

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

December 7, 2022

At 8:30 a.m., President Yoo Schneider 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 Ackerman led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

MWDOC DIRECTORS

Al Nederhood
Larry Dick*
Karl W. Seckel
Bob McVicker
Randall Crane
Jeffery M. Thomas
Megan Yoo Schneider

STAFF

Robert Hunter, General Manager
Harvey De La Torre, Asst. Gen. Mgr.
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Maribeth Goldsby, Board Secretary
Melissa Baum-Haley, Prin. Water Resource Analyst
Alex Heide, Water Resources Analyst
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.
Kevin Hostert, Water Resources Analyst
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management

*Also MWDOC MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman (absent)
Dennis Erdman
Sat Tamaribuchi

OTHERS PRESENT

Demetri Polyzos
Steve Arakawa
Brad Coffey
Sara Tucker
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Ed Means
Paul Jones
Doug Davert
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Jose Vergara
Dennis Cafferty
Mike Dunbar

Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
NRR
NRR
Best, Best & Krieger
Ackerman Consulting
Means Consulting
Dopudja & Wells Consulting
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

Ken Vecchiarelli	Golden State Water Company
Toby Moore	Golden State Water Company
Steve LaMar	Irvine Ranch Water District
Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Cook	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Frank Prewoznik	Irvine Ranch Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Paul Shoenberger	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Laura Rocha	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
Gina Ayala	Orange County Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Frank Ury	Santa Margarita Water District
Dan Ferons	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Chip Monaco	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
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Wayne Miller	Yorba Linda Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Linda Lo-Hill	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting
Brooke Jones	

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Yoo Schneider 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 Yoo Schneider 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 meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGE AND HONOR STEVE ARAKAWA FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Board honored and presented a commendation to retiring MET staff member Steve Arakawa for his years of service to MET; the Board thanked him for his continued assistance to MWDOC during his tenure at MET.

ACKNOWLEDGE AND HONOR DIRECTOR SAT TAMARIBUCHI FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO MWDOC AND METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT

The Board, staff, and audience members acknowledged and honored Director Sat Tamaribuchi for his service to both MWDOC and MET, outlining his key accomplishments both as a MWDOC Director and MET Director.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**PRESENTATION BY MET STAFF REGARDING THE 2023 WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND OUTLOOK**

and

PRESENTATION REGARDING THE STATE WATER PROJECT DEPENDENT AREA GAP ANALYSIS

Mr. Demetri Polyzos (MET Senior Engineer) provided an update on MET's Water Supply and Demand Management (WSDM) balances and regional view, Water Shortage Emergency Conditions, and planning for 2023. His presentation also included information regarding end of year storage conditions, State Water Project (SWP) Table A allocations, potential Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) contributions, hydraulic conditions, and MET's strategy for 2023.

Dr. Melissa Baum-Haley (MWDOC Principal Water Resources Analyst) and Mr. Ed Means (Consultant) then provided an overview of MET's efforts with respect to the SWP dependent area solutions (drought action/project portfolios), noting that MET is currently developing a process to address supply conditions on SWP dependent areas and that this process is under evaluation.

Considerable discussion ensued following the presentation, with emphasis on MET's standing with the Colorado River negotiations and evaporation levels; storage (and what happens when Lake Mead reaches its threshold levels); tribal claims; the various regulations limiting access to groundwater (there are currently no restrictions impacting MET's groundwater programs); banking programs; MET's five-year forecast of below normal SWP Table A allocations; the need to include the potential gains if DCP system is in place (in forecasting); and MET's stance on ocean desalination.

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

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)

Ms. Sara Tucker of NRR, provided an overview of NRR's written report in the packet, highlighting that committees will change following the election results, Colorado River activities, and the Salton Sea Improvements Act (which would expand the Bureau of Reclamation's authority to participate in large-scale restoration projects, even if they don't have a research focus). She also referenced the Tax Parity for water rebates proposed language, noting that NRR is working with potential bill sponsors to see if there is any traction to have the language inserted into a "must pass" bill before Congress adjourns. Unfortunately, it does not have the support of Republicans, and is unlikely to move at this time

The Board received and filed the report.

b. State Legislative Report

Mr. Syrus Devers, of BBK, reviewed his report, highlighting the election results, the introduction of new bills (one which will address shut-offs, and one will address storage/permits in the Central Valley), and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) efforts with respect to drought conditions.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, highlighting that Saudi Arabian company Fondomonte is purchasing groundwater in the desert west of Phoenix.

The Board received and filed the report.

d. MWDOC Legislative Matrix

e. Metropolitan Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the reports.

MWDOC MET DIRECTOR SEAT

President Yoo Schneider referenced the issue of replacing Director Sat Tamaribuchi as one of MWDOC's MET Directors. She then outlined the Administrative Code process, noting that because this seat is designated as a MWDOC Board seat, she would accept nominations/interest from the MWDOC Board members, and anticipates the new Director would be appointed in January (Director Tamaribuchi agreed to serve until his replacement is chosen). Directors Seckel and Thomas each expressed their desire to be considered for the position.

Following a review of the time commitment involved with the position, President Yoo Schneider asked that interested candidates submit a letter of consideration to the District Secretary and Legal Counsel by December 15, 2022; she also asked that Board members submit any

questions they would like the candidates to address by the same date. This item will return to the Board for consideration on January 18, 2023.

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

Director Dick commented on Chair-Elect Ortega's conscientious efforts in moving forward, noting he is in the process of soliciting input for committee placement, and is recommending changes to the Board Governance structure.

Director Ackerman highlighted the California Air Resources Board's desire for 50% emission free vehicles by 2023, and 100% free by 2027. She also reported on Colorado River activities and salinity control.

ACTION ITEMS

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

President Yoo Schneider advised that the proposal to continue remote meetings was before the Board for consideration.

Discussion was held regarding the timing of in-person meetings with staff noting that the State of Emergency is expected to expire at the end of February (requiring in-person meetings in March). Director Nederhood reiterated his desire to return to in-person meetings, noting he was opposing this item. Director Dick encouraged further discussions with OCWD so that both agencies work together on this issue.

Upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded by Director McVicker, and carried (6-1), 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 Dick, McVicker, Seckel, Tamaribuchi, Thomas & Yoo Schneider
NOES:	Director Nederhood
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

INFORMATION ITEMS

MWD ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

- a. MET Finance and Rate Issues
- b. MET Integrated Resources Plan Update
- c. MET Water Supply Conditions Update
- d. Water Quality Update
- e. Colorado River Issues
- f. 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 November MET Board Meeting
- b. MET 4-Month Outlook on Upcoming Issues
- c. 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 in memory of Kathleen Anne Gibson at 10:51 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
Board Secretary