

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

March 3, 2021

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

Al Nederhood
Larry Dick*
Karl W. Seckel
Bob McVicker
Sat Tamaribuchi*
Jeffery M. Thomas (arr. at 8:45 am)
Megan Yoo Schneider

STAFF

Robert Hunter, General Manager
Harvey De La Torre, Assistant General Manager
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Maribeth Goldsby, Board Secretary
Melissa Baum-Haley, Prin. Water Resource Analyst
Alex Heide, Water Resources Analyst
Chris Lingad, Associate Engineer
Kevin Hostert, Water Resources Analyst
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Heather Baez, Government Affairs Manager
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency Prog.
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management
Charles Busslinger, Principal Engineer

*Also MWDOC MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Faessel	City of Anaheim
Fred Jung	City of Fullerton
Dick Ackerman	Ackerman Consulting
Sara Tucker	NRR
Garrett Durst	NRR
Syrus Devers	Best, Best & Krieger
John Lewis	Lewis Consulting
Ed Means	Means Consulting
Kathryn Freshley	El Toro Water District
Mike Gaskins	El Toro Water District
Kay Havens	El Toro Water District
Mark Monin	El Toro Water District
Jose Vergara	El Toro Water District
Dennis Cafferty	El Toro Water District
Mike Dunbar	Emerald Bay Service District
Steve LaMar	Irvine Ranch Water District
Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District

Frank Prewoznik	Irvine Ranch Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Don Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Joone Lopez	Moulton Niguel Water District
Matt Collings	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kaden Young	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kelly Rowe	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Justin McCusker	Santa Margarita Water District
Betty Olson	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Bill Green	South Coast Water District
Rick Shintaku	South Coast Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brooke Jones	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Wayne Miller	Yorba Linda Water District
Megan Couch	San Diego County Water Authority
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting
Cindy Byerrum	Eide Bailley

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 distributed.

ACTION ITEMS

President Tamaribuchi asked that the Board consider the legislative action items in one motion; members of the Board asked that Item No. 6 (SB 351/Caballero) be considered as a separate item.

Upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (6-0), the Board adopted the following positions on the following legislation:

AB 361 (RIVAS) – BROWN ACT: REMOTE MEETINGS DURING EMERGENCIES

The Board adopted a support position on AB 361 (Rivas), and authorized a letter be sent in support to the Orange County delegation, and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA).

Director Nederhood commended the MWDOC Board and staff for holding open and supportive meetings via the Zoom webinar application, noting members of the public and member agencies are allowed to fully participate at each meeting.

AB 703 (RUBIO) – BROWN ACT: PUBLIC MEETINGS VIA TELECONFERENCING

The Board adopted a support position on AB 703 (Rubio), and authorized a letter be sent in support to the author's office and Orange County delegation.

**AB 442 (MAYES) – SURFACE MINING AND RECLAMATION ACT OF 1975:
EXEMPTION: METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

The Board adopted a support position on AB 442 (Mayes), and authorized staff to sign onto the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's coalition letter.

**H.R. 535 (GARAMENDI) & S. 91 (SINEMA) – SPECIAL DISTRICTS PROVIDE
ESSENTIAL SERVICES ACT**

The Board adopted a support position on H.R. 535 (Garamendi, D-CA) and S. 91 (Sinema, D-AZ), and authorized a letter be sent in support to the Orange County delegation, and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA).

SB 323 (CABALLERO) – WATER/SEWER RATES

The Board adopted a support position on SB 323 (Caballero), and authorized a letter be sent in support to the Orange County delegation, and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA).

Said positions were adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, McVicker, Seckel, Tamaribuchi & Yoo
Schneider
NOES:None
ABSENT: Director Thomas
ABSTAIN: None

SB 351 (CABALLERO) – WATER INNOVATION ACT OF 2021

Government Affairs Manager Heather Baez advised that SB 351 (Caballero) is sponsored by the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and would create the Office of Water Innovation, which would be under the California Water Commission for the furtherance of new technologies and other innovative approaches in the water sector. She noted that she did not foresee any financial impacts to the District, and she encouraged the Board to adopt a support position.

Director Dick expressed some concern on whether costs would become an issue sometime in the future (due to growth and/or elimination or reduction in funding sources), and Mr. Syrus Devers (BBK) advised that he believed the organization would be compelled to function under its existing budget; he advised that he does not anticipate any funding pressure.

(Director Thomas arrived at 8:45 a.m.)

Discussion ensued regarding funding, the innovation approaches that would be pursued by the organization (and whether this would include any new regulations), and coordination with the California Energy Commission (if any). It was suggested these comments be included in the letter to be transmitted.

IRWD Director Steve LaMar commented that working with CMUA was positive and productive.

Following discussion, and upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded by Director McVicker, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted a support position on SB 351 (Caballero), and authorized a letter be sent in support to the Orange County delegation, and the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors Nederhood, Dick, McVicker, Seckel, Tamaribuchi, Thomas, & Yoo Schneider
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)

Ms. Sara Tucker provided an overview of cabinet nominations, the Senator Feinstein Western Water legislation, as well as the EPA's standards regarding PFAS.

Mr. Garrett Durst highlighted FEMA's disaster assistance criteria, President Biden's budget and appropriations activities, and COVID-19 legislation which includes \$19 billion in funding for emergency rental and utility assistance.

Discussion ensued regarding how the region (and MWDOC) could receive additional funding for projects, the Salton Sea legislation, COVID relief funding, and Colorado River issues. It was recommended the Board hold a workshop regarding ways to gain additional funding, and to address challenges on the Colorado River.

The Board received and filed the report.

- b. State Legislative Report**
- c. MWDOC Legislative Matrix**

Mr. Syrus Devers of BBK, reviewed his report, highlighting the legislative process, noting that the Legislative Policy Principles the Board adopted have assisted his and Ms. Baez's work in organizing and preparing for the upcoming legislative session.

The Board received and filed the report.

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

Director Ackerman highlighted MET's Organization, Personnel & Technology Committee (OPT) activities, the status of the voluntary agreements in Northern California, including the Water Quality Control Plan (which is reviewed every 3 years), the Bay-Delta activities, MET's Rate Refinement process, the annual seismic resilience program, the Colorado River Aqueduct shutdown, MET's headquarters construction, Utah's desire to build a pipeline to Lake Powell, and work being done at Gene Camp and Iron Mountain.

Director Dick provided an update on the MET General Manager recruitment process, as well as the SDCWA/MET litigation (and the importance of addressing the rate issue). He also noted that MWDOC's delegation is supporting Director Pressman for the MET Executive Committee, and that Mr. Adan Ortega may be appointed to the MET Board as a Director from the City of San Fernando.

Director Erdman noted that he took his Oath of Office at MET on March 1st and he attended a presentation (by Brian Thomas) regarding the history of MET rates.

Directors Faessel and Jung thanked President Tamaribuchi for the opportunity to participate in the meeting, noting they look forward to working with newly appointed Director Erdman.

President Tamaribuchi highlighted that the next Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) workshop would be held March 23, 2021; and he encouraged all to attend.

The Board received and filed the reports.

STATUS UPDATE BY MWDOC STAFF REGARDING METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RATE REFINEMENT PROCESS

Dr. Melissa Baum-Haley, Principal Water Resources Analyst, provided an overview of MET's Rate Refinement process. Her presentation included information on the Demand Management cost recovery review, the rate structure framework, and the Guiding Principles, of which comments were submitted by a group of MET member agencies including MWDOC, the City of Beverly Hills, SDCWA, and LADWP. Dr. Baum-Haley then outlined the next steps where MET staff will combine the feedback received, and will utilize a consensus-based process seeking a collective agreement in developing the Rate Structure Guiding Principles.

Discussion was then held regarding the schedule for the Demand Management Cost Recovery, the current trend of lower than expected water sales (and methods to keep MET financially stable), and the need to closely monitor legislation that may impact future imported demands.

The Board received and filed the report.

INFORMATION ITEMS

MWD ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

- a. MET's Finance and Rate Issues
- b. MET's General Manager Recruitment Process
- c. MET's Water Supply Conditions
- d. Colorado River Issues
- e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary regarding the February 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 10:04 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
Board Secretary