

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

May 5, 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  
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**

Brad Coffey  
Sue Sims  
Stephen Faessel  
Fred Jung  
Dick Ackerman  
Syrus Devers  
Sara Tucker  
Garrett Durst  
Dave Youngblood  
Kathryn Freshley  
Mike Gaskins  
Kay Havens  
Mark Monin  
Jose Vergara  
Dennis Cafferty  
Mike Dunbar  
Peer Swan  
Paul Weghorst  
Frank Prewoznik

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
City of Anaheim  
City of Fullerton  
Ackerman Consulting  
Best, Best & Krieger  
NRR  
NRR  
East Orange County Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
Emerald Bay Service District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District

Jim Atkinson  
 Paul Shoenberger  
 Don Froelich  
 Bill Moorehead  
 Sherry Wanninger  
 Kaden Young  
 Laura Rocha  
 Matt Collings  
 Kelly Rowe  
 Mike Markus  
 John Kennedy  
 Adam Hutchinson  
 Alicia Dunkin  
 Sandra Jacobs  
 Dan Ferons  
 Brad Reese  
 Rick Shintaku  
 Fernando Paludi  
 Brooke Jones  
 Tom Lindsey  
 Wayne Miller  
 Doug Davert  
 Kristy Khachigian  
 Megan Couch  
 Lisa Ohlund  
 Tiffany Tran

Mesa Water  
 Mesa Water  
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 Orange County Water District  
 Orange County Water District  
 Santa Margarita Water District  
 Santa Margarita Water District  
 Serrano Water District  
 South Coast Water District  
 Trabuco Canyon Water District  
 Yorba Linda Water District  
 Yorba Linda Water District  
 Yorba Linda Water District  
 Yorba Linda Water District  
 KK Consulting  
 San Diego County Water Authority  
 Ohlund Management & Technical Services

**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.

It was noted that Mr. Coffey’s presentation for Item No. 5 (Southern California Water Supply Conditions and Communications/Outreach Messaging) was distributed to the Board and made available to the public less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS****AB 1195 (C. GARCIA) – DRINKING WATER**

Government Affairs Manager, Heather Baez, provided an overview of AB 1195 (C. Garcia), noting that the legislation would enact the Southern Los Angeles County Human Right to Water Collaboration Act which would require the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to appoint a commissioner to (among other things) expend moneys from the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund on behalf of the SWRCB for eligible purposes, and recipients within the jurisdiction of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California. She advised that staff recommends the Board adopt an “oppose unless amended” position, and she reviewed proposed amendments which were also outlined in the write up.

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Dick, and carried (7-0), the Board voted to adopt an Oppose Unless Amended position on AB 1195, by the following roll call vote:

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

**SB 559 (HURTADO) – DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES: WATER CONVEYANCE SYSTEMS: CANAL CONVEYANCE CAPACITY RESTORATION FUND**

Upon MOTION by Director McVicker, seconded by Director Dick, and carried (7-0), the Board voted to adopt a Support position on SB 559, by the following roll call vote:

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

**PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS****LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES****a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)**

Ms. Sara Tucker provided an overview of President Biden’s nominations for key positions within the Department of the Interior and the EPA, as well as an overview of the Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act. She also noted that she anticipates Congressman Huffman will reintroduce his western water legislation in the coming weeks, and she provided an overview of the Colorado River shortage projections.

Mr. Garrett Durst highlighted that the Senate Republicans unveiled the framework of a \$568 billion infrastructure proposal as a counter-proposal to President Biden’s proposal, and he provided an overview of the recently passed Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act

of 2021. Mr. Durst then highlighted the District's requests/search for funding for WEROC's Emergency Operations Center, noting Senator Feinstein's staff is very open to the idea, and that an earmark funding request for WEROC was made through the Senator's office.

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 Governor's Drought Proclamation, as well as the Public Policy Institute's report on the drought, the State budget, and AB 1434 (Friedman). Discussion was held regarding AB 1434 (which lowers the indoor water use efficiency levels), and credits/bonus credits for direct potable reuse.

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 rate refinement and demand management funding process, noting that an updated report is anticipated to occur in June (with guiding principles). Additional current items considered by the MET Board included: a public hearing and adoption of MET's Urban Water Management Plan, adoption of the Readiness to Serve and Capacity charges, the State Water Project activities (removing nitrates from islands that MET owns/subsidence), the AMP relining, and the authorization to enter into an agreement for the design and environmental site assessments needed to replace 35 transformers at every pumping plant along the Colorado River Aqueduct. She noted that MET would kick-off its biennial budget process in September.

Director Dick highlighted that MET authorized an upgrade to the fuel management system, will be considering updates to the Administrative Code, and authorized ten-year license agreements for telecommunications purposes (City of Anaheim and Yorba Linda). Director Dick also highlighted/commented on the importance of removing nitrates in the Delta, the increase in budget for the Greg Avenue Pumping Station, and the authorization of next steps on the Desert housing issues. He advised that MET would consider approval of Appendix A in May.

Director Erdman highlighted the General Manager recruitment process, noting the Board anticipates the selection in May. He also noted that MET would be considering the SMWD/Las Flores Project for the Local Resources Program in June, that SCWD is conducting its own IRP process with consultant CDM Smith, and that he would be meeting with TCWD later in the month. He referenced an article entitled Water Tomorrow, noting it is an interesting read on MET's IRP process and encouraged all to read.

Directors Faessel and Jung advised that all issues were covered by Directors Ackerman, Dick, and Erdman above.

The Board received and filed the reports.

**PRESENTATION ON SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS  
AND COMMUNICATIONS/OUTREACH MESSAGING (METROPOLITAN STAFF  
BRAD COFFEY AND SUE SIMS)**

Mr. Brad Coffey, MET's Group Manager/Water Resource Management, provided an overview of MET's water supply conditions, including watershed conditions, 2021 supply and demand balance dry-year actions, and the Governor's Drought Proclamation. Mr. Coffey noted that precipitation and snow pack is below normal, and that the second dry-year in a row intensifies the impact to the region (Table "A" allocation is currently at 5%).

Discussion ensued with emphasis on the Table "A" allocation, how the drought may impact the Urban Water Management Plan and Drought Contingency Plan, the Colorado River distributions (increasing) and the salinity concerns, hydro power (and its effect on Lake Mead), and the water storage outlook.

Ms. Sue Sims, MET's Group Manager for External Affairs, then provided an overview of MET's messaging and outreach on drought conditions and conservation. Her presentation included information on communications and key messaging, media interest, content and planning (consistent, balanced message that supports and encourages consumer efficiency efforts while emphasizing Southern California is prepared), messaging avenues (fact sheets, social media, blogs, etc.), and conservation activities.

Discussion ensued regarding the drought response (in comparison to prior droughts), reliability messaging, the fact that although southern California is in a better position for handling drought conditions (than northern California) the entire state is treated equal, and the importance of informing/educating legislators.

The Board thanked Mr. Coffey and Ms. Sims, and received and filed the reports.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**MWD ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY**

- a. MET Finance and Rate Issues
- b. MET General Manager Recruitment Process
- c. MET Review of Equal Employment Opportunity Policies and Practices
- d. MET Integrated Resources Plan Update
- e. MET Water Supply Conditions
- f. Colorado River Issues
- g. 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 April 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 10:27 a.m.

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Maribeth Goldsby  
Board Secretary