

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

August 4, 2021

At 8:30 a.m., President Tamaribuchi called to order the Regular Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County both in the Board Room at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, and via the Zoom Webinar application. Director Seckel 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, Asst. Gen. Mgr. (absent)  
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  
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency  
Charles Busslinger, Principal Engineer  
Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager  
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management  
Tiffany Baca, Public Affairs Manager

\*Also MWDOC MET Directors

**OTHER MWDOC MET DIRECTORS**

Linda Ackerman  
Dennis Erdman

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Adel Hagekhalil  
Albert Napoli  
Sara Tucker  
Garrett Durst  
Syrus Devers  
Dick Ackerman  
Ed Means  
Fred Jung  
Richard Bell  
Dave Youngblood  
Kathryn Freshley  
Mike Gaskins  
Kay Havens  
Mark Monin  
Jose Vergara  
Dennis Cafferty  
Mike Dunbar  
Steve LaMar

Metropolitan Water District of Southern Calif.  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern Calif.  
NRR  
NRR  
Best, Best & Krieger  
Ackerman Consulting  
Means Consulting  
MET Director/City of Fullerton  
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  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
Emerald Bay Service District  
Irvine Ranch Water District

Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Keith Van Der Maaten	Laguna Beach County Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Paul Shoenberger	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Dick Fiori	Moulton Niguel Water District
Bill Moorhead	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Jose Solorio	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Cathy Green	Orange County Water District
Kelly Rowe	Orange County Water District
Mike Markus	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Bruce Dosier	Orange County Water District
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Adam Hutchinson	Orange County Water District
Kevin O'Toole	Orange County Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Sandra 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
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Jerry Vilander	Serrano 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
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Megan Couch	San Diego County Water Authority
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting

**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.

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

Ms. Sara Tucker provided an overview of her report which was included in the Board packet, highlighting the President's infrastructure packet and the Water Conservation Rebate Parity Act.

Mr. Garrett Durst reported on the appropriations bills, as well as the WEROC Emergency Operations Center funding status.

Discussion ensued regarding drought outreach, Southern California's investments to combat dry years, and the importance of educating the region's legislators on these issues. The Board and audience also discussed the appropriations (and funding for desalination projects), and the Colorado River (and the Salinity Control Program),

The Board received and filed the report.

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

Mr. Syrus Devers of BBK, reviewed his report, highlighting Northern California's efforts toward the drought, the California Municipal Utilities Association efforts for funding for recycling and overall drought issues/response.

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 welcomed MET's new General Manager Adel Hagekhalil to the meeting. She then highlighted the following MET activities: the approval of a \$6 million desert region-wide-area communications network, authorization of \$3.65 million to the State Water Contractors for FY 2021/22, the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) climate change expert panel workshop, and reports received regarding energy use, innovation approaches for seismic resilience, storage management, treatment systems, the Voluntary Agreements, and the Central Valley Project.

Due to the in-depth report by Director Ackerman, Directors Tamaribuchi Dick, Erdman, and Jung stated they had nothing further to report.

The Board received and filed the reports.

## **INTRODUCTION OF AND CONVERSATION WITH THE NEW MET GENERAL MANAGER ADEL HAGEKHALIL**

MET's General Manager provided an overview of his vision for MET, including issues important to MET's agencies and MET reliability. Topics included, salinity control, collaborative working process, investments toward reliability (including local projects), water storage, outreach and education, and communication with legislators.

A question/answer period followed Mr. Hagekhalil's presentation. Discussion topics ranged from how MET can remain financially solvent when agencies are developing ways/projects to reduce reliance on MET water, and MET's business model (and whether to adjust it); MET's collaboration with Orange County, San Diego, and Los Angeles; MET's use of climate models within the IRP. There was also a general impending drought discussion, which included the following topics: demand management, salinity control, use of recycled water within the service area, State Water Project allocations, groundwater banking projects, water storage investments, drought allocations, MET's plans for capturing more water, outreach/messaging, and coordinated/collaborative efforts when each agency has different needs. Mr. Hagekhalil also highlighted and expanded on his One Water campaign.

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 July 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 10:20 a.m.

Minutes

August 4, 2021

Maribeth Goldsby  
Board Secretary