



# IID

*A century of service.*

www.iid.com

*Since 1911*

May 11, 2021

**Via Mail and Email:** [tim@ivedc.com](mailto:tim@ivedc.com)

Mr. Timothy E. Kelley  
Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation  
P.O. Box 3005  
El Centro, CA 92244

RE: Conduct of Sean Wilcock

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Within the last several days, a profoundly disturbing matter has been discovered involving inappropriate conduct by Mr. Wilcock.

It began when Mr. Wilcock requested Tina Shields, IID's Water Department co-manager, write a letter outlining IID's Colorado River water rights and the availability of industrial water supplies to support a new project evaluating the feasibility of siting their project in Imperial County. Ms. Shields has prepared these letters in the past - at the request of IVEDC - to outline the availability of supplies and IID's contracting process according to its Interim Water Supply Policy for New Non-Agricultural Projects (IWSP). While not guaranteeing any amount of water supply for these projects (pending execution of a specific water supply agreement), these letters are general in nature and intended to counteract statewide water supply concerns that are not reflective of IID's unique senior water rights, and serve the purpose of encouraging further discussions with interested developers. I am assured by Ms. Shields that she has always been cooperative and has often worked at the proverbial "11<sup>th</sup> hour" to prepare these general statements for IVEDC and their clients under IID letterhead.

The problem arose when Mr. Wilcock forwarded a letter he indicated was previously provided by Ms. Shields on behalf of IID, suggesting that an update of this letter would meet his needs. This letter under Ms. Shields' signature, was dated February 14, 2018 and directed to Jeff Malin, a specialist working for the governor on economic development, and referenced "Project Nomad". Attached you will find a copy of the letter sent to Ms. Shields, which was attached to the following email string/exchange between Ms. Shields and Mr. Wilcock:

On May 4, 2021, at 1:48 PM, Sean <[sean@ivedc.com](mailto:sean@ivedc.com)> wrote:

*Good Afternoon Ladies,*

Letter to IVEDC  
Re: Sean Wilcock  
May 11, 2021  
Page 2

*I hope all is well with you both.*

*We've been working on a renewable hydrogen production project for a few months and they have requested a document or statement that speaks to the Valley's water security. This would be something they will share with their personnel to dispel all concerns with their ability to secure the water they'll need for the life of their project. I'm guessing you probably already have something on file that can fulfill this request. If you can share that with us I'd greatly appreciate it.*

*Secondly, being a hydrogen project, they're going to be a large water customer for the IID. They'll be seeking to secure a water supply agreement for about 3.25ac/ft per day phase 1 and 6.5ac/ft per day at full build out. We'd like to start the conversations for that agreement as well. Please let me know how and when you'd like to initiate those conversations.*

*Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon,*

**Sean Wilcock**

*Vice President of Business Development  
Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation  
2415 Imperial Business Park Dr., Suite A, Imperial, CA 92251  
Office 760.353.8332 | Cell 619.922.9825  
[sean@ivedc.com](mailto:sean@ivedc.com) | [www.ivedc.com](http://www.ivedc.com)*

**From:** Shields, Tina L <[tshields@IID.com](mailto:tshields@IID.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 2:32 PM

**To:** Sean <[sean@ivedc.com](mailto:sean@ivedc.com)>

**Cc:** Gamboa-Arce, Justina <[jgamboarce@IID.com](mailto:jgamboarce@IID.com)>; [tom@dubosedesigngroup.com](mailto:tom@dubosedesigngroup.com); Pacheco, Mike <[MAPacheco@IID.com](mailto:MAPacheco@IID.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Project Kamino

*I would suggest we go through our normal IWSP process where they send a letter of general request/inquiry and then IID's respond and points to the IWSP.*

*I can add some sort of statement to that letter about IID's senior water rights and not being subject to any cuts/shortage under the existing federal guidelines.*

*That's probably as far as we can go right now given the unprecedented drought and the existing EDP/water rights litigation. Any long-term certainly would be authorized in a water supply agreement approved by the board and subject to specific terms and conditions.*

Letter to IVEDC  
Re: Sean Wilcock  
May 11, 2021  
Page 3

*You can initiate that process by working through normal channels with Justina and the project developer. IID will need basic details such as timing, volumes, project purpose, location (APN and preferably also canal/gate if that is available) and point of contact-Justina can provide more info as appropriate. And keep in mind without a more definitive location there will be caveats saying subject to existing capacities that may require upgrades at the project's expense and subject to future analyses.*

*Tina Shields, PE  
Water Manager  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Sent from my iPhone*

**From:** Sean <[sean@ivedc.com](mailto:sean@ivedc.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 5:02 PM  
**To:** Shields, Tina L <[tlshields@IID.com](mailto:tlshields@IID.com)>  
**Cc:** Gamboa-Arce, Justina <[jgamboarce@IID.com](mailto:jgamboarce@IID.com)>; [tom@dubosedesigngroup.com](mailto:tom@dubosedesigngroup.com); Pacheco, Mike <[MAPacheco@IID.com](mailto:MAPacheco@IID.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Project Kamino

*Tina,  
Is the attached letter still accurate and useable? Is it something you allow us to share with our developers when needed?*

**Sean Wilcock**  
Vice President of Business Development  
Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation



With this last email sent at 5:02 on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, Mr. Wilcock attached the previously referenced letter regarding Project Nomad.

After receiving this email, Ms. Shields reviewed the letter and immediately began to have concerns about its authenticity:

1. She never recalled having sent such a letter referencing a "Project Nomad". After searching her archives she could find no record of having prepared or authorized such a letter;

Letter to IVEDC  
Re: Sean Wilcock  
May 11, 2021  
Page 4

2. Some of the content in the letter seemed incorrect in regards to the date of the letter;
3. The reference to an IID point of contact (Justina Gamboa-Arce) was an employee whose tenure at IID didn't begin until more than eight months after the date on this letter;
4. The document was a Word document rather than a .pdf file, and it was not Ms. Shields' practice to share her electronic signature in formats that could be edited. After further inspection, Ms. Shields noticed the electronic "signature" contained ink smudges above her name. After comparing it to the electronic signature she uses, Ms. Shields realized it was not her signature but one that had been copied, cut and pasted into the Word document that also utilized an IID letterhead template she had originally created but that had since been modified by Mr. Wilcock according to the document's electronic properties.

The above discovery led to a heated telephone exchange between Ms. Shields and Mr. Wilcock. When confronted with these inconsistencies, Mr. Wilcock admitted he had recycled prior draft letters written by Ms. Shields for other specific projects, edited them for a different project and then copied, cut and pasted Ms. Shields' signature from another document-all without her permission or consent! Not surprisingly, Ms. Shields was outraged over this blatant forgery and immediately terminated the conversation after advising Mr. Wilcock that she would be reporting this breach of trust to her management immediately.

After internal staff discussions, and notwithstanding Mr. Wilcock's attempt to apologize for his lapse in judgment, including an email sent later that day admitting to this misrepresentation, this conduct raises fundamental questions about IID's relationship with IVEDC. IID has supported IVEDC both financially and organizationally, based in large part on an extension of trust that when officers of IVEDC were communicating with third parties these communications would include honest and accurate statements of IID positions and policies. This trust has been eviscerated by this evidence of deceit and misrepresentation.

Moreover, this one act raises additional, troubling concerns, Mr. Kelley. How can the IID trust that this hasn't happened on other occasions, and for what other issues? If this forgery was so easily prepared in a matter of a few hours, how many times has this been done for other matters when it suited Mr. Wilcock's needs? Have he or others fabricated additional IID communications on even more critical issues or made other commitments on behalf of IID without proper authorization?

At a minimum, Mr. Kelley, you or an impartial inspector must examine your records to verify the authenticity of all IID-sourced communications. Copies of all such documents must be forwarded to the IID no later than the close of business Friday, May 14, 2021. Any questionable documents should also be highlighted for IID's review. The documents should be delivered to my office at the IID headquarters in Imperial.

Letter to IVEDC  
Re: Sean Wilcock  
May 11, 2021  
Page 5

Between now and the next IID board meeting on May 18, 2021 you, your officers and employees are not to contact any employee or staff member of the IID. If there are communications, confine them to email transmittals to my IID email address.

Since this raises the most fundamental concerns about IID's continued participation and business relationship with IVEDC, I have given instructions that IID's recently authorized financial contributions be put on hold until this matter is brought before the board of directors for their consideration.

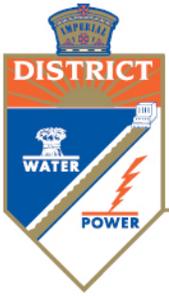
The IID Board of Directors will consider this matter at their May 18, 2021 closed session board meeting; the board will be apprised of this situation and asked to provide direction as to the future of the organizational relationship. I trust that you understand the profoundly difficult situation Mr. Wilcock has created for IID, and realize that the district's confidence and trust in IVEDC are gone.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Martinez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Enrique B. Martinez  
General Manager

cc: Board of Directors



# IID

*A century of service.*

www.iid.com

February 14, 2018

Jeff Malin  
Senior Business Development Specialist  
Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development  
300 South Spring Street, Suite 16701  
Los Angeles, California 90013

Re: Project Nomad

The Imperial Irrigation District holds senior water rights to 3.1 million acre-feet (2,767.5 MGD) of Colorado River water, which comprises over 70 percent of California's legal entitlement to this critical water supply. Even with the current challenging hydrology within California, and in the midst of a record breaking 16-year Colorado River drought, IID continues to receive a full water supply each year to deliver to its local water users.

In response to your recent inquiry regarding IID's ability to serve new industrial development, please note that in September 2009 the Imperial Irrigation District adopted an Interim Water Supply Policy for Non-Agricultural Projects (IWSP) to provide a mechanism to facilitate new water supply requests for proposed projects being developed within the IID service area. The IWSP designates up to 25,000 AF (22.3 MGD) of IID's annual Colorado River water supply for any new projects, provides a mechanism and process to develop a water supply agreement for any appropriately permitted project and establishes the framework and set of fees necessary to ensure the supplies used to meet any new demands do not adversely affect existing users by funding water conservation or augmentation projects.

To date, IID has issued only two water supply agreements under the IWSP with annual water deliveries totaling 1,200 AF (1.07 MGD). This leaves a current balance of at least 23,800 AF (21.25 MGD) of IID's Colorado River supply available for contracting under the IWSP for any new municipal, commercial or industrial developments. Should projects with additional or larger demands materialize within the IID's service area, I am confident the policies and programs established by the IID Board of Directors can provide a level of long-term water supply reliability unrivaled by anywhere else in California. While final water supply costs will vary based on the project's site location and contractual agreements, IID is certain its current industrial rate of \$85/AF and its ability to deliver a guaranteed raw water supply provide a competitive advantage to new developments within Imperial County.

For additional water supply information, please contact Justina Gamboa-Arce at [jgamboarce@iid.com](mailto:jgamboarce@iid.com) or (760) 339-9085.

Sincerely,

Tina Anderholt Shields, PE  
Colorado River Resources Manager