

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY  
April 1, 2021

At 6:00 p.m. President Tamaribuchi called to order the Special Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County Board of Directors, 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). Director Seckel led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

**MWDOC DIRECTORS**

Al Nederhood  
Larry Dick  
Bob McVicker  
Karl Seckel  
Sat Tamaribuchi  
Jeffery M. Thomas  
Megan Yoo Schneider

**STAFF PRESENT**

Robert Hunter, General Manager  
Maribeth Goldsby, Board Secretary  
Harvey De La Torre, Assistant General Manager  
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency  
Heather Baez, Government Affairs Manager  
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs  
Chris Lingad, Associate Engineer  
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Engineer

**ALSO PRESENT**

Dennis Erdman  
Linda Ackerman  
Doug Davert  
George Murdoch  
John Sears  
Dave Youngblood  
Kathryn Freshley  
Mike Gaskins  
Kay Havens  
Jose Vergara  
Dennis Cafferty  
Glen Grandis  
Paul Weghorst  
Debbie Baker  
Mark Waldman  
Marice DePasquale  
Richard Fiore  
Don Froelich  
Bill Moorhead  
Brian Probolsky  
Matt Collings  
Sherry Wanninger  
Jose Solorio  
Diane Dixon  
Kelly Rowe  
Bruce Whitaker  
Mike Markus  
John Kennedy  
Chris Duncan

MWDOC/MET Director  
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East Orange County Water District  
East Orange County Water District  
East Orange County Water District  
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  
City of Fountain Valley  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
City of La Palma  
City of La Palma  
Mesa Water  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
City of Newport Beach  
Orange County Water District  
Orange County Water District  
Orange County Water District  
Orange County Water District  
City of San Clemente

David Rebensdorf	City of San Clemente
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Betty Olson	Santa Margarita Water District
Frank Ury	Santa Margarita Water District
Dan Ferons	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Jerry Vilander	Serrano Water District
Scott Goldman	South Coast Water District
Bill Green	South Coast Water District
Stephen Dopudja	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Ed Mandich	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brooke Jones	Yorba Linda Water District
Phil Hawkins	Yorba Linda Water District
Brett R. Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Charles Wilson	Southern California Water Coalition
Dick Ackerman	Ackerman Consulting
Megan Couch	San Diego County Water Authority
Kristy Khachigian	Kristy Khachigian Consulting

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were received.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM MWDOC’S MEMBER AGENCIES REGARDING KEY REGIONAL ISSUES AND KEY ORANGE COUNTY ISSUES, INCLUDING THE MWDOC BUDGET AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2021-22, THE MWDOC RATE STUDY, REGIONAL WATER ISSUES, AND WATER USE EFFICIENCY ACTIVITIES**

President Tamaribuchi stated that the evening would consist of short presentations, each followed by open dialogue/questions between the Board and audience. The following topics were covered:

- FY 2021-22 Budget and Activities (R. Hunter)
- Conservation Framework & Call to Action (J. Berg and H. Baez)
- Water Supply Conditions & Reliability Activities (H. De La Torre)

General Manager Hunter began the evening with a presentation and overview of MWDOC’s FY 2021-22 proposed budget. Considerable discussion was held regarding the District’s Reserve Policy, whether to amend it, and whether to use reserves for the South Emergency Operations site.

Director Chuck Gibson (SMWD) and OCWD General Manager Mike Markus advised that their agencies submitted comment letters regarding the budget and asked for written

responses to the letters; the Board generally concurred that written responses to the letters would be provided.

Director of Water Use Efficiency, Joe Berg, and Government Affairs Manager Heather Baez, began their presentation with an overview of 2018 legislation relating to conservation measures namely, SB 606 and AB 1668 (Urban Water Use Objective Compliance) relative to indoor and outdoor water use.

Mr. Berg and Ms. Baez then provided an overview of proposed legislation, AB 1434 (Indoor Residential Water Use), as well as MWDOC's opposition to AB 1434, noting that it would establish a new indoor standard for water use, would circumvent the agreed upon language and data driven collaborative process enacted by AB 1668/SB 606, and would adversely impact water and wastewater management, including potable reuse, wastewater, recycled and reuse systems, infrastructure, operation and supplies. MWDOC's agencies were asked to join MWDOC in its opposition to AB 1434, or join the coalition letter in opposition. Discussion was held regarding wastewater challenges, cost effectiveness, and how little is gained from AB 1434.

Assistant General Manager Harvey De La Torre, completed the presentations with an overview of water supply conditions and water reliability activities. His presentation included information regarding the current drought conditions, Northern California Accumulated precipitation (and historical comparison), the State Water Project Table "A" allocation of 5%, MET's estimated water storage amounts, the Delta Conveyance Project activities, Colorado River Aqueduct activities, the Regional Recycled Water Project, MET's Integrated Resources Plan (update/process), status of MET's General Manager recruitment process, MET's Rate Refinement Process, the adoption of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, and MET's employee issues (internal investigation). Discussion ensued regarding salinity control issues out of the Colorado River, drought conditions and the reduction in the Table "A" allocation to 5%, the importance of the State Water Project and Delta Conveyance, and the potential importance of desalination for the region's supply reliability.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Tamaribuchi adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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Maribeth Goldsby, Secretary