical use and is widely recognized by public health authorities as dangerous.

In July 2025, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued warning letters to firms for illegal marketing of concentrated synthetic 7-OH products and posted product images. The FDA indicated that "7-OH is not lawful in dietary supplements and cannot be lawfully added to conventional foods. Additionally, there are no FDA-approved drugs containing 7-OH, and it is illegal to market any drugs containing 7-OH. *Consumers who use 7-OH products are exposing themselves to products that have not been proven safe or effective for any use.*" Just this past summer, the *FDA formally requested that the DEA designate concentrated synthetic 7-OH as Schedule 1*.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health recently issued a news release entitled, *Multiple Fatal Overdoses Tied to Synthetic Kratom Compound in Los Angeles County* which warned its residents about the fatal dangers posed by this synthetic opioid which has resulted in at least 6 deaths.

*The Los Angeles Times* recently reported on these 6 deaths attributed to concentrated synthetic 7-OH and the highlighted the lack of action by the state legislature.

The CNOA has been extremely active in addressing the recent explosion of the use of kratom and the abuse of concentrated synthetic 7-OH throughout the state. We have been strong advocates for AB 1088 which would restrict sales to persons 21 and over and prohibit the marketing of natural kratom to children. The bill also prohibits the sale or distribution of concentrated synthetic 7-OH. AB 1088 passed the full Assembly, with support from Riverside County's Assembly members and currently awaits action in the Senate Health Committee.

In August, we worked with Orange County Supervisors, resulting in the unanimous passage of their Ord. 25-014, regulating kratom and prohibiting the sale or distribution of concentrated synthetic 7-OH. The County of Riverside enacted a similar ordinance in October and Fresno County adopted the same approach earlier this month.

To be clear, the CNOA is not seeking a ban on natural kratom as that product does not pose a deadly threat to our communities as does 7-OH. However, we do support restricting natural kratom sales to persons 21 and over.

Our efforts throughout the state have mirrored the FDA's approach, focusing on raising awareness and leading the charge to ban concentrated synthetic 7-OH which presents a unique health risk and has been determined to have contributed to numerous deaths.

Most recently, the California Senate Public Safety Committee unanimously passed SB 758 (Umberg) which makes illegal the sale or distribution of 7-OH in the state. The bill is pending a vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

As previously noted, communities across the state have taken steps to restrict kratom and ban concentrated synthetic 7-OH in the interest of protecting residents, especially young people, from its dangers. By adopting this ordinance, La Quinta would join other local governments in prioritizing public safety and public health.

On a daily basis, our dedicated members witness first hand the dangers these substances can pose to our children, families and communities which is why the CNOA urges you to prohibit the sale and distribution of concentrated synthetic 7-OH and limiting natural kratom purchases to persons 21 and over. Taking action now will help prevent future deaths and reduce harm - especially for our youth.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support to prohibit 7-OH, a deadly substance. Please contact our legislative counsel Ryan Sherman at 916.580.5464 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Devin Chase  
President  
California Narcotic Officers' Association

The California Narcotic Officers' Association mission is to educate the public and our membership on the dangers of narcotic and drug abuse, provide a medium for the exchange of ideas and the new techniques used by both criminals and investigators; and keep the membership and the public informed of current statute changes and judicial decisions. The over 7,000+ members of CNOA include local, state, and federal peace officers, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel and other national and international associates.



## CITY OF BLYTHE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

### STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** February 10, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Non-Health Hazards Secondary Contaminants, Hardness & Total Dissolved Solids for City of Blythe's Drinking Water Per Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS)

**PRESENTED BY:** Mirasol Elegores, Public Works Director

**PREPARED BY:** Mirasol Elegores, Public Works Director

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**RECOMMENDATION:** The City Council continue to require hotel owners to implement and manage the necessary water supply and wastewater treatment solutions and take no other action at this time.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The City's fiscal impact will be primarily administrative oversight, compliance monitoring, and enforcement activities.

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**BACKGROUND:** The City's groundwater supply is characterized by a high hardness (approximately 630 mg/L as CaCO<sub>3</sub>) and elevated total dissolved solids (TDS) (approximately 1,200 mg/L). These conditions are common in desert and alluvial aquifers, where long residence time and mineral-rich geology contribute to naturally high mineral content. While these water-quality characteristics do not pose a health concern, they do affect customer experience, plumbing longevity, and system operations.

Traditionally, reducing hardness and TDS requires large-scale treatment processes such as ion-exchange softening, reverse osmosis (RO), or blending with imported water. However, these solutions involve significant capital investment, high operational costs, and substantial brine disposal requirements—costs that are not feasible for the city at this time.

Given these constraints, the city is focusing on practical, low-cost strategies that improve water quality impacts without requiring major infrastructure upgrades. These approaches include:

- **Operational adjustments**, such as optimizing well run-times, if possible, to moderate hardness and TDS fluctuations.
- **Distribution system management**, including routine flushing and maintenance to minimize scale accumulation and maintain system efficiency.
- **Customer-side support**, such as providing guidance on water softeners, appliance maintenance, and best practices for managing hard water.
- **Monitoring and data-driven planning**, ensuring the City tracks long-term trends in hardness, TDS, and corrosivity to identify issues and sustainable solutions.

These strategies allow the City to mitigate the impacts of high hardness and TDS while avoiding the substantial financial burden associated with full-scale treatment facilities. As funding opportunities, grants, or regional partnerships become available, the City can reassess long-term treatment options. In the meantime, the focus remains on cost-effective, sustainable measures that protect infrastructure, support customers, and maintain regulatory compliance.

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**STAFF REPORT:** Hardness represents the concentration of Calcium and Magnesium Ions in water. It is typically express as mg/L as CaCO<sub>3</sub> (calcium carbonate). Seasonal fluctuations are consistent with groundwater source characteristics. Blythe being an agricultural municipality, recharge from irrigation or return flows that percolate back into the aquifer carrying calcium, magnesium, carbonates and sulfates increases hardness. Hardness is just one of the components of Total Dissolved Solids, therefore it does not determine the TDS value.

Total Dissolved Solids consist of the dissolved inorganic salts like Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium, Potassium, Bicarbonate, Chloride, Sulfate & Nitrate and small number of organic matters. TDS is calculated by summing all measured ions with conductivity based – TDS meters.

Water softeners work by exchanging Calcium & Magnesium for Sodium on the resin. For every hardness ion removed, the softener releases multiple Sodium ions into the water. This increases the total number of dissolved ions which directly raises TDS. The WWTPs do not removed dissolved solids, whatever TDS enters the same amount leaves unless Reverse Osmosis (RO) or Ion Exchange is introduced. To install an RO system at the Water Treatment Plant, initial investment is easily costing hundreds of millions dollars and an operation annual cost of approximately half million just for chemicals alone. To process wastewater at the WWTP before dumping to percolate, an equipment with initial installation cost of \$10M is needed.

Another avenue to explore is to request the California State Water Resource Board (SWRCB) for a review and revision of the City's TDS limit. Staff reached the Colorado Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 7) as the responsible agency enforcing TDS limits for groundwater protection. The Board does not discourage the request, but expressed their opinion of going into big upstream battle over extensive highly technical supporting data with a very little chance to be granted with the request. The staff contacted Environmental Engineering Consultants for possible provision of Feasibility studies in line with the application to include:

- Historical Data (influent & effluent),
- Source water TDS level
- Trends over the past 5-10 years
- Impacts on compliance.
- Any operational or treatment constraints.
- Comparison with basin plan objectives

The amount of money that the city must put up to prepare the application package does not equate to the chance of getting a positive result. None of the three (3) methods presented above is feasible considering the city's budget capability.

In review of the abovementioned premises, as discussed during a January 26, 2026, meeting with several hotel owners, staff suggest the following options for review to address the water quality issues:

1. Water softening using Culligan Exchange Tanks, softening both hot & cold-water supply or treats hot water only to reduce 50% of usage.

2. Explore the feasibility of Life Source Water Conditioning, this system is not a water softener. It converts the Magnesium and Calcium into small crystals that pass through without coating water fixtures & boilers. The installation includes carbon filters to protect the treatment media and improve water quality. Media usually needs replacement once in four years.
3. Brine Capture System. The system uses a conventional water softener, but the brine used in backwashing and the rinse water is captured and transported to the Blythe Wastewater Treatment Plant's Brine Evaporation Pond.

In light of the financial constraints identified in the assessment, it is recommended that the City Council continue to require hotel owners to implement and manage the necessary water supply and wastewater treatment solutions. The available treatment alternatives exceed the city's current budget capacity, making municipal implementation impractical or next to impossible at this time.

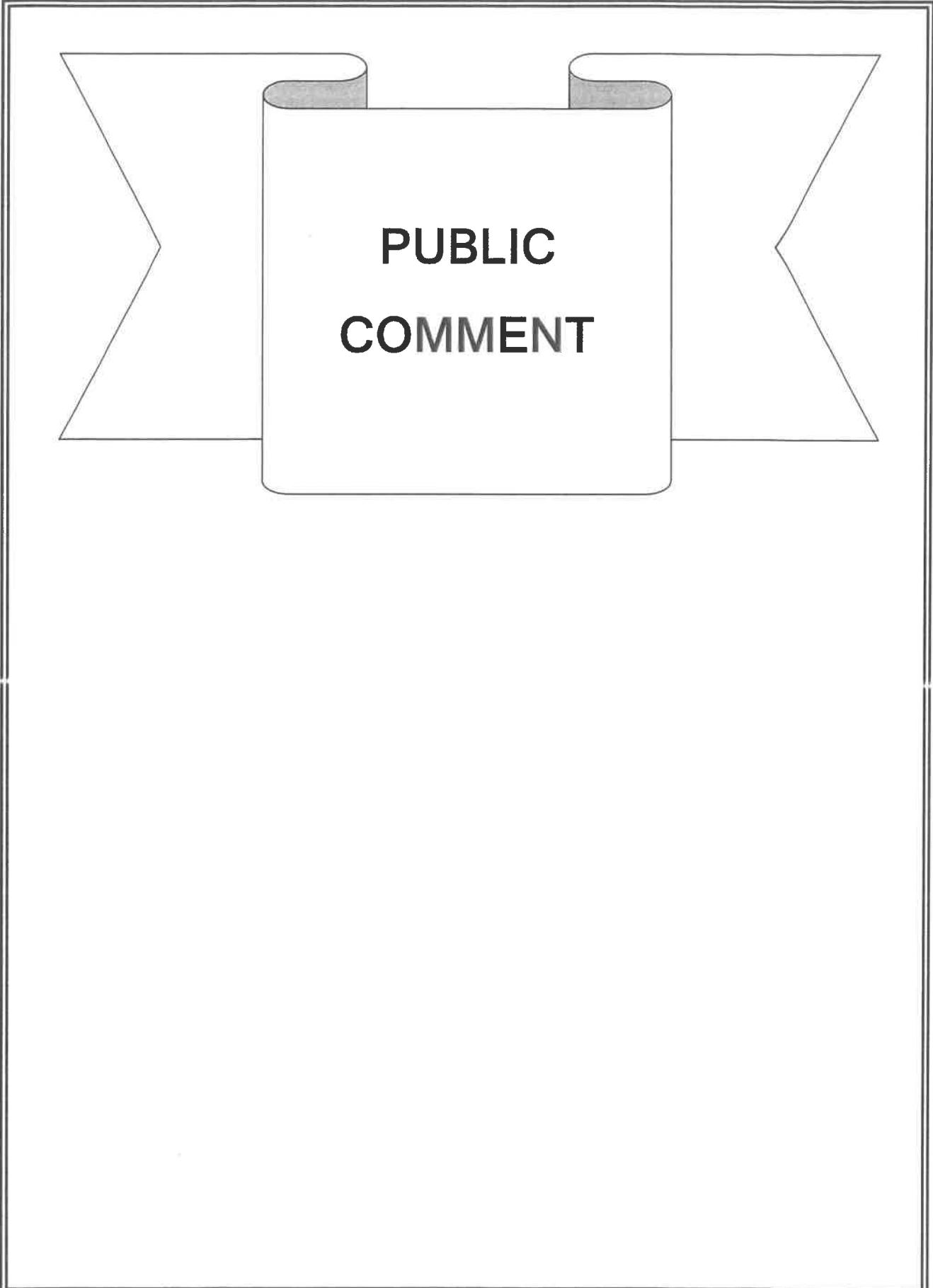
Assigning responsibility to hotel owners ensures that appropriate treatment systems are installed, operated, and maintained without placing additional strain on public resources. Establishing clear technical standards, compliance requirements, and monitoring procedures will support consistent implementation and safeguard both public health and environmental quality.

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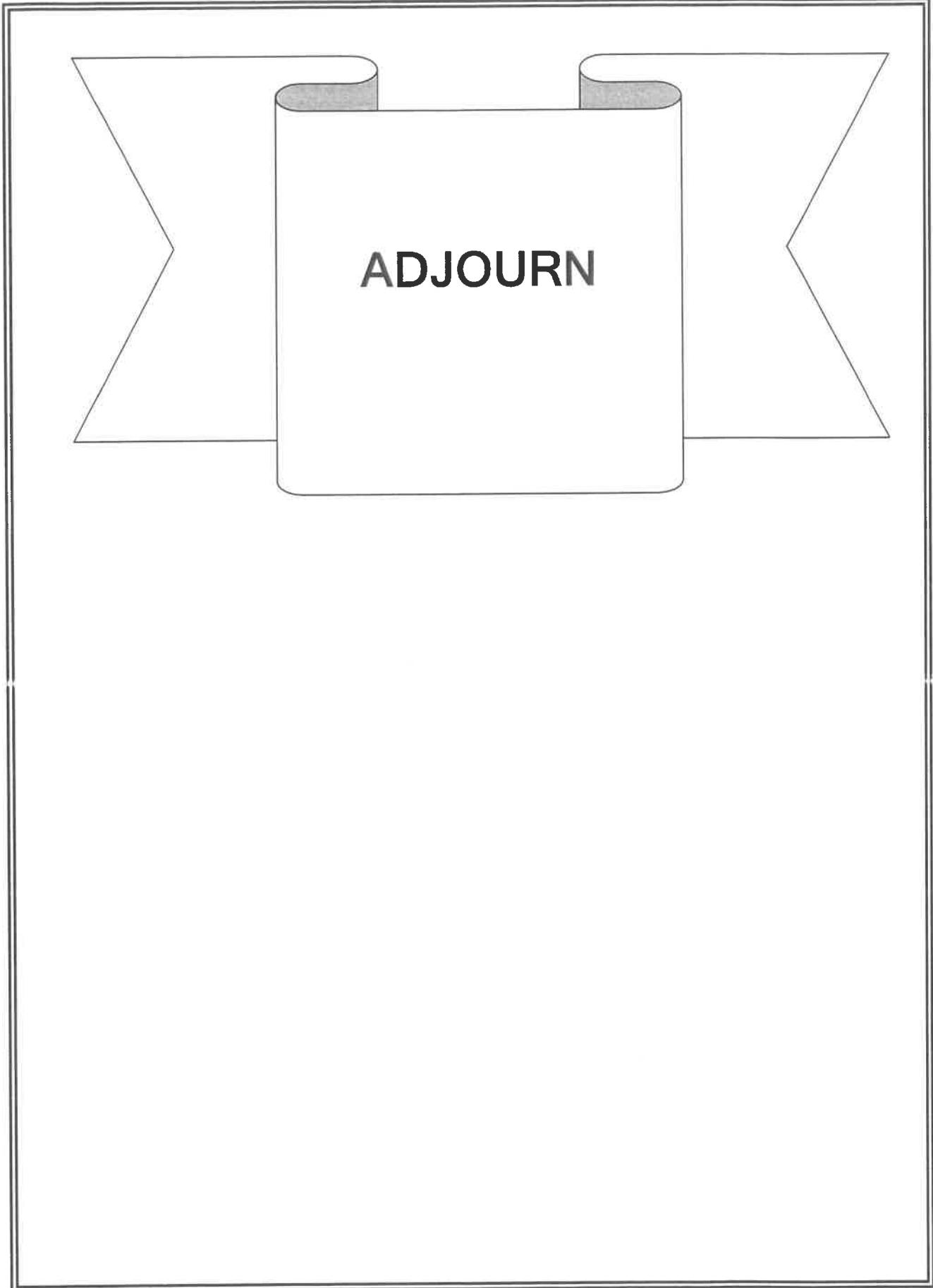
**ATTACHMENTS:** None



# REPORTS



**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**



**ADJOURN**