

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

June 2, 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). Director Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance and 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  
Alisha Winterswyk, 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, Governmental Affairs Manager  
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency  
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management  
Charles Busslinger, Principal Engineer

\*Also MWDOC MET Directors

**OTHER MWDOC MET DIRECTORS**

Linda Ackerman  
Dennis Erdman

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Stephen Faessel  
Fred Jung  
Dick Ackerman  
Syrus Devers  
Sara Tucker  
Garrett Durst  
Kathryn Freshley  
Mark Monin  
Jose Vergara  
Jim Atkinson  
Don Froelich  
Sherry Wanninger  
Matt Collings  
Laura Rocha  
Kaden Young  
Johnathan Cruz  
Mike Dunbar  
Doug Reinhart  
Paul Weghorst

MET Director/City of Anaheim  
MET Director/City of Fullerton  
Ackerman Consulting  
Best, Best & Krieger  
NRR  
NRR  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
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  
Emerald Bay Service District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District

Frank Prewoznik  
 Kelly Rowe  
 Mike Markus  
 John Kennedy  
 Chuck Gibson  
 Sandra Jacobs  
 Justin McCusker  
 Frank Ury  
 Dan Ferons  
 Jim Leach  
 Greg Mills  
 Taryn Kjolsing  
 Fernando Paludi  
 Brooke Jones  
 Wayne Miller  
 Tom Lindsey  
 Ed Means  
 Megan Couch  
 Drew Atwater  
 Paul Jones

Irvine Ranch Water District  
 Orange County Water District  
 Orange County Water District  
 Orange County Water District  
 Santa Margarita Water District  
 Santa Margarita Water District  
 Santa Margarita Water District  
 Santa Margarita Water District  
 Santa Margarita 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  
 Means Consulting  
 San Diego County Water Authority  
 Metropolitan Water District of Southern Calif.  
 Eastern Municipal Water District

**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 less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**H.R. 3404 (HUFFMAN) – FUTURE WESTERN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND DROUGHT RESILIENCY ACT**

Governmental Affairs Manager Heather Baez reviewed the benefits of H.R. 3404, and she provided an overview of the section-by-section breakdown of the bill.

Following discussion, and upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted a Support position on H.R. 3404 (Huffman), 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, the appointment of the Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner (to be announced soon), Western Water legislation, and Colorado River spring run-off numbers (down to 26% of normal). She noted that MET is working with Senator Masto and Congresswoman Napolitano regarding a large scale water recycling bill.

Mr. Garrett Durst reported that Congressionally Directed Spending requests for WEROC's Emergency Operations Center were submitted through Senators Feinstein and Padilla's offices. He then highlighted the White House infrastructure packages. Discussion ensued regarding potential funding/earmarks for the Salton Sea and desalination projects.

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 budget process, key issues with the budget, comments on the budget by the Legislative Analyst's office, as well as the California drought and associated issues.

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 the MET Board adopted a resolution establishing its 2021-22 Standby Charges. She also highlighted various issues, including: employee injury reports, information on the Property & Casualty insurance (14% increase in premium), approval of an increase of \$200K to the Gary Avenue Pumping plant for improvements (along with \$1.2 million for engineering support), approval of \$2 million in flow monitoring equipment at Mile 12 of the Colorado River Aqueduct, approval of Santa Monica's LRP project on Sustainable Water Supply, authorization for the MET General Manager to enter into agreements with member agencies for net increased costs incurred for shifting operations from SWP to Colorado River water to improve regional reliability during the drought ("Cost-Offset Program"), and the approval of MET's 2020 UWMP. She then reported that the seismic retrofitting of MET's headquarters building is complete, and she provided brief updates on the Carson Recycling Project, MET's National Hazard Mitigation Plan (currently being developed), an update on demands on the MET system, an overview of water storage levels in Lake Mead, the Colorado

River Aqueduct run off shortages, drought issues, the IRP workshop held at the end of May regarding Climate Change's impacts to demands and supplies, and she advised that MET is looking at programs to save water along the Colorado river.

In addition to the information reported by Director Ackerman, Director Dick highlighted the importance of addressing and providing funding to address MET's Desert housing issues.

Director Erdman highlighted each of the 12 Consent Calendar items on the June 8, 2021 MET Board agenda.

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

Director Tamaribuchi highlighted that the northern portion of MET's service area is reliant only on State Water Project (SWP) water, and he noted the importance of the City of Los Angeles taking water from the Colorado River as well (emphasizing such actions will leave greater amounts of storage for these exclusive SWP areas in the MET system).

Responding to an inquiry by Director Seckel (referring to an email sent by MET Director Adan Ortega regarding the MET General Manager recruitment process and actions taken by MWDOC), General Manager Hunter provided an overview of the publicly available information on the recruitment process, noting that the majority of discussions were held in closed session.

Discussion ensued regarding the MET General Manager recruitment process and salinity control efforts along the Colorado River.

The Board received and filed the reports.

### **OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP ON THE INTEGRATED RESOURCES PLAN (IRP) EXPERT PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Dr. Melissa Baum-Haley, Principal Water Resources Analyst, provided an overview of the MET workshop with the expert panel on climate change. Her presentation included an overview of the panel members, warming trends across the western United States, the intensity and severity of climate change impacts, regional hydraulic changes, effects on the imported water supply due to evaporation (and decreasing runoff), effects on water demand, and climate change forecast models and ways to evaluate potential future impacts. Dr. Baum-Haley concluded her presentation stating that climate change will have implications on water management, specifically a need for increased flexibility within source limited areas which illustrates the need for more comprehensive consideration of dry-year storage to manage variability.

Discussion ensued with specific emphasis on the need for additional storage (and to preserve existing storage), increasing withdrawal capacity from MET's storage account along the State Water Project Aqueduct, climate change models and how they were developed, the importance of hydrologic independent supplies and infrastructure investments, and the importance of the Delta Conveyance Project.

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

## **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 May 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 10:05 a.m.

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Maribeth Goldsby  
Board Secretary