

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

September 7, 2022

At 8:30 a.m., Vice President McVicker 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)). Mesa Director Atkinson 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 (absent)  
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

\*Also MWDOC MET Directors

**OTHER MWDOC MET DIRECTORS**

Linda Ackerman  
Dennis Erdman

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Shanti Rosset  
Sara Tucker  
Garrett Durst  
Syrus Devers  
Dick Ackerman  
Ed Means  
Paul Jones  
Richard Bell  
Doug Davert  
Dave Youngblood  
Kathryn Freshley  
Mike Gaskins  
Kay Havens  
Mark Monin  
Jose Vergara  
Dennis Cafferty  
Mike Dunbar  
Toby Moore  
Steve LaMar

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  
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  
Emerald Bay Service District  
Golden State Water Company  
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
Paul Shoenberger	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
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
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita 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
Chip Monaco	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brooke Jones	Yorba Linda Water District
Wayne Miller	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Liz Mendelson-Goossens	San Diego County Water Authority
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Chris Clarke	NPCA
Charles Luas	
S. Miller	

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Vice President McVicker 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**

Vice President McVicker inquired as to whether there were any items distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

No items were reported.

**PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS****PRESENTATION BY METROPOLITAN STAFF (SHANTI ROSSET) REGARDING COLORADO RIVER BASIN CONDITIONS**

Ms. Shanti Rosset (Metropolitan's Colorado River Resources Policy Manager) provided information regarding the Colorado River Basin conditions, as well as the key agreements in place for Colorado River water allocations. The material presented included information regarding Colorado River regulations, the Colorado River Compact (1922), the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact (1948), and the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico. Ms. Rosset also reviewed MET's Colorado River supplies, California's transfer and exchange programs, Lake Mead end of year storage balance, the severity of the drought (including effects on Lakes Mead and Powell), past cooperative efforts to protect Lake Mead, decreased runoff efficiency, Lake Mead elevation forecasts, and MET's drought responses (Drought Contingency Plan).

Following the presentation, discussion ensued with emphasis on the lack of access to Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) and the forecast of lessened ICS access in 2024, shortage amounts and trigger targets, Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) supplies and impacts to DVL, the Central Arizona Project, agricultural v. municipal/industrial water demands and shifts between the two, conservation policies, and the importance of supplemental water sources.

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

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

Ms. Sara Tucker (NRR) provided an overview of her report included in the packet, highlighting the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, Colorado River issues, and Bureau of Reclamation infrastructure bill funding.

The Board received and filed the report.

**b. State Legislative Report**

Mr. Syrus Devers of BBK, reviewed his report, highlighting SB 1157 (Hertzberg) regarding the Water Use Efficiency standards, SB 222 (Dodd) regarding state-funded Low Income Rate Assistance Program, 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 Water Interaction, and a recently introduced bill which bans foreign countries from purchasing farmland.

Responding to a question by Director Seckel, Mr. Ackerman advised that he would provide the link for the study completed regarding the Rocky Mountains (Mountain Water Unpredictable) to the Board.

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**

Responding to an inquiry by Director Sandra Jacobs, Mr. De La Torre noted that although the agenda for the MET Caucus had not been set, upcoming topics will include the Colorado River basin conditions and potential actions for 2023.

Director Jacobs also raised the issue of increased costs for water (e.g. pumping, fallowing), noting that many of the solutions to the shortage will increase costs.

Following a question by SMWD General Manager Ferons, Mr. De La Torre provided an overview of the MET Chair selection and process, which will take place at the MET Board meeting in October.

Director Nederhood introduced Mark Toy (new General Manager at YLWD) to the Board.

Director Ackerman provided an update on MET's infrastructure needs, the State Water Project (SWP) supply reliability assessment, recent presentations on Clean Air Fleet Initiatives and Reservoir Management and Water Quality, the Upper Feeder repair, MET's adoption of a Resolution on regional reliability, the Bay/Delta Policy Principles, and the One Water Committee activities. She also highlighted the Indoor Household Water Use Study (Flume device) and provided information on landscape sustainability.

Director Erdman highlighted the MET Board Item (7-6 Adopt the Revision and Restatement of Bay-Delta Policies), as well as drought issues and Colorado River issues, noting that the comments from the earlier presentation regarding the Colorado River Basin would be followed up with MET staff.

Director Tamaribuchi reported that the comment period for the Delta Conveyance Project would be closing on October 27, 2022 and he encouraged all to submit comments. He also thought an agenda topic for the next meeting might be for MET staff to provide thoughts and an overview of the EIR.

Director Dick commented on the fleet charging stations noting details are needed (cost, etc.), desert housing, legislation outlawing non-functional turf (which he is opposed to), and MET's cyber-security protection efforts.

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

Vice President McVicker 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 (5-1-0), 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 Dick, McVicker, Seckel, Tamaribuchi, and Yoo Schneider  
 NOES: Director Nederhood  
 ABSENT: Director Thomas  
 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

Discussion was held regarding MET dry-year storage and MET's take capacity and it was suggested staff add a foot note to the MET historical dry year storage chart indicating that what portion is ICS, as well as a breakdown of MET's storage (and available take amounts).

Several comments were received thanking and commending MET and MWDOC staff on the Upper Feeder shutdown activities and communication.

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. 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 at 10:11 a.m.

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Maribeth Goldsby  
Board Secretary