

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY (MWDOC)
WITH THE MWDOC MET DIRECTORS**

April 1, 2020

At 8:30 a.m., President Tamaribuchi called to order the Regular Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County via the Zoom Webinar application (pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was conducted via Zoom). Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

MWDOC DIRECTORS

Brett R. Barbre*
Larry Dick*
Joan Finnegan
Bob McVicker
Sat Tamaribuchi
Jeffery M. Thomas
Megan Yoo Schneider

STAFF

Robert Hunter, General Manager
Karl Seckel, Assistant General Manager
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Maribeth Goldsby, Board Secretary
Harvey De La Torre, Associate General Manager
Chris Lingad, Associate Engineer
Melissa Baum-Haley, Prin. Water Resource Analyst
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Kevin Hostert, Water Resources Analyst
Joe Berg, Dir. of Water Use Efficiency
Charles Busslinger, Principal Engineer

*Also MWDOC MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC MET DIRECTORS

Larry McKenney
Linda Ackerman (absent)

OTHERS PRESENT

Kathryn Freshley
Mark Monin
Doug Reinhart
Peer Swan
Paul Weghorst
Drew Atwater
Kelly Rowe
Mike Markus
Chuck Gibson
Greg Mills
Brad Reese
Dennis Erdman
Bill Green
Fernando Paludi
Al Nederhood
Ed Means
Skylar Stephens
Rupert Barnett

El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Orange County Water District
Orange County Water District
Santa Margarita Water District
Serrano Water District
Serrano Water District
South Coast Water District
South Coast Water District
Trabuco Canyon Water District
Yorba Linda Water District
Means Consulting
San Diego County Water Authority

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Tamaribuchi inquired whether any members of the public wished to comment on agenda items.

No public comments were received.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED - Determine need and take action to agendize item(s), which arose subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (ROLL CALL VOTE: Adoption of this recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the Board members present or, if less than two-thirds of the Board members are present, a unanimous vote.)

No items were presented.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING

President Tamaribuchi inquired as to whether there were any items distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

No items were presented.

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

INPUT OR QUESTIONS ON MET ISSUES FROM THE MEMBER AGENCIES/MET DIRECTOR REPORTS REGARDING MET COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Director McKenney highlighted COVID-19's effect on MET including MET's efforts to protect its workforce, as well as delays in the IRP process, and rate setting.

Director Dick highlighted the MET Biennial budget, noting it will be presented to the MET Board in April.

Director Barbre referenced a recent article in the *LA Times* regarding the State of California's lawsuit against the Federal government and proposed separate operating rules for the Delta (under the Endangered Species Act). Director Barbre indicated that litigation may be sought by MET.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding the MET's budget (increases v. fiscal responsibility), potential rate increases, the financial impact of COVID-19 on the retail agencies, and the effect of low water sales on MET.

METROPOLITAN'S 2020 INTEGRATED RESOURCES PLAN (IRP) DISCUSSION SERIES PART 4 – PROCESS AND POLICY ISSUES

Harvey De La Torre (Associate General Manager) provided an overview of the upcoming IRP process, noting that the full planning cycle is complete (twenty-five years) since the completion of the first IRP in 1996 and that the new IRP process was kicked off in 2020 with an IRP Special Committee, chaired by Director Pressman of Beverly Hills. Mr. De La Torre reviewed the planning efforts with the Board, as well as an overview of the IRP schedule and sequence of activities (to occur in sequence with the Urban Water Management Plan process, MET's System Flexibility Study and the Rate Structure Refinement discussions). He noted however, that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IRP Committee meeting for March was canceled, but there is one scheduled for April 28.

Mr. De La Torre noted that during the February IRP Committee meeting, MET staff identified the policy issues of the 2020 IRP which focused on demand projections, local supply projects, definition of reliability and resiliency, and MET's role and rate structure.

Considerable discussion ensued with emphasis on baseload demand and the need to stabilize MET demands, sales/revenue, State Water Project (SWP) resiliency and the concern of seismic vulnerability of the SWP (as well as the need to evaluate regional resiliency in MET's service area), the benefits of a groundwater replenishment rate, flexibility of water storage solutions, the need to identify the value of water, demand management, and the issue of whether MET should create an expert advisory group to oversee IRP discussions.

President Tamaribuchi advised that the 2020 IRP would be addressed at each Workshop Board meeting during the upcoming months and encouraged all to attend and provide input. Moreover, he asked staff to think of ways to further receive input from the member agencies on the 2020 IRP.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the report as presented.

WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS UPDATE

Water Resources Analyst, Kevin Hostert presented information on the U.S. drought monitor, climate outlook, local precipitation statistics, northern California Accumulated precipitation, storage level data throughout the state, the State Water Project Table A allocations (currently at 15%), and MET estimated storage levels.

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT ACTIVITIES UPDATE

It was noted that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) would be extending the scoping period for the Delta Conveyance project by four weeks, with the new deadline for public comments set at April 17, 2020.

The Board received and filed the staff report.

MWD ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

- a. MET's Water Supply Conditions
- b. MET's Finance and Rate Issues

- c. Colorado River Issues
- d. Bay Delta/State Water Project Issues
- e. MET's Ocean Desalination Policy and Potential Participation by MET in the Doheny Desalination Project
- f. Orange County Reliability Projects
- g. East Orange County Feeder No. 2
- h. South County Projects

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary regarding the March MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for the upcoming MET Board and Committee Agendas

The report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
Board Secretary