# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY April 15, 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 Melissa Baum-Haley, Prin. Water Resources Analyst

Joe Berg, Dir. of Water Use Efficiency Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs Heather Baez, Government Affairs Manager Vicki Osborn, Dir. of Emergency Management Bryce Roberto, Public Affairs Coordinator Kevin Hostert, Water Resources Analyst Charles Busslinger, Principal Engineer

Cathy Harris, Director of H.R. & Administration

Hilary Chumpitazi, Accounting Manager

Rachel Davis, Water Loss Control Prog. Supervisor

#### **ALSO PRESENT**

Linda Ackerman MWDOC/MET Director
Larry McKenney MWDOC/MET Director

Doug Davert East Orange County Water District

Kathryn Freshley

Mark Monin

El Toro Water District

Irvine Ranch Water District

Paul Weghorst

Irvine Ranch Water District

Irvine Ranch Water District

Jim Atkinson Mesa Water

Don Froelich
Kelly Jennings
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Brian Probolsky
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Matt Collings
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District

Kelly Rowe **Orange County Water District** Mike Markus **Orange County Water District** Gina Avala **Orange County Water District** Alicia Dunkin **Orange County Water District** Santa Margarita Water District Saundra Jacobs Dan Ferons Santa Margarita Water District Jim Leach Santa Margarita Water District Dennis Erdman South Coast Water District South Coast Water District Rick Erkeneff South Coast Water District Bill Green Rick Shintaku South Coast Water District Sonja Morgan South Coast Water District **Brooke Jones** Yorba Linda Water District Al Nederhood Yorba Linda Water District

Martin Wisckol OC Register
Roger Butow Clean Water Now

Peter Whittingham Public Affairs

Mark Donovan GHD

Rupert Barnett Orange County CoastKeepers

Daniela Velazques Jasmine Chaney

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT

President Tamaribuchi announced members of the public wishing to comment on agenda items could do so after the item has been discussed by the Board and requested members of the public identify themselves when called on. Mr. Tamaribuchi asked whether there were any comments on other items which would be heard at this time.

No Public Comments were received, however President Tamaribuchi announced several Zoom meeting protocols with respect to comments to ensure smooth meeting progress.

#### ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

No items were received.

#### 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.

General Manager Hunter advised that several member agency comment letters regarding the agenda items were distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

#### ITEMS PULLED FROM THE AGENDA

President Tamaribuchi advised that he would like Items 9-7 (Proposed MWDOC Water Rate Resolution for Fiscal Year 2020-21) and 9-8 (Adoption of MWDOC Ordinance to Establish Classes of Water Service and Terms and Conditions of Water Service Within the District) pulled

from this Agenda and referred back to the Administration & Finance Committee (in May) for further discussion.

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Yoo Schneider, and carried (6-1), Items 9-7 (Proposed MWDOC Water Rate Resolution for Fiscal Year 2020-21) and 9-8 (Adoption of MWDOC Ordinance to Establish Classes of Water Service and Terms and Conditions of Water Service Within the District) were pulled from this Agenda and referred back to the Administration & Finance Committee (in May) for further discussion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

AYES: Directors Dick, Finnegan, McVicker, Tamaribuchi, Thomas & Yoo Schneider

NOES: Director Barbre

ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

President Tamaribuchi stated all matters under the Consent Calendar would be approved by one MOTION unless a Director wished to consider an item separately.

Director Barbre asked that the record reflect his "no" vote on Item 7 (S.1932, Gardner/Feinstein – Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act).

Upon MOTION by Barbre, seconded by Thomas, and carried (7-0) the Board approved Consent Calendar items 1-6 and 8, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Barbre, Dick, Finnegan, McVicker, Yoo Schneider, Tamaribuchi &

**Thomas** 

NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

Upon MOTION by Barbre, seconded by Thomas, and carried (6-1) the Board approved Consent Item No. 7 (S.1932, Gardner/Feinstein – Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act) was adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Dick, Finnegan, McVicker, Yoo Schneider, Tamaribuchi & Thomas

NOES: Director Barbre

ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### **MINUTES**

The following minutes were approved.

March 4, 2020 Workshop Board Meeting March 18, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

#### **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

The following Committee Meeting reports were received and filed as presented.

Planning & Operations Committee Meeting: March 2, 2020 Administration & Finance Committee Meeting: March 11, 2020 Public Affairs & Legislation Committee Meeting: March 16, 2020

Executive Committee Meeting: March 19, 2020

#### TREASURER'S REPORTS

The following items were ratified and approved as presented.

MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of March 31, 2020 MWDOC Disbursement Registers (February/March)

The following items were received and filed as presented.

MWDOC Summary of Cash and Investment and Portfolio Master Summary Report (Cash and Investment report) as of February 29, 2020

PARS Monthly Statement (OPEB Trust)

Water Use Efficiency Projects Cash Flow

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

The following items were received and filed as presented.

Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the period ending February 29, 2019

#### **MEMBER AGENCY 2020 WATER BALANCE VALIDATIONS**

The Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a professional services contract with Water Systems Optimization, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$58,000 to conduct 2020 Water Balance Validations for member agencies as required by Senate Bill 555.

# APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CENTER FOR DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Board ratified President Tamaribuchi's appointment of Charles Busslinger as Member and Chris Lingad as Alternate Member to the Center for Demographic Research (CDR) Management Oversight Committee (MOC), and Charles Busslinger to serve as the voting member on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), with Chris Lingad as non-voting Ex-Officio member, pursuant to the terms of the MOU that was approved by the Board on March 18, 2020.

### S. 1932 (GARDNER/FEINSTEIN) – DROUGHT RESILIENCY AND WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

The Board adopted (by a 6-1 vote as noted above) a support position on S. 1932 (Gardner/Feinstein), including the compromise language, and authorized a letter be sent to Senator Joe Manchin, the Ranking Member of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, in support of compromise language to S. 1932 (Gardner/Feinstein), and send copies of the letter to Senators Feinstein, Harris Gardner, McSally, Sinema and Rosen.

### ORANGE COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (OC LAFCO) REGULAR SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBER SEAT – ELECTION

The Board supported Jim Fisler for OC LAFCO Special District Member; authorized President Tamaribuchi to vote on the District's behalf (with Director Thomas as alternate voting representative), and directed staff to submit the appropriate forms to OC LAFCO by the deadlines outlined.

#### - END CONSENT CALENDAR -

#### **ACTION CALENDAR**

### PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT ORDINANCE SUPERSEDING AND REPEALING MWDOC ORDINANCE NO. 54 REGARDING COMPENSATION FOR DIRECTORS

President Tamaribuchi advised that the Administration & Finance Committee recommended the Board not adopt a resolution increasing compensation.

Upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded by Director McVicker, and carried (7-0), the Board removed this item from the agenda, leaving Ordinance No. 54 in full force and effect. Said MOTION was adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Barbre, Dick, Finnegan, McVicker, Yoo Schneider, Tamaribuchi &

**Thomas** 

NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

### APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED AGENTS FOR STATE AND FEDERAL SURPLUS PROGRAM

President Tamaribuchi advised that the proposal to adopt a resolution designating authorized agents for the State and Federal Surplus Program was before the Board for consideration.

It was noted that the Planning & Operations Committee recommended that the General Manager be added as an authorized signatory to the Agreements.

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Yoo Schneider, and carried (7-0), the Board (1) adopted RESOLUTION NO. 2094 regarding Authorization to Acquire Surplus Property through the auspices of the California State Agency for Surplus Property with the State of California Department of General Services Office of Fleet and Asset Management (with the authority to execute any subsequent agreements related to the acquisition of surplus property), and (2) authorize the General Manager, the WEROC Director of Emergency Management and the WEROC Specialist as designated Authorized Representatives for the State and Federal Surplus Property Program. Prior to acquisition of any item or award greater than \$25,000 will be in accordance with the MWDOC Administrative Code and procurement procedures.

RESOLUTION NO. 2094 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Barbre, Dick, Finnegan, McVicker, Yoo Schneider, Tamaribuchi &

**Thomas** 

NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

### APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (RPA) FOR FEMA (4482-DR-CA) CALIFORNIA COVID-19 DOCUMENTATION

Upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded by Director Yoo Schneider, and carried (7-0) the Board adopted RESOLUTION NO. 2095 from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services regarding Universal Form 130, designating the titles of the individuals authorized to execute and file applications to obtain state and federal disaster reimbursements being the General Manager, Director of Emergency Management, and Account Manager.

RESOLUTION NO. 2095 was adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Barbre, Dick, Finnegan, McVicker, Yoo Schneider, Tamaribuchi &

**Thomas** 

NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

### PARTICIPATION IN CALIFORNIA WATER ENERGY EDUCATION ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE (WEEA)

President Tamaribuchi advised that he was opposed to participating in WEEA, noting he believed MWDOC needs to work with its member agencies to establish their needs, as well as the importance of developing a program that would focus on Orange County.

A brief discussion was held and opposition to approving this item was expressed by Director Dick, as well as Directors Gibson and Olson from Santa Margarita Water District.

Upon MOTION by Director Barbre, seconded by Director Finnegan, and carried (4-2), the Board

authorized assuming leadership of the Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA), by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Barbre, Finnegan, McVicker, & Thomas

NOES: Directors Dick and Tamaribuchi

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Director Yoo Schneider

### ECONOMIC BENEFIT ANALYSES TO SUPPORT DECISION-MAKING FOR LOCAL PROJECTS SERVING ORANGE COUNTY

General Manager Hunter advised that the Planning & Operations Committee requested that staff investigate the necessary studies to quantify the economic benefits provided by development of new local water supply projects serving Orange County. He further advised that staff was recommending that the Board authorize the General Manager to enter into three consultant agreements to conduct studies on the economic benefits of developing new local water supply projects serving Orange County. The purpose of this work is to provide the MWDOC Board of Directors with a methodology and specific analytical basis to support water supply project decisions. The three consulting firms include; Dr. David Sunding of the Brattle Group, Dr. Wallace Walrod of Orange County Business Council (OCBC), and CDM Smith who completed the hydrologic and evaluation modeling for the OC Water Reliability Study. He noted that the economists would work together to quantify the value of water reliability to Orange County, which will then be applied to various projects through the Orange County Water Reliability Study model developed by CDM Smith. The collective budget is not to exceed \$345,000 (out of reserves) and staff is still working on the details of the scopes of work with all three consultants.

Mr. Hunter then provided an outline of the Summary which was included in the write up presented to the Board.

Assistant General Manager, Karl Seckel, then provided an overview of the studies noting that because the two economists' proposals had similarities and differences, it was recommended they work together on measuring the value of reliability to Orange County (known as a "conjoint study) and would include two Phases. He advised that Phase 1 would include all work through the development and implementation of two surveys (residential and business) and data analysis from the survey research. The product of this portion of the work would be a report describing the study and the value of avoiding different magnitudes and durations of water shortages in the MWDOC service territory (estimated cost \$220,000). Phase 2 of the economic work would include the application of the reliability values calculated in Phase 1 to various water supply projects that could be implemented. Phase 2 would culminate in a report to MWDOC that describes the impact of new local water supply projects on reliability in both earthquake and drought scenarios (estimated cost \$75,000). Mr. Seckel advised that the project cost, including the work by of CDM Smith (estimating the likelihood of various levels of shortages from droughts and earthquake events) is estimated not to exceed \$345,000.

Considerable discussion ensued, with representatives from IRWD, OCWD, Mesa Water, MNWD, SMWD, Clean Water Now, and ETWD expressing great concern with this effort. Comments (concerns) regarding the following were received: cost, whether this was a deviation from

MWDOC's role and purpose, polling within the member agencies' service area (they are not MWDOC customers), the lack of communication/information, input and buy-in on this item with the MWDOC member agencies, whether this would be a core/choice item, and the timing of spending a large sum of money (COVID-19 financial impact on the agencies).

Director Dennis Erdman (SCWD) noted that a number of remarks he intended to make have already been covered. He was most interested in understanding what actions the MWDOC Board might take with respect to MWDOC's role with respect to the Doheny project. He noted his support of the studies, but agreed that the member agencies need to be engaged and involved in the discussions.

Several of the MWDOC Directors weighed in, with Director Barbre concurring with several of the agencies, noting his belief that this is not within MWDOC's core mission, and Directors Thomas and McVicker expressing concern with the cost and timing (as well as preference for deferring this item). Director Finnegan agreed with deferring the item and suggested this item be reviewed with the member agencies managers prior to the next Planning & Operations Committee meeting; Director Yoo Schneider concurred. Director Dick commented that although he could support the effort, he would also support a deferral if the Board opted to do so.

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Yoo Schneider, and carried (7-0), the Board deferred this item to the May 4, 2020 Planning & Operations Committee by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Barbre, Dick, Finnegan, McVicker, Yoo Schneider, Tamaribuchi &

**Thomas** 

NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### ADOPTION OF FY 2020-21 FOURTH DRAFT BUDGET

General Manager Hunter advised that the Fourth Draft Budget was before the Board for consideration. He noted that the Administration & Finance Committee (in April) recommended very few changes to the third draft (removal of the proposed increase in Directors and MET Directors compensation, and addition of the WEEA program (\$20,000). He advised that the draft budget reflects a \$0.05 decrease in the Retail Meter Charge (to \$12.35).

Director Thomas highlighted comments he's received from the member agencies regarding the tight financial conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and he recommended this item be referred back to the Administration & Finance Committee so that additional cuts to the budget could be considered; Director Finnegan concurred.

Director Dick stated that although he would support the Board's decision to defer, he expressed surprise with (1) making additional cuts to the budget in that earlier in the meeting, the Board voted to approve the addition of \$20,000 to the budget (WEEA), and (2) the agencies' desire to defer the budget as they had requested MWDOC advance (move) its budget adoption from May to April (for many years the budget was adopted in May). He also noted that even though a

Budget is passed, it does not preclude the Board from making adjustments to the budget during the year. President Tamaribuchi concurred.

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Finnegan, and carried (7-0), the Board deferred the draft FY 2020-21 budget to the May 13, 2020 back to the Administration & Finance Committee, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Barbre, Dick, Finnegan, McVicker, Yoo Schneider, Tamaribuchi &

**Thomas** 

NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

#### PROPOSED MWDOC WATER RATE RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

As noted above, this item was deferred to the May 13, 2020 Administration & Finance Committee meeting.

## ADOPTION OF MWDOC ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH CLASSES OF WATER SERVICE AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF WATER SERVICE WTIHIN THE DISTRICT

As noted above, this item was deferred to the May 13, 2020 Administration & Finance Committee meeting.

#### **INFORMATION CALENDAR**

#### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, APRIL 2020**

General Manager Hunter advised that the General Manager's report was included in the Board packet.

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

#### MWDOC GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

#### a. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board members each reported on their attendance at the regular (and special) MWDOC Board and Committee meetings. In addition to these meetings, the following reports were made on conferences and meetings attended on behalf of the District.

Director Barbre reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, Public Affairs & Legislation, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop Board and Regular Board meetings). He also attended the regularly scheduled MET meetings.

Director Dick reported he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, Public Affairs & Legislation, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop Board and Regular Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET meetings, two Ad Hoc Committee re Desalination meetings, and the Legislative Committee of the Chamber of Commerce meeting wherein Congressman Rouda recommitted his support for the WIIN Act and water in Orange County.

Director Finnegan advised that she attended the two MWDOC Board meetings, Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, Public Affairs & Legislation, and Executive Committee meetings, and the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting. She announced that the April 30, 2020 ISDOC luncheon was cancelled.

Director McVicker reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, Public Affairs & Legislation, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop Board and Regular Board meetings), two Ad Hoc Committee re Desalination meetings, and the MET Special Board meeting as well as the regular MET Committee and Board meetings (via Zoom).

Director Thomas stated that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, Public Affairs & Legislation, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), as well as the OC Water Summit Planning meeting (which has been cancelled for 2020, and rescheduled for June 4, 2021). Director Thomas also reported that LAFCO will not be raising their budget.

Director Yoo Schneider advised that she attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, Public Affairs & Legislation, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the National Science Foundation Drinking Water Additives group on extraction water chemistries, the South Coast Water District Board meeting, the OC Water Summit Planning meeting, the San Juan Capistrano Coffee Chat, the Santa Margarita Water District Water Quality & Treatment Committee meeting, the San Juan Basin Authority meeting, the California Water Environmental Association Southern Regional Committee meeting, and participated as guest speaker at Santiago Canyon College.

Director Tamaribuchi reported on attending the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, Public Affairs & Legislation, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the OC Water Summit Planning meeting, two Ad Hoc Committee re Desalination meetings, and a meeting with staff regarding the MET IRP.

#### b. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

No requests were made.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Tamaribuchi adjourned the

Minutes April 15, 2020 meeting at 10:21 a.m. Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Goldsby, Secretary