

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

October 5, 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)). General Manager Hunter 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.
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
Chris Lingad, Associate Engineer
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management

*Also MWDOC MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Gloria Gray
Adan Ortega
Sara Tucker
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Ed Means
Paul Jones
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Jose Vergara
Dennis Cafferty
Sherri Seitz
Vu Chu
Steve LaMar

MET Chairwoman.
MET Director
NRR
NRR
Best, Best & Krieger
Ackerman Consulting
Means Consulting
Dopudja & Wells 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
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District

Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Frank Prewoznik	Irvine Ranch Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Don Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Lindsay Stuvick	Moulton Niguel Water District
Cathy Green	Orange County Water District
Kelly Rowe	Orange County Water District
Steve Sheldon	Orange County Water District
Mike Markus	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Sandra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Justin McCusker	Santa Margarita Water District
Betty Olson	Santa Margarita Water District
Dan Ferons	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Chip Monaco	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Tom Eastman	South Coast Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brooke Jones	Yorba Linda Water District
Wayne Miller	Yorba Linda Water District
Marcelo Alvarez	Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.
Lynda Lo-Hill	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Virginia Wei	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
Sabrina Tsui	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Liz Mendelson-Goossens	San Diego County Water Authority
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

OCWD Director Kelly Rowe outlined a new project/endeavor he is involved with (Complete Coastal Network Initiative) which addresses groundwater recharge and seawater intrusion along the coast; he advised he would send information on this project to the Board.

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.

It was noted that a statement from MET Chair Candidate, Adan Ortega, was distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**PRESENTATIONS BY CANDIDATES FOR MET CHAIR**

Mr. Adan Ortega (MET Director) outlined his goals (as submitted in his written statement), if elected as MET Chair.

Ms. Gloria Gray (current MET Chair) also outlined her goals as MET Chair, noting that she would need a waiver from the MET Board to seek a third term as Chair (which she will do at the October MET meeting).

Following a question/answer period, the Board received and filed the reports as presented.

METROPOLITAN'S DROUGHT RESPONSE AND NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF EFFORTS

Principal Water Resource Analyst, Dr. Melissa Baum-Haley, advised that the MET Board (on October 11) will consider adopting a resolution encouraging action to reduce or eliminate irrigation of non-functional turf (NFT) with potable water; in response to this, Dr. Baum-Haley outlined MET's drought response and NTF efforts. Her presentation included an explanation on what defines/constitutes NTF (turf that is solely ornamental and not regularly used for human recreational purposes or for civic or community events), as well as an overview of the State's regulatory actions (in place), how this action would fit into the federal drought response efforts (Colorado River), and a review of MET's proposed resolution and local responses to the resolution.

Considerable discussion ensued with emphasis on the positive effects of both functional and non-functional turf, how this action would create a large impact on the public, the levels of conservation already realized (and the impacts of asking for more), heat impacts by removing NTF, the need for addressing the Colorado River shortage with viable solutions, the belief that there is a water storage shortage/problem (rather than a supply shortage due to water being lost to the ocean, etc.), how this action would impact Orange County, property owner rights, impacts on disadvantaged communities, and the need to develop alternatives to reducing or eliminating NTF (including budget based rate options).

Director Tamaribuchi suggested that staff solicit input from the member agencies on this subject, and prepare an analysis of the impacts to Orange County.

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

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)**

Due to the absence of Sara Tucker (NRR) who had to leave the meeting early, Governmental Affairs Manager Heather Baez referenced NRR's written report in the packet, highlighting new legislation (H.R. 9084/Valadao) which was drafted in an effort to provide long-term water supply and regulatory reliability to drought-stricken California, and for other purposes.

Following a brief discussion regarding H.R. 9084 and H.R. 2467, the Board received and filed the report.

b. State Legislative Report

Mr. Syrus Devers of BBK, reviewed his report, highlighting AB 2142 (Gabriel), SB 1157 (Hertzberg), AB 2449 (Rubio/Blanca), SB 222 (Dodd), and the WEROC earmark funding.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, highlighting the on-going battle between the State Water Resources Control Board and senior water rights.

The Board received and filed the report.

d. MWDOC Legislative Matrix**e. Metropolitan Legislative Matrix**

The Board received and filed the reports.

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

Director Ackerman provided updates on the Upper Feeder shutdown (finished one day early), \$450,000 geotechnical upgrades to the Weymouth Administration building, the \$690,000 increase for the Sepulveda Feeder Pump project, MET's portfolio projects (long and short-term), potable reuse, and Colorado River activities. She also highlighted the conservation MOU to expand water reuse, the recently adopted MET resolution regarding the Bay-Delta Policy Principles, the public relations/advertising drought campaign, MET's addition of 15 mega-watts to the power grid, and the election of MET's Chair (October) and Secretary (November).

Director Dick reported on MET's Legal & Claims Committee activities, including information regarding the lawsuit on damaged property (helicopter) which has reach settlement.

Director Erdman highlighted the MET Chair election.

Director Tamaribuchi commented on the desert housing issue and welcomed ideas to reduce the cost for renovation.

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.

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director Dick, 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 and 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 September 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