

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

November 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 (due to the current state of emergency related to the spread of COVID-19 and pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e)). Director Erdman 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  
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs  
Rachel Waite, Sr. WUE Analyst

\*Also MWDOC MET Directors

**OTHER MWDOC MET DIRECTORS**

Linda Ackerman  
Dennis Erdman

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Keith Nobriga  
Sara Tucker  
Garrett Durst  
Syrus Devers  
Dick Ackerman  
Ed Means  
Dave Youngblood  
Mike Gaskins  
Kay Havens  
Mark Monin  
Jose Vergara  
Dennis Cafferty  
Mike Dunbar  
Doug Reinhart  
Peer Swan  
Paul Weghorst  
Christine Compton

Metropolitan Water District of So. California  
NRR  
NRR  
Best, Best & Krieger  
Ackerman Consulting  
Means Consulting  
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  
Emerald Bay Service District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District

Frank Prewoznik	Irvine Ranch Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Bill Moorhead	Moulton Niguel Water District
Diane Rifkin	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kaden Young	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kelly Rowe	Orange County Water District
Mike Markus	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Greg Woodside	Orange County Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Betty Olson	Santa Margarita Water District
Dan Ferons	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Bill Green	South Coast Water District
Brooke Jones	Yorba Linda Water District
Wayne Miller	Yorba Linda Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting
Megan Couch	San Diego County Water Authority
Paul Jones	Dopudja & Wells Consulting

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

President Tamaribuchi inquired whether any members of the public wished to comment on agenda items.

No 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.

General Manager Hunter advised that a letter from IRWD regarding Item 3 (Resolution implementing the Water Shortage Contingency Plan) and the draft Local Resources Program Agreements (Item 2) were distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

**ACTION ITEMS****APPROVE CONTINUATION OF REMOTE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO AB 361 AND MAKE REQUIRED FINDINGS**

Upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0), the Board voted to continue virtual meetings pursuant to AB 361 for an additional 30 days based on the findings that (1) it has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency for COVID-19, and (2) state and local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, McVicker, Seckel, Tamaribuchi, Thomas and Yoo Schneider

NOES:None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

**LRP AGREEMENTS BETWEEN METROPOLITAN, MWDOC, AND SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT; AND LRP AGREEMENTS BETWEEN METROPOLITAN, MWDOC, AND EL TORO WATER DISTRICT**

Upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded by Directors Seckel and Thomas, and carried (7-0), the Board authorized the General Manager to: (1) Re-execute two Local Resources Program (LRP) Agreements with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD); and one LRP agreement with Metropolitan and El Toro Water District (ETWD) substantially in the form presented, subject to review and approval by Legal Counsel of any final agreement changes; (2) Authorized the General Manager to advance interim monthly production incentives to SMWD and ETWD for these projects while the contracts are reauthorized; and (3) Authorized the exchange of returned past LRP payments for the three projects against the new Metropolitan LRP payments under the re-approved LRP contracts in the approximate amounts of \$522,000 and \$110,000 for SMWD and ETWD, respectively. This item was adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, McVicker, Seckel, Tamaribuchi, Thomas and Yoo Schneider

NOES:None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

**ADOPT RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING THE WATER SHORTAGE CONTINGENCY PLAN PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S DROUGHT PROCLAMATION**

Water Resources Analyst Kevin Hostert provided a Water Supply Report which included information on the current imported water supply conditions, highlighting the Northern California accumulated precipitation, 8-station index, Colorado River status, reservoir storage, current Lake Mead storage levels, and the current SWP Table "A" allocation of 5%.

Water Resources Analyst Alex Heide then provided an overview of the Governor's recent drought proclamation noting that although it does not call for mandatory conservation efforts, it does ask for a 15% voluntary reduction in water use, and requires local water suppliers to

implement their Water Shortage Contingency Plans at a level appropriate to local conditions taking into account the possibility of a third consecutive dry year (in addition to the continued call for local agencies to voluntarily reduce their water use). He advised that staff is recommending Option 1 outlined in the staff report, which is for the Board to adopt a Resolution activating MWDOC's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Plan) at a Level 2 and direct staff to take appropriate actions as outlined in the adopted plan.

Considerable discussion ensued with Director Nederhood expressing concern with Option 1 (Level 2), noting he would prefer Option 2 (Level 1).

Following discussion and staff clarifications, and upon MOTION by Director McVicker, seconded by Director Yoo Schneider, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted RESOLUTION NO. 2117 activating MWDOC's Water Shortage Contingency Plan at a Level 2 and directed staff to take appropriate actions as outlined in the adopted Plan. Said action was taken by the following roll call vote:

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

## **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**

#### **a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)**

Ms. Sara Tucker highlighted the appropriations bills, the reconciliation package, and Colorado River hearings.

Mr. Garrett Durst reported on the following: the reasoning behind why the congressional directed spending request submitted by Senators Feinstein and Padilla for the WEROC EOC was omitted from Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill (eligibility requirements), noting he will continue to work with the Senate and FEMA to attempt to get WEROC earmarked for funding, the CVP biological opinions, the Voluntary Agreements, and the EPA's "PFAS Strategic Roadmap."

Discussion ensued with emphasis on the WEROC funding and the appropriations process, the importance of extending the WIIN Act (and the importance of asking MET to focus on the temporary provisions in an effort to save water), and the federal government's proposed Interim Operations Plan for the State Water Project.

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 Voluntary Agreements, the Governor's Drought Proclamation and associated public outreach for messaging, and the State Water Resources Control Board workshops on water use efficiency.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the report.

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

No questions were raised as it was noted the main topics would be addressed later in the meeting.

**PRESENTATION REGARDING MET OPERATIONAL DROUGHT ACTIONS TO PRESERVE STATE WATER PROJECT SUPPLIES**

Mr. Keith Nobriga (MET staff) presented an update on MET's drought mitigation actions. His presentation included information on the ongoing extraordinary drought actions to preserve State Water Project (SWP) supplies, the SWP supply outlook (bleak and anticipating an initial zero percent Table A allocation), collaborative ideas regarding new drought actions for the near and long term, an overview of the current Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) operations, as well as information on the Wadsworth and Inland Feeder/Rialto pipelines.

A discussion period ensued, with emphasis on the near and long term plans, the need for additional infrastructure (and funding for said infrastructure), DVL supplies (and the importance of cost recovery information), and concerns regarding how Quagga mussels affect supplies.

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING METROPOLITAN'S INTEGRATED RESOURCES PLAN (IRP) IMPLEMENTATION**

Dr. Melissa Baum Haley provided an oral update on MET's IRP process, and plans for implementation, noting that MET staff is currently incorporating the IRP observations from the gap analysis findings for the four scenario portfolios into key takeaways and high-level recommendations. She advised that the IRP is anticipated to be adopted by the end of 2021.

Dr. Baum Haley advised that the post-IRP Implementation Plan may consider a suite of scenarios, but will likely consider the most severe outcomes (or largest gap) as identified in the IRP (Scenario D), where challenges are due to both increasing demands and decreasing local and imported water supplies resulting in shortages to both MET's "blended" areas as well as the "SWP-only" areas.

Discussion ensued regarding the four scenarios, and the adaptive management strategy (and why MET is no longer including this).

President Tamaribuchi encouraged all MWDOC member agencies to submit any comments or concerns they may have.

The Board received and filed the report.

**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 October MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for the upcoming MET Board and Committee Agendas

Director Dick highlighted the upcoming Finance Committee workshop that would be held in December. The report was received and filed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

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Maribeth Goldsby  
Board Secretary