



MINUTES

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CIAB/PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION MARCH 18, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rivas called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Macdonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Rivas, Frousiakis, Ghuman, Macdonald, Padhiar

Commissioners Absent:

Michalski

Others Present:

Joe Fuentes, Acting Deputy Director/City Engineer

Bob Stachelski, Traffic & Transportation Manager

John Nguyen, Senior Traffic Engineer

Patrick Bannon, Capital Projects Supervisor

Ana Tenorio, Principal Management Analyst

April Maese, Management Analyst

Jessica Castro, Management Aide

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

26-175 Approval of January 21, 2026 Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Frousiakis and second by Chair Rivas, the Commission voted to approve the January 21, 2026 Minutes.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	3
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	1
ABSTENTIONS:	2

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Joe Fuentes, Acting Deputy Director/City Engineer, introduced newly appointed Commissioner Padhiar. Fuentes also provided a brief update on the Public Works Open House, which will take place during Surf City Nights on Tuesday, May 12 at 5:00 p.m. The event will feature demonstrations, equipment exhibits, games, giveaways, photo opportunities, and free family-friendly activities.

He also provided information regarding participation in a job fair at Huntington Beach High School, where Public Works divisions hosted booths focused on trade opportunities for students.

Additionally, he shared that the City's new MyMeter website is scheduled to launch in April 2026. Designed with customers in mind, the modern and intuitive platform will provide secure 24/7 access, allowing users to view account balances, track usage, and manage their municipal services accounts anytime.

Commissioner questions included vacancies in Public Works, Fuentes reported approximately 40 vacancies. Staff noted that, regarding certification requirements and the workforce pipeline, the City does not currently utilize S.A.N.D.S. programs for trade preparation, and that Golden West College may serve as a pipeline for certifications and trade development.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

26-204 Nominate and elect Chair and Vice Chair Commissioners for the CIAB/Public Works Commission

Chair Rivas motioned to nominate Preeti Ghuman to serve as Chair. Commissioner Macdonald seconded the motion.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	5
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	1
ABSTENTIONS:	0

Chair Rivas motioned to nominate Pano Frousiakis to serve as Vice Chair. Commissioner Macdonald seconded the motion.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	5
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	1
ABSTENTIONS:	0

26-253 Fiscal Year 2026/27 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Joe Fuentes, Acting Deputy Director/City Engineer, provided a brief overview of the current Fiscal Year 2025/26 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects, as well as the upcoming draft Fiscal Year 2026/27 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He noted that the presentation to the Commission is intended to seek support prior to presenting the CIP to City Council for approval in June 2026.

Commissioners asked questions and provided comments on various topics, including:

- Flood Control: Staff explained the purpose and function of flood control systems
- Flood Rating Notifications: Staff noted that communication responsibilities may involve agencies such as Cal OES, FEMA, and City permitting, depending on the situation
- Proposition 42 Gas Tax Funding: Staff explained that funding is based on stable allocation formulas tied to consumption and broader metrics, rather than direct gas price fluctuations
- Special Revenue Funds: Staff confirmed that certain funds, including Prop 42, have specific restrictions on allowable uses
- Fiber Optic Infrastructure: Staff explained its role in communications, traffic systems, and coordination between City facilities and agencies
- Bluff Top Projects: Staff discussed prior project challenges, including permitting constraints, and explained that the current project aims to provide a more long-term solution, though coastal erosion remains an ongoing factor
- Developer Contributions: Staff noted that requiring developer contributions toward such projects would be a long-term and complex process
- Meadowlark Golf Course: Staff clarified that maintenance and capital responsibilities fall to the lessee under the current agreement, which is overseen by the Community and Library Services Department
- Park Project Selection Criteria: Staff indicated that project prioritization is informed by community outreach, surveys, and coordination with Community and Library Services
- City Water Wells: Staff reported that the City currently operates eight active wells, with future opportunities dependent on addressing water quality constraints such as manganese

Motion by Commissioner Rivas and second by Chair Ghuman, the Commission voted to approve.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	5
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	1
ABSTENTIONS:	0

MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner comments included discussion regarding the Gravity Software implementation, with staff noting that implementation is ongoing and currently focused on budgeting functions. While the transition from existing systems is complex, long-term improvements in reporting capabilities and project management are anticipated. Commissioner Ghuman also shared a recent experience reporting a street lighting issue on Warner Street through the MyHB app. Staff explained that certain street lighting infrastructures are owned and/or powered by Southern California Edison, and that maintenance coordination may involve third-party contractors, such as Yunex Traffic, which can impact response times.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:05pm a motion was made by Chair Ghuman to adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the CIAB/Public Works Commission on Wednesday, April 15, at 5:00 PM at the Utilities Yard, Training Center.