

REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY  
18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California  
June 21, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

Teleconference Site:  
25652 Paseo De La Paz  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

(Director You Schneider will participate from the teleconference location. Members of the public may attend and participate in the meeting at both in-person locations.)

**This meeting will be held in person. As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the Zoom component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.**

**Computer Audio: You can join the Zoom meeting by clicking on the following link:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/8828665300>

**Telephone Audio: (669) 900 9128 fees may apply**  
**(877) 853 5247 Toll-free**  
**Webinar ID: 882 866 5300#**

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## AGENDA

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### ROLL CALL

### PUBLIC COMMENTS/PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public will be given an opportunity to address the Board concerning items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Members of the public may also address the Board about a particular Agenda item at the time it is considered by the Board and before action is taken. If the item is on the Consent Calendar, please inform the Board Secretary before action is taken on the Consent Calendar and the item will be removed for separate consideration.

The Board requests, but does not require, that members of the public who want to address the Board complete a voluntary "Request to be Heard" form available from the Board Secretary prior to the meeting.

### ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

Determine need and take action to agendize items(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 of those members present.)

### ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection in the lobby of the District's business office located at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California 92708, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the District's Internet Web site, accessible at <http://www.mwdoc.com>.

**NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2142**

**CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 1 to 10)**

(All matters under the Consent Calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Board member requests separate action on a specific item)

**1. MINUTES**

- a. May 3, 2023 Workshop Board Meeting
- b. May 5, 2023 Special Board Meeting
- c. May 17, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

*Recommendation: Approve as presented.*

**2. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

- a. Planning & Operations Committee Meeting: May 1, 2023
- b. Administration & Finance Committee Meeting: May 15, 2023
- c. Executive Committee Meeting: May 18, 2023

*Recommendation: Receive and file as presented.*

**3. TREASURER'S REPORTS**

- a. MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of May 31, 2023
- b. Disbursement Registers (May/June)

*Recommendation: Ratify and approve as presented.*

- c. Summary of Cash and Investment and Portfolio Master Summary Report (Cash and Investment report) as of April 30, 2023
- d. PARS Monthly Statement (OPEB Trust)

*Recommendation: Receive and file as presented.*

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

- a. Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the Period Ending April 30, 2023

*Recommendation: Receive and file as presented.*

**5. ANNUAL APPROVAL OF DISTRICT SALARY SCHEDULE**

*Recommendation: Approve the proposed Pay Structure, as presented, effective July 1, 2023; adjusting the salary ranges by 7.45%, as approved during the budget process; and approve changes to positions, as noted. (Option1).*

**6. AWARD CONTRACT FOR EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM SERVICES FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER RECRUITMENT**

*Recommendation:* Authorize the President of the Board to enter into a consulting services agreement for the District's General Manager recruitment, with Colleague, LLC, based upon 25% of the first-year guaranteed earnings of the successful candidate, calculated to be approximately \$79,000, plus reimbursable expenses, as outlined in the proposal.

**7. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR STRATEGIC DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS**

*Recommendation:* Authorize the Interim General Manager to enter into a professional services contract with HashtagPinpoint Inc. (Hashtag) for three years (with two consecutive options to renew for one additional year), to provide Strategic Digital Communications Services for the Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC or District) outreach initiatives.

**8. AWARD CONTRACT FOR GRANTS TRACKING AND ACQUISITION SERVICES**

*Recommendation:* Authorize the Interim General Manager to enter into a professional services contract with Soto Resources to provide grants tracking and acquisition services.

**9. RENEW CONTRACT WITH ACKERMAN CONSULTING**

*Recommendation:* Approve entering into a Sole Source contract with Ackerman Consulting for specialized services for Fiscal Years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

**10. ALLIANCE FOR WATER EFFICIENCY COMMERCIAL TURF REPLACEMENT AND SPRAY-TO-DRIP PROGRAM PROCESS AND IMPACT WATER SAVINGS EVALUATION**

*Recommendation:* Authorize a cost share contribution in the amount of \$18,500 for participation in the Alliance for Water Efficiency Outdoor Water Savings Research Initiative Phase 3: Evaluating & Optimizing Large-Scale Landscape Irrigation Management and Transformation Strategies. MWDOC's \$18,500 cost share will leverage a total research investment of \$345,000.

**End Consent Calendar**

## **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **11. 2022-2023 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT – HISTORIC RAIN, YET DROUGHT REMAINS**

*Recommendation: Receive report from staff and make recommendations as appropriate.*

## **ACTION CALENDAR**

### **12-1 SPONSORSHIP OF URBAN WATER INSTITUTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*Recommendation: Approve sponsoring the UWI Annual Conference in August 2023, at the Platinum Level of \$5000.*

**INFORMATION CALENDAR** (All matters under the Information Calendar will be Received/Filed as presented following any discussion that may occur)

### **13. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, JUNE 2023 (ORAL AND WRITTEN)**

*Recommendation: Receive and file report(s) as presented.*

### **14. MWDOC GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. Board of Directors - Reports re: Conferences and Meetings
- b. Requests for Future Agenda Topics

*Recommendation: Receive and file as presented.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Note: Accommodations for the Disabled. Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by contacting Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary, at (714) 963-3058, or writing to Municipal Water District of Orange County at P.O. Box 20895, Fountain Valley, CA 92728. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that District staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the District to provide the requested accommodation.



**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP BOARD MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY (MWDOC)  
WITH THE MWDOC MET DIRECTORS  
May 3, 2023**

At 8:30 a.m., Vice President McVicker called to order the Workshop Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County in the Board Room at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Director Nederhood 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**

Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Mgr.  
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel  
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary  
Melissa Baum-Haley, Int. Dir. of MET Issues/Policy  
Alex Heide, Water Resources Analyst (absent)  
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  
Joe Berg, Director of WUE  
Cathy Harris, Director of H.R. & Administration

\*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

**OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS**

Linda Ackerman  
Dennis Erdman

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sara Tucker  
Garrett Durst  
Syrus Devers  
Dick Ackerman  
Ed Means  
Paul Jones  
Peter Whittingham  
Steve Faessel  
Philip Bogdanoff  
Yvette Hanna  
Dave Youngblood  
Kathryn Freshley  
Mike Gaskins  
Kay Havens  
Mark Monin  
Jose Vergara  
Dennis Cafferty  
Vu Chu

NRR  
NRR  
Best, Best & Krieger  
Ackerman Consulting  
Means Consulting  
Dopudja & Wells Consulting  
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors  
MET Director/City of Anaheim  
City of Anaheim  
City of Fullerton  
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

Mike Dunbar	Emerald Bay Service District
Ken Vecchiarelli	Golden State Water Company
Steve LaMar	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
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kaden Young	Moulton Niguel Water District
Johnathan Cruz	Moulton Niguel 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
Andre Casasola	Orange County Water District
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Chip Monaco	Santa Margarita Water District
Nicole Standfield	Santa Margarita Water District
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting
Brooke Jones	

## **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.

Interim General Manager Harvey De La Torre advised that a letter from Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District regarding the ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee Election (Item 4 on the agenda) was distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

To accommodate schedules, the meeting was reorganized as follows:

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

Mr. Garrett Durst (NRR) reviewed NRR's written report in the packet, highlighting the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries which held a hearing to review two pieces of legislation, namely, H.R. 215 (Valadao/Water for California Act) and H.R. 872 (Calvert/the Fish Act); he then provided information on each bill. Mr. Durst also highlighted the Waters of the US activities, as well as activities relating to the WEROC earmark funding (Congresswoman Kim submitted a funding request for the mobile WEROC operations center).

Ms. Sara Tucker then reviewed issues relating to the Colorado River negotiations, noting the Department of the Interior released a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) that lays out how the Department could operate the Glen Canyon and Hoover Dam to conserve additional water given the ongoing drought.

The Board received and filed the report.

**b. State Legislative Report**

Mr. Syrus Devers, of BBK, reviewed his report, highlighting various media articles, including (1) an influential piece by Peter Moyle regarding how hatcheries alone do not work in restoring ecosystems, and (2) contradicting statements/pieces by Public Radio and the Associated Press regarding the effects of fire on fisheries. Mr. Devers also commented on Colorado River activities, and the various pieces of legislation outlined in his report.

(President Yoo Schneider and Director Thomas arrived at 8:43 a.m.)

The Board discussed AB 1572 (Friedman re: Non-Functional Turf), its financial impacts (costs to implement), the high probability it will move forward in the legislature, and the need for a broader effort (through water use efficiency) to provide substantive data. Several directors spoke in opposition to AB 1572 with Director Nederhooft expressing concern and opposition to this legislation, as well as the term "non-functional turf."

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the report.

**c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)**

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, highlighting a CEQA hearing by the Little Hoover Commission, and opposition to AB 1337 (Wicks).

The Board received and filed the report.

(President Yoo Schneider left the meeting at 9:00 a.m.)

**d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)**

Mr. De La Torre advised that although Mr. Whittingham was not in attendance, Governmental Affairs Manager Heather Baez was available to answer any questions.

Director Nederhood referenced the LAFCO MSR Focused Study initiated by OCWD (regarding consolidation) and considerable discussion ensued regarding the LAFCO process, legal issues, whether it would be prudent to take a formal position on the matter (or premature to do so), and the importance of evaluating all options available (including providing South County access to the groundwater basin).

(President Yoo Schneider returned at 9:15 a.m. and assumed the Chair position.)

**e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix**

The Board received and filed the reports.

**PRESENTATION BY MET STAFF REGARDING NEXT STEPS ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION MASTER PLAN**

Ms. Liz Crosson, MET's Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer, along with Brad Coffey (MET Group Manager/Water Resource Management) provided an overview of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP) process. The presentation material included information on the Board's (MET) objectives in creating the CAMP, the planning process (including engaging the public and member agency participation), and workshops which will focus on communicating interests, needs and terminology (reliability, resilience, affordability, and financial sustainability), as well as member agency needs, identifying gaps, and alignment planning between the agencies and MET.

The audience members then engaged in a discussion with the Board with specific emphasis on infrastructure, implementation costs (energy, equipment, etc.), effects on MET's budget, how this CAMP integrates the elements of the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP), the balance between qualitative and quantitative goals and methods, the importance of including the member agencies in all discussions, the need to keep the planning within MET's core mission, and the number of complex issues to be addressed and evaluated during the process.

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**

Director Erdman noted the summary of MET's Board actions from April was included in the packet. He then highlighted the Engineering, Operations & Technology Committee activities, including several system-improvement contracts, as well as a procurement contract for butterfly valves and flow monitoring equipment along the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Director Seckel highlighted the Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) addition of a service connection, the CAMP process, the Pure Water Southern California contracts and increased costs, and the Delta Islands investment (and the MET Board's question of whether value remains in owning the islands).

Director Dick highlighted MET's recent \$640,000 video production effort (expressing concern), and he commented on the WMWD service connection (and the need to support it), MET's Business Plan, the LRP program discussions (grants v. equity positions), and his support for the Delta Islands purchase (in that it could be used to store more water).

Responding to inquiries from the audience, the Board then discussed SWP Article 21 (surplus) water, and the process by which Article 21 water becomes available (with staff noting that once Table A allocations reach 100%, the Article 21 water ceases because of limited capacity in the aqueduct).

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **AUTHORIZATION TO VOTE ON BEHALF OF MWDOC IN ACWA JPIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION**

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director McVicker, and carried (7-0), the Board authorized Director Jeff Thomas, MWDOC's ACWA JPIA Board Member, to cast the District's ballot for the ACWA JPIA Executive Committee at ACWA's Spring Conference on May 8, 2023, by the following roll call vote:

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

#### **AB 755 (PAPPAN) – WATER: COST OF SERVICE ANALYSIS**

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted an oppose position on AB 755 (Pappan), and authorized sending a letter to the author's office and the Orange County delegation, by the following roll call vote:

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

**AB 1594 (E. GARCIA) – MEDIUM AND HEAVY DUTY ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES:  
PUBLIC AGENCIES**

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director Dick, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted a support position on AB 1594 (E. Garcia) and authorized joining CMUA's coalition letter and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

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

**INFORMATION ITEMS****MWD ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY**

- a. MET Finance and Rate Issues
- b. MET Water Supply Conditions Update
- c. Water Quality Update
- d. Colorado River Issues
- e. 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 reports regarding the April MET Board Meeting
- b. MET 4-Month Outlook on Upcoming Issues (not available)
- 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 10:29 a.m.

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Maribeth Goldsby  
Board Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY (MWDOC)  
Jointly with the  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
May 5, 2023**

At 9:00 a.m., Presidents Yoo Schneider and Green called to order the Special Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County and Orange County Water District in the Board Room at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. General Managers De La Torre and Markus led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretaries Goldsby and Fuller called the roll.

**MWDOC DIRECTORS**

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

**STAFF**

Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Manager  
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary  
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel  
Melissa Baum-Haley, Dir. of MET Issues/Policy  
Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager  
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency  
Cathy Harris, Director of HR & Administration  
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs

**OCWD DIRECTORS**

Dina Nguyen  
Denis Bilodeau  
Roger Yoh  
Van Tran  
Steve Sheldon  
Cathy Green  
Kelly Rowe  
Valerie Amezcua  
Natalie Meeks  
Bruce Whitaker

**STAFF**

Mike Markus  
John Kennedy  
Christina Fuller  
Gina Ayala  
Alicia Dunkin  
Bruce Dosier  
Mehul Patel  
Randy Fick  
Mark Greening  
Patrick Versluis

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Paul Brown  
Linda Ackerman  
Paul Jones  
Peter Whittingham  
Dick Ackerman  
Peter Bogdanoff  
Craig Parker  
Ken Vecchiarelli  
Peer Swan  
Paul Weghorst  
Paul Shoenberger  
Stacy Taylor  
Dick Fiore  
Sherry Wanninger

Paul Redvers Brown, Inc.  
MWDOC/MET Director  
Dopudja & Wells Consulting  
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors  
Ackerman Consulting  
City of Anaheim  
City of Anaheim  
Golden State Water Company  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Mesa Water  
Mesa Water  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District

Rob Thompson  
Saundra Jacobs  
Frank Ury  
Dan Ferons  
Jim Leach  
Chip Monaco  
Brad Reese  
Lisa Ohlund  
Emily Novak  
Kristy Khachigian  
Richard Bell  
Brooke Jones

Orange County Sanitation District  
Santa Margarita Water District  
Santa Margarita Water District  
Santa Margarita Water District  
Santa Margarita Water District  
Santa Margarita Water District  
Serrano Water District  
Ohlund Management & Technical Services  
San Diego County Water Authority  
KK Consulting

## **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.

## **FACILITATED DISCUSSION REGARDING MWDOC AND OCWD RELATIONS AND THE LAFCO MUNICIPAL SERVICES REVIEW FOCUSED STUDY (STUDY)**

The Boards of Directors of MWDOC and OCWD met to discuss the relationship between OCWD and MWDOC and to discuss the LAFCO Municipal Services Review Focused Study (initiated by OCWD); the discussion was facilitated by Paul Brown.

Following introductions, the Boards discussed the purpose of the meeting and perceived issues between the agencies (e.g., the SARCCUP issues, General Managers' disagreements, etc.). Many concerns were expressed on why the issue of consolidation continues to be raised when prior evaluations on the subject (the most recent 2013) had proven consolidation was not in the best interest of the County (due to legal and other issues).

Several MWDOC Directors expressed concern with the effort as whole, commenting on the poor quality of the OC Grand Jury report, that the OC LAFCO Study scope was not complete as it did not address vital issues (e.g. South County access to the basin, MET Director representation, along with other issues), and that the OCWD Board did not discuss issues with the MWDOC Board prior to initiating the Study.

The OCWD Board members' comments included support for consolidation (believing it would save the rate payers money), and support for the Study in that it would provide much needed clarification on the issues (many OCWD Directors were not clear of the many hurdles and believed the Study would provide explanation). It was commented that although the majority of the OCWD Board was not in favor of consolidation, OCWD initiated the Study in response to the OC Grand Jury report to assist with understanding the issues. Some OCWD Directors also indicated that there was no rush to this effort and that they support the relationship between the two agencies and the importance of working together.

Considerable discussion ensued regarding MET Representation, the need for the Study to be fair and equitable by addressing all aspects of a potential consolidation (through an expanded Scope of Services to include MWDOC's concerns), alternatives to consolidation and reasons



for making the two Districts more coordinated and collaborative, and the need for better communication between the agencies.

Following discussion, it was suggested that MWDOC join the Study efforts and suggest changes to the Scope of Work and send these changes to OC LAFCO.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

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Maribeth Goldsby  
Board Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY  
May 17, 2023**

At 8:30 a.m., President Yoo Schneider called to order the Regular Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County, in the Board Room at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Following a moment of silence, Secretary Goldsby led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the roll.

**MWDOC DIRECTORS**

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

**STAFF**

Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Manager  
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel  
Maribeth Goldsby, Board Secretary  
Melissa Baum-Haley, Int. Dir. of MET Issues/Policy  
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs  
Cathy Harris, Director of HR and Administration  
Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager  
Hilary Chumpitazi, Accounting Manager

**ALSO PRESENT**

Doug Davert  
Dave Youngblood  
Kathryn Freshley  
Mike Gaskins  
Kay Havens  
Mark Monin  
Jose Vergara  
Vu Chu  
Doug Reinhart  
Peer Swan  
Paul Weghorst  
Keith Van Der Maaten  
Jim Atkinson  
Don Froelich  
Sherry Wanninger  
John Kennedy  
Bruce Dosier  
Saundra Jacobs  
Chip Monaco  
Brad Reese  
Jerry Vilander  
Bill Green  
Greg Pennington  
Jennifer Lopez  
Tom Lindsey  
Mark Toy  
Lisa Ohlund  
Kristy Khachigian  
Charles Luas

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  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Laguna Beach County Water District  
Mesa Water  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Orange County Water District  
Orange County Water District  
Santa Margarita Water District  
Santa Margarita Water District  
Serrano Water District  
Serrano Water District  
South Coast Water District  
South Coast Water District  
South Coast Water District  
Yorba Linda Water District  
Yorba Linda Water District  
Ohlund Management & Technical Services  
KK Consulting

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Yoo Schneider announced that members of the public wishing to comment on agenda items could do so after the item has been discussed by the Board and requested members of the public identify themselves when called on. Ms. Yoo Schneider asked whether any member of the public had any comments on items that are not on the agenda.

No public comments were received.

**ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED**

No items were received.

**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 to the Board within 72 hours of the meeting.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

President Yoo Schneider stated all matters under the Consent Calendar would be approved by one MOTION unless a Director wished to consider an item separately.

Upon MOTION by Director McVicker, seconded by Director Thomas, and carried (7-0) the Board approved the Consent Calendar items, by the following roll call vote:

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

**MINUTES**

The following minutes were approved.

- April 5, 2023 Workshop Board Meeting
- April 6, 2023 Special Board Meeting
- April 6, 2023 Special Board Meeting (Elected Officials Forum)
- April 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- April 28, 2023 Special Board Meeting
- April 29, 2023 Special Board Meeting

**COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

The following Committee Meeting reports were received and filed as presented.

Planning & Operations Committee Meeting:	April 3, 2023
Administration & Finance Committee Meeting:	April 12, 2023
Executive Committee Meeting:	April 20, 2023
MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning Committee:	April 26, 2023

### **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

The following items were ratified and approved as presented.

MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of April 30, 2023  
Disbursement Registers (April/May)

The following items were received and filed as presented.

Summary of Cash and Investment and Portfolio Master Summary Report (Cash and Investment Report) as of March 31, 2023

PARS Monthly Statement (OPEB Trust)

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The following items were received and filed as presented.

Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the Period Ending February 28, 2023

Quarterly Budget Review

### **CALL FOR CANDIDATES AND AUTHORIZATION TO VOTE ON BEHALF OF MWDOC IN THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES' (ACWA) ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND REGION 10 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board authorized MWDOC Board President Megan Yoo Schneider or her designee to cast the District's ballot for the ACWA President, Vice President, and Region 10 Board of Directors; and directed staff to bring this item back to the Board in August after the official ballot has been released, to review the candidates for both President and Vice President, and the Region 10 Board of Directors. At that time, the Board can determine if they would like to direct the District's designee to vote for particular candidates.

**- END CONSENT CALENDAR -**

### **ACTION CALENDAR**

#### **ANNUAL REVIEW OF DISTRICT INVESTMENT POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Dick, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted RESOLUTION NO. 2140 approving the changes to the Investment Policy and guidelines, by the following roll call vote:

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

## **INFORMATION CALENDAR**

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, MAY 2023**

Interim General Manager De La Torre advised that the full General Manager's report was included in the Board packet.

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

## **MWDOC GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **a. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board members each reported on their attendance at the regular (and special) MWDOC Board and Committee meetings. In addition to these meetings, the following reports were made on conferences and meetings attended on behalf of the District.

Director Nederhood advised that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular, and Special Board meetings), the MET Committees (including the MET Executive Committee), the WACO and WACO Planning meetings, OCWD's Groundwater Replenishment System dedication, and the OC LAFCO meeting.

Director Dick stated that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings, (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular and Special Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, a pre-meeting for the MET Finance, Audit, Insurance & Real Property Committee, a reception for Chair Ortega (in Menefee), legislative meetings with Senator Min and Assemblywoman Sanchez (along with Heather Baez and Director Crane), the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the OC LAFCO MSR focused study, the Southern California Water Committee, the ISDOC Executive Committee, the MET Caucus, MET planning meeting(s) with the MWDOC/MET delegation, the WACO meeting, and a meeting with Senator Janet Nguyen. He also noted that he presented information to the Rotary Club.

Director McVicker reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop meeting and Regular and Special Board meetings), the OCWA luncheon, the MET Long-Term Regional Planning Subcommittee meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee (GM recruitment) meeting, the ISDOC Executive Committee, the WACO meeting, the Operational Area Executive Board quarterly meeting, a CSDA Roundtable event (at Assemblyman Tri Ta's office), and the MET Committee meetings.

Director Seckel advised that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular and Special Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, the WACO meeting, the OC Water Summit planning meeting, the MET Caucus, a meeting with representatives from Moulton Niguel Water District, the pre-MET meeting with the MWDOC MET delegation, and the ACWA conference.

Director Crane reported that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings, (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop meeting and Regular and Special Board meetings), a meeting with representatives from Moulton Niguel Water District, legislative meetings with Senator Min and Assemblywoman Sanchez (along with Heather Baez and Director Dick), and the OC Water Summit planning meeting. He advised that he gave a presentation to a CSUF class.

Director Thomas stated that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings, (the Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular and Special Board meetings), the OC Water Summit planning meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee (GM Recruitment) meeting, the ACWA conference, and the ACWA/JPIA conference and meetings.

Director Yoo Schneider advised that she attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular and Special Board meetings), the ASCE Infrastructure Conference (in San Diego) wherein she participated on a panel, the SMWD Board meeting, the UCI Deans Leadership Council/Future of Graduate Education meeting, a meeting with Paul Brown, the SMWD Water Festival, the ACWA conference, and she had a discussion with Joaquin Esquivel who expressed interest in speaking at an upcoming Water Policy dinner.

**a. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**

Although no topics were suggested, SMWD Director Sandra Jacobs asked for the Board's support and vote for SMWD Director Chuck Gibson who is running for the ACWA Region 10 Board.

IRWD Director Peer swan suggested the MET Directors report on the MET meetings (at this meeting).

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Yoo Schneider adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Goldsby, Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY**

Jointly with the  
**PLANNING & OPERATIONS**  
May 1, 2023 – 8:30 a.m. to 10:09 a.m.

The meeting was held in person at the Municipal Water District of Orange County's office, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application.

**Committee:**

Director McVicker, Chair  
Director Nederhood  
Director Seckel

**Staff:**

Harvey De La Torre, Pari Francisco,  
Tina Dubuque, Hilary Chumpitazi, Rachel Davis  
Heather Baez, Maribeth Goldsby, Charles  
Busslinger, Rachel Waite, Joe Berg, Beth Fahl,  
Kevin Hostert, Damon Micalizzi, Michelle  
DeCasas, Melissa Baum-Haley, Steven Hung,  
Christina Hernandez, Sam Fetter

**Also, Present:**

Director Megan Yoo Schneider  
Director Randall Crane  
Director Larry Dick  
Linda Ackerman, MET Director  
Mike Markus, Orange County WD  
Fernando Paludi, Trabuco Canyon WD  
Dick Ackerman, Ackerman Consulting  
Adam Hutchinson, Orange County WD  
Alicia Dunkin, Orange County WD  
Jim Atkinson, Mesa WD  
Sherry Wanninger, Moulton Niguel WD  
Joseph Byrne, BBK  
Charles Luas  
Dennis Cafferty, El Toro WD  
Lisa Ohlund  
Keith Van Der Maaten, Laguna Beach  
County WD

Paul Weghorst, Irvine Ranch WD  
Peer Swan, Irvine Ranch WD  
Kay Havens, El Toro WD  
Laura Rocha, Moulton Niguel WD  
Mike Gaskin, El Toro WD  
Jose Vergara, El Toro WD  
John Kennedy, Orange Coast WD  
David Youngblood, East Orange County WD  
Kathryn Freshley, El Toro WD  
Kelly Rowe, Orange County WD  
Jim Leach, Santa Margarita WD  
Chip Monaco, Santa Margarita WD  
Vu Chu  
Emily Novak, San Diego Water Authority  
Richard Bell

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Chairperson McVicker called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Secretary Goldsby conducted a roll call of the Committee members' attendance, with Directors McVicker, Nederhood and Seckel being present. Directors Dick and Crane were also present. Director Yoo Schneider arrived at 9:34 a.m.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED**

No items were received too late to be agendized.

**ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

No items were distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

**PRESENTATION ITEM****PRESENTATION BY IRWD STAFF REGARDING IRWD'S WATER BANKING PROJECTS IN KERN COUNTY**

The Committee received and filed this presentation.

**ACTION ITEM****CALL FOR CANDIDATES AND AUTHORIZATION TO VOTE ON BEHALF OF MWDOC IN THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES' (ACWA) ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND REGION 10 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ms. Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager, explained that ACWA's Board officers' election is underway. This year, there are multiple changes to the election process, including how ACWA members elect the President and Vice President. Voting will no longer occur at the ACWA Fall Conference but will be facilitated electronically (unless otherwise requested) over the summer, with results announced at the end of September.

Director Nederhood stated that with the discussion of a possible consolidation between Orange County Water District and MWDOC, he encourages the MWDOC Board to analyze the candidates that MWDOC supports for these positions carefully. He asked that the Board weigh each candidate(s) very carefully and make an informed choice considering MWDOC's concerns and best interests.

Director McVicker noted that this item would be brought back to the Board after the official ballot has been released, and that is when candidate discussion would occur.

Ms. Baez clarified that this item was a call for candidates for ACWA president and vice-president and the Region 10 Board. These are separate but concurrent processes. Going on to explain that if MWDOC wants to vote in the upcoming election, the Board would need to authorize MWDOC Board President Megan Yoo Schneider or her designee to cast MWDOC's ballot for the ACWA President, Vice President, and Region 10 Board of Directors and discuss and determine if anyone from the MWDOC Board of Directors would like to be a candidate in ACWA's 2024-2025 election. Once the call for candidates is closed and the ballots are distributed to all ACWA members, the conversation on what candidates to support can occur.

In response to Director Seckel's inquiry, Ms. Baez noted that June 16, 2023, is the deadline for candidate submissions.



Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director Nederhood, and carried (3-0), the Committee recommended the Board of Directors:

- Discuss and determine if any member of the MWDOC Board of Directors is interested in running for ACWA President or the Region 10 Board of Directors.
- Authorize MWDOC Board President Megan Yoo Schneider, or her designee, to cast the District's ballot for the ACWA President, Vice President, and the Region 10 Board of Directors.
- Direct staff to bring this item back to the Board in August after the official ballot has been released to review the President and Vice President candidates and the Region 10 Board of Directors. At that time, the Board can determine if they would like to direct the District's designee to vote for particular candidates.

A roll call vote was taken, with Directors McVicker, Nederhood, and Seckel voted in favor. This item will be presented to the Board on May 17, 2023.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **SHARED SERVICES PROGRAM – LEAD & COPPER RULE REVISIONS (LCRR) COMPLIANCE**

Interim General Manager, Mr. Harvey De La Torre, explained that this item relates directly to the Facilitated Discussions, where member agencies provided feedback on how MWDOC could provide additional assistance to the agencies. In response to multiple member agency requests for assistance with the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) regulations, staff has been investigating the feasibility of setting up a Shared Services Program to complete Service Line Inventories (SLI).

Mr. Charles Busslinger, Director of Engineering, provided a presentation that illustrated the rule revisions, what the member agencies are asking for, and conceptual ideas on how to approach this.

Mr. De La Torre emphasized that this would be a Choice program, if MWDOC chooses to establish such a share service program. Playing off of previous Choice programs such as the Leak Detection Program and the Urban Water Management Plan, where MWDOC manages the consultant, providing uniformity, consistency, and information for the agencies that need this service while including a menu component to help tailor the program to agencies' needs. The benefit would be that instead of each agency going out on its own with a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, MWDOC could provide assistance, expertise, and management of the consultant to save the retail agencies time and money.

The Committee received and filed this presentation.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **2023 OC WATER SUMMIT UPDATE**

Mr. Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs, updated the date of the next OC Water Summit Committee meeting, stating it would take place on Monday, May 22, 2023.

The Committee received and filed this report.

**STATUS REPORTS**

- a. Ongoing MWDOC Reliability and Engineering/Planning Projects
- b. WEROC
- c. Water Use Efficiency Projects
- d. Public and Government Affairs

The Committee received and filed these reports.

**REVIEW OF ISSUES RELATED TO PLANNING OR ENGINEERING PROJECTS, WEROC, WATER USE EFFICIENCY, FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE, WATER STORAGE, WATER QUALITY, CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION, PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS, PUBLIC INFORMATION PROJECTS, PUBLIC INFORMATION CONSULTANTS, DISTRICT FACILITIES, and MEMBER-AGENCY RELATIONS**

No additional information was presented.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business brought before the Committee, Chairperson McVicker adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY

Jointly with the

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

May15, 2023 – 8:30 a.m. to 8:49 a.m.

Director Dick called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was held in-person at the District offices as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application.

**A&F Committee**

Director Larry Dick, Chair  
Director Jeff Thomas  
Director Randy Crane

**Staff:**

Harvey De La Torre, Beth Fahl, Hilary Chumpitazi,  
Janine Schunk, Judy Roberts, Kevin Hostert,  
Maribeth Goldsby, Michelle DeCasas,  
Pari Francisco, Katie Davanaugh, Rachel Davis,  
Rachel Waite, Sam Fetter, Tina Fann,  
Christina Hernandez, Charles Busslinger,  
Damon Micalizzi, Alex Heide, Heather Baez,  
Joe Berg, Dave Anderson

**Also Present:**

Director Al Nederhood  
Director Bob McVicker  
Director Megan Yoo Schneider  
Director Karl Seckel

MWDOC MET Director Dennis Erdman

Chip Monaco, Santa Margarita Water District  
Chuck Gibson, Santa Margarita Water District  
David Youngblood, East Orange County Water District  
Dennis Cafferty, El Toro Water District  
Dick Fiore, Moulton Niguel Water District  
Donald Froelich, Moulton Niguel Water District  
Erica Castillo, Santa Margarita Water District  
Jim Atkinson, Mesa Water  
John Kennedy, Orange County Water District  
Jose Vergara, El Toro Water District  
Kay Havens, El Toro Water District  
Kristy Khachigian, consultant  
Mark Monin, El Toro Water District  
Mike Gaskins, El Toro Water District  
Saundra Jacobs, Santa Margarita Water District  
Sherri Seitz, El Toro Water District  
Sherry Wanninger, Moulton Niguel Water District  
Stacy Taylor, Mesa Water  
Vu Chu, El Toro Water District

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Goldsby conducted a roll call attendance of the Committee members with Directors Dick, Crane and Thomas acknowledging attendance for the Administration and Finance Committee; and Directors McVicker, Nederhood, Seckel and Yoo Schneider also present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments were received.

**ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED**

No items were presented.

**ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING**

No items were presented.

**PROPOSED BOARD CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS****TREASURER'S REPORT**

- a. Revenue/Cash Receipt Report – April 2023
- b. Disbursement Approval Report for the month of May 2023
- c. Disbursement Ratification Report for the month of April 2023
- d. GM Approved Disbursement Report for the month of April 2023
- e. Consolidated Summary of Cash and Investment – March 2023
- f. OPEB and Pension Trust Fund statements

The Committee held a general review of the Treasurer's Report. Upon MOTION by Director Thomas seconded by Director Crane and carried (3-0), the Committee recommended approval of the Financial Report at the May 17, 2023 Board meeting. The vote was taken via roll call with Directors Dick, Crane and Thomas all voting in favor.

Director Dick inquired when the Directors' photos will be displayed with Mr. De La Torre responding that item will be presented to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

- a. Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the Period Ending March 31, 2023
- b. Quarterly Budget Review

The Committee reviewed the Financial Report and held general discussion on the expenses on the Budget Summary Report. Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Crane and carried (3-0), the Committee recommended approval of the Financial Report at the May 17, 2023 Board meeting. The vote was taken via roll call with Directors Dick, Crane and Thomas all voting in favor.

**ACTION ITEMS****ANNUAL REVIEW OF DISTRICT INVESTMENT POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

The Committee reviewed the Annual Review of the District Investment Policy and Guidelines and upon MOTION by Director Thomas and seconded by Director Crane, the item was referred to the May 17, 2023 Board meeting for approval. The vote was taken via roll call with Directors Dick, Crane and Thomas all voting in favor.

**INFORMATION ITEMS****APPROVAL OF AUTO ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS**

The Committee reviewed the listing of car allowance recipients and held discussion on whether purchasing vehicles could be a viable option. The staff report was received and filed, without a recommendation for changes at this time, with Director Dick noting that he is not in favor of providing auto allowances. Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Crane and carried (3-0) the Committee approved the listing of auto allowances, noting that this item does not require Board approval.

**SOLE SOURCE FOR MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS LLC FOR WEROC 800MHZ RADIOS  
BEING FUNDED BY FY21 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDING**

It was reported that the sole source item was for the purchase of two new radios for the WEROC program.

**DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES REPORTS**

- a. Administration
- b. Finance and Information Technology

**MONTHLY WATER USAGE DATA AND WATER SUPPLY INFORMATION**

The informational items were received and filed.

**OTHER ITEMS****REVIEW ISSUES REGARDING DISTRICT ORGANIZATION, PERSONNEL  
MATTERS, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FINANCE AND INSURANCE****ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned in honor of Director Thomas' mother who passed away earlier in the week.

There being no further business brought before the Committee, the Administration & Finance meeting was adjourned at 8:49 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY  
jointly with the  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
May 18, 2023, 8:30 a.m. to 9:36 a.m.  
Conference Room 101

**Committee:**

Director Yoo Schneider, President  
Director McVicker, Vice President  
Director Dick, Immediate Past President

**Staff:**

H. De La Torre, M. Goldsby, C. Harris,  
D. Micalizzi, H. Baez, M. Baum-Haley

**Also Present:**

Director Nederhood  
Director Seckel  
Director Crane  
Linda Ackerman, MWDOC/MET Dir.  
Dennis Erdman, MWDOC/MET Dir.

Vu Chu, ETWD  
Stacy Taylor, Mesa Water  
Mike Markus, OCWD  
John Kennedy, OCWD

Laura Freese, SMWD  
Jim Leach, SMWD  
Chip Monaco, SMWD  
Kristy Khachigian, KK Consulting

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At 8:30 a.m., President Yoo Schneider called the meeting to order. The meeting was held in-person at the District offices as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No items were presented.

**ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED**

No items were presented.

**ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING**

Interim General Manager De La Torre advised that the draft agendas for the upcoming month were distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REVIEW OF FUTURE AGENDAS**

The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft agendas for each of the meetings and made revisions/additions as listed below.

a. Planning & Operations Committee

Governmental Affairs Manager, Heather Baez, advised that the Ackerman Consulting contract had reached the end of its five-year term, and due to the nature of the services provided by Mr. Ackerman, particularly in the legal and regulatory field, his many contacts and relationships in Orange County and the MWDOC member agencies in particular, staff believes this is a candidate for a sole source contract. She noted that staff would be recommending the Board renew the contract for two-years, as opposed to the standard five-year contract, which will allow the Board to reevaluate the scope and needs of the contract sooner, as local issues the District faces vary year to year.

Following discussion regarding the value of Mr. Ackerman's services, and although the Board members present expressed support for a contract extension, Director Dick suggested the contract be renewed for six-months, and at that point issue the RFP process. This item will be presented to the Committee and Board in June with both options.

Director Dick referenced risk management for the District and suggested an ad hoc committee be formed to review any risk management matters (e.g., insurance coverages for driving personal vehicles on District business, etc.). The Committee recommended staff first research and make an inquiry with Legal Counsel and ACWA/JPIA and present the information to the Committee for review at a later date.

The contract for Grants Tracking was moved to the Administration and Finance Committee.

No new items were added to the agenda.

b. Workshop Board Meeting

It was noted that this meeting would move to Conference Room 101 (from the Board Room) due to the better zoom teleconference functionality.

President Yoo Schneider asked staff to continue to invite representatives from the Cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana to this meeting.

No new items were added to the agenda.

c. Administration & Finance Committee

It was noted that the write up for the GM Recruitment process would include a timeline for full Board discussion.

Director Dick asked that the scope of services for the Digital Media RFP be provided to the Board.

It was also noted that the contract for Grants Tracking services was added to this agenda.

### **DISCUSSION REGARDING UPCOMING ACTIVITIES OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Staff presented information on the LAFCO MSR Focused Study. Director Nederhood suggested the Board take a more proactive approach; he suggested the legislative Acts of MWDOC, OCWD and MET be reviewed by Legal Counsel which would provide input into the process. Following discussion regarding various alternatives to those outlined in the MSR Focused Study scope, it was noted that the Ad Hoc Committee would meet to discuss the issues, followed by a discussion by the full Board of next steps.

The Committee also discussed the Strategic Planning session recently held by the Board. Staff advised that the consultant's (Paul Brown) summary of Board Strategic priorities would be provided to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Staff advised that Mr. Brown facilitated the recent MWDOC/OCWD joint Board meeting free of charge; staff was asked to pay Mr. Brown for his services (splitting the cost with OCWD).

### **MEMBER AGENCY RELATIONS**

Discussion was held regarding the ACWA election (President and Vice President). Ms. Baez provided an overview of the timeline for the election, as well as advising that OCWD Director Cathy Green is asking for MWDOC's support in her candidacy for ACWA President.

Director Nederhood expressed concern with voting for Director Cathy Green for ACWA President due to her stance on consolidating the agencies.

Following discussion regarding the importance of Orange County representation at ACWA, the Committee recommended the Board adopt a letter supporting Ms. Green in her candidacy at the next Board meeting.

Mr. De La Torre advised that SMWD invited MWDOC and OCWD staff, along with Presidents Green and Yoo Schneider to attend their June 23, 2023 meeting. President Yoo Schneider noted that the SMWD Board has agendaized a standard MWDOC update on their agendas; she asked that a MWDOC/MET Director, as well as staff, attend these meetings.

President Yoo Schneider also asked that staff evaluate how IRWD Director Peer Swan's request to incorporate a MET Board report in MWDOC's Regular Board meeting material could be met.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS**

Mr. De La Torre advised that (1) he would be moderating an ACWA Region 10 panel regarding infrastructure on June 29; (2) he would be attending CSDA's Leadership Conference in Northern California (June 25-27); and that (3) the District had hired a Principal Engineer to fill the position vacated by Chris Lingad.

Discussion was held regarding efforts to fill the IT and Public Affairs positions.



**REVIEW AND DISCUSS DISTRICT AND BOARD ACTIVITIES**

No new information was discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
REVENUE / CASH RECEIPT REPORT  
May 2023**

**WATER REVENUES**

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
5/01/2023	City of Buena Park	March 2023 Water deliveries	25,103.51
5/01/2023	City of La Palma	March 2023 Water deliveries	672.34
5/05/2023	City of San Clemente	March 2023 Water deliveries	474,657.26
5/05/2023	South Coast Water District	March 2023 Water deliveries	301,157.62
5/08/2023	City of Fountain Valley	March 2023 Water deliveries	6,288.41
5/08/2023	El Toro Water District	March 2023 Water deliveries	251,863.45
5/08/2023	Laguna Beach County Water District	March 2023 Water deliveries	235,110.73
5/10/2023	City of Garden Grove	March 2023 Water deliveries	60,930.36
5/11/2023	City of Orange	March 2023 Water deliveries	51,407.90
5/11/2023	East Orange Co Water District	March 2023 Water deliveries	386,783.64
5/11/2023	Mesa Water District	March 2023 Water deliveries	104.62
5/11/2023	Santa Margarita Water District	March 2023 Water deliveries	1,197,234.92
5/11/2023	Santa Margarita Water District (ID9)	March 2023 Water deliveries	391,413.72
5/15/2023	Golden State Water Company	March 2023 Water deliveries	683,168.36
5/15/2023	Irvine Ranch Water District	March 2023 Water deliveries	692,856.87
5/15/2023	Moulton Niguel Water District	March 2023 Water deliveries	1,552,337.21
5/15/2023	Orange County Water District	March 2023 Water deliveries	295,065.15
5/15/2023	Yorba Linda Water District	March 2023 Water deliveries	76,099.44
5/22/2023	City of La Habra	April 2023 Water deliveries	6,931.31
5/22/2023	City of Newport Beach	April 2023 Water deliveries	146,112.79
5/26/2023	City of Brea	April 2023 Water deliveries	8,826.38
5/26/2023	City of Huntington Beach	April 2023 Water deliveries	494,729.38
5/26/2023	South Coast Water District	April 2023 Water deliveries	326,237.40
5/30/2023	City of Fountain Valley	April 2023 Water deliveries	6,288.41
5/30/2023	Serrano Water District	April 2023 Water deliveries	8,523.47


**TOTAL WATER REVENUES \$ 7,679,904.65**

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
REVENUE / CASH RECEIPT REPORT  
May 2023**

**MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES**

<u>Date</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
5/15/2023	Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD	2/9/2023 Water Policy dinner	850.00
5/01/2023	Keith Lyon	May 2023 Retiree Health insurance	184.29
5/08/2023	Karl Seckel	May 2023 Retiree Health insurance	184.29
5/08/2023	Steve Hedges	May 2023 Retiree Health insurance	46.78
5/30/2023	Keith Lyon	June 2023 Retiree Health insurance	184.29
5/22/2023	Igoe and Company Inc	COBRA Health and Vision insurance	2,751.32
5/26/2023	Harvey De La Torre	Movie Tickets	47.50
5/01/2023	Cathleen Harris	Reimbursement for apparel purchase	48.93
5/30/2023	US Bank	CAL Card rebate check	1,029.80
5/25/2023	US Bank Custodial Account	Bank of America Interest payment	531.40
5/31/2023	US Bank	Monthly Interest	144.04
5/22/2023	Irvine Ranch Water District	March 2023 Smartimer rebate program	360.71
5/22/2023	Santa Margarita Water District	March 2023 Smartimer rebate program	59.70
5/18/2023	City of Westminster	March 2023 Turf Removal rebate program	333.00
5/12/2023	City of Tustin	January 2023 Turf Removal and Spray to Drip rebate program	999.00
5/01/2023	Golden State Water Company	February 2023 Turf Removal and Spray to Drip rebate program	222.00
5/05/2023	City of Tustin	March 2023 Turf Removal and Spray to Drip rebate program	666.00
5/12/2023	City of Brea	March 2023 Turf Removal and Spray to Drip rebate program	222.00
5/12/2023	City of Seal Beach	March 2023 Turf Removal and Spray to Drip rebate program	444.00
5/15/2023	City of Fountain Valley	March 2023 Turf Removal and Spray to Drip rebate program	666.00
5/15/2023	City of La Habra	March 2023 Turf Removal and Spray to Drip rebate program	444.00
5/22/2023	City of Newport Beach	March 2023 Turf Removal and Spray to Drip rebate program	666.00
5/22/2023	Irvine Ranch Water District	March 2023 Turf Removal and Spray to Drip rebate program	89,148.11
5/26/2023	Laguna Beach County Water District	March 2023 Rain Barrels and High Efficiency Clothes Washers rebate program	250.00
5/10/2023	Trabuco Canyon Water District	March 2023 Spray to Drip, High Efficiency Toilets and Clothes Washers rebate program	1,358.00
5/01/2023	El Toro Water District	February 2023 Smartimer, Turf Removal and High Efficiency Clothes Washers rebate program	2,077.39
5/19/2023	City of San Clemente	March 2023 Smartimer, Turf Removal and High Efficiency Clothes Washers rebate program	4,683.00
5/15/2023	Moulton Niguel Water District	March 2023 Smartimer, Rotating Nozzles, Turf Removal , Spray to Drip and High Efficiency Clothes Washers rebate program	40,510.57
5/08/2023	Bureau of Reclamation	Oct 2022 - Mar 2023 OC Sustainable Landscapes Program	520,292.45
5/30/2023	Department of Water Resources	Jul 2022 - Mar 2023 Prop 1 North grant	716,629.64
5/11/2023	Mesa Water District	Water Loss Control Shared Services FY 2022-23	1,347.41
5/12/2023	City of Huntington Beach	Water Loss Control technical assistance CY 2023 - E-Source	10,120.00
5/22/2023	City of Orange	Water Loss Control technical assistance CY 2023 - E-Source	10,120.00
<b>TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES</b>			<b>\$ 1,407,621.62</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>			<b>\$ 9,087,526.27</b>

  
Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Manager

  
Hilary Chummitazi, Treasurer

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Disbursement Approval Report  
For the month of June 2023**

Vendor/ Invoice	Description	Amount to Pay
<b>Core Disbursements:</b>		
<b>Accent Computer Solutions LLC</b>		
157708D1	Final payment for Office365 Hybrid to full Cloud Project	2,100.00
157823	June 2023 IT support services	7,583.00
***Total***		<u>9,683.00</u>
<b>Ackerman Consulting-Richard C Ackerman</b>		
1373	May 2023 Legal and regulatory specialized consulting services	3,500.00
***Total***		<u>3,500.00</u>
<b>Aleshire &amp; Wynder LLP</b>		
75650	April 2023 Legal Services	525.00
***Total***		<u>525.00</u>
<b>Alliant Insurance Services Inc</b>		
2318068	7/1/23-6/30/24 Workers Compensation insurance premium renewal	39,468.01
***Total***		<u>39,468.01</u>
<b>Alta FoodCraft</b>		
12318011	06/02/23 Coffee and tea supplies	140.59
***Total***		<u>140.59</u>
<b>Richard Bell</b>		
63023	January-June 2023 Retiree medical premium	1,978.20
***Total***		<u>1,978.20</u>
<b>Best Best and Krieger LLP</b>		
55401-MAY23	May 2023 Legal Services	9,588.12
967021	May 2023 State Advocacy Agreement services	8,000.00
***Total***		<u>17,588.12</u>
<b>Black &amp; Veatch</b>		
1399340	May 2023 Hydraulic Model Work with SCWD	768.75
***Total***		<u>768.75</u>
<b>Boy Scouts of America</b>		
039-S23-2023	Boy Scouts 2023 Friends of Scouting	2,500.00
***Total***		<u>2,500.00</u>
<b>Building Block Entertainment Inc</b>		
3628-9	05/24/23 Presentation to 2023 Poster Contest classroom winner	750.00
***Total***		<u>750.00</u>

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Disbursement Approval Report  
For the month of June 2023**

<b>Vendor/ Invoice</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount to Pay</b>
<b>Cal Desal</b>		
20230446	FY 2023-24 Annual Membership renewal	5,000.00
***Total***		5,000.00
<b>California Municipal Utilities Assoc</b>		
24-0757	FY 2023-24 Annual membership renewal	10,214.00
***Total***		10,214.00
<b>CDM Smith</b>		
90179439	May 2023 Services for water resource planning	610.00
90179439	May 2023 Services for water resource planning	1,419.50
***Total***		2,029.50
<b>Hunter T Cook</b>		
63023	April-June 2023 Retiree medical premium	1,536.00
***Total***		1,536.00
<b>Green Thumb (Indoor Plant Care) LLC-Dedo Verde Interior</b>		
20230578	June 2023 Indoor plant service	305.50
***Total***		305.50
<b>Dopudja &amp; Wells Consulting Inc</b>		
1244	April 2023 Consulting services on MET Strategic Issues and Priorities	7,817.50
***Total***		7,817.50
<b>E Source Companies LLC</b>		
10865	April 2023 Technical Assistance Program services for Water Loss Control	2,560.00
10948	May 2023 Technical Assistance Program services for Water Loss Control	3,280.00
10949	May 2023 Business Plan Implementation services	7,640.00
***Total***		13,480.00
<b>Girl Scouts of Orange County</b>		
55599-2023	STEM Consortium Sponsorship FY 2022-23	2,500.00
***Total***		2,500.00
<b>GTS Architecture Inc</b>		
1284	April 2023 MWDOC Office kitchen and ADA ramp architectural and engineering services	675.00
***Total***		675.00
<b>Hashtag Pinpoint Corporation</b>		
1747	May 2023 Social Media consultation and services	7,913.00
***Total***		7,913.00

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Disbursement Approval Report  
For the month of June 2023**

<b>Vendor/ Invoice</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount to Pay</b>
<b>Steve Hedges</b>		
63023	April-June 2023 Retiree medical premium	692.40
***Total***		<u>692.40</u>
<b>Irvine Window Cleaning</b>		
3932	05/12/23 Office windows & glass walls cleaned	400.00
***Total***		<u>400.00</u>
<b>Lee Jacobi</b>		
63023	March-June 2023 Retiree medical premium	659.60
***Total***		<u>659.60</u>
<b>Karens Detail Custom Frames LLC</b>		
3204	Framing 40 posters for annual poster contest winners	2,152.23
***Total***		<u>2,152.23</u>
<b>Lawnscape Systems Inc</b>		
438463	May 2023 Landscape Maintenance for Atrium	495.00
***Total***		<u>495.00</u>
<b>Means Consulting-Edward G Means III</b>		
MWDOC-1113	May 2023 MET issues & strategic guidance to staff	937.50
MWDOC-1309	May 2023 East Orange County Feeder #2 Emergency Pilot Project Consulting Services	1,443.75
***Total***		<u>2,381.25</u>
<b>Natural Resource Results LLC</b>		
4393	May 2023 Federal Advocacy Agreement services	8,000.00
***Total***		<u>8,000.00</u>
<b>NDS</b>		
818163	5/12/23 Board packet delivery service	134.72
819123	06/02/23 Board packet delivery service	106.97
***Total***		<u>241.69</u>
<b>Office Solutions</b>		
I-02122183	05/09/23 Office Supplies	58.93
I-02125443	05/18/23 Office supplies	519.55
I-02127536	05/25/23 Office supplies	135.94
I-02128902	05/31/23 Office supplies	327.24
I-02129093	05/31/23 Office supplies	107.03
I-02129379	06/01/23 Office supplies	57.09
***Total***		<u>1,205.78</u>

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Disbursement Approval Report  
For the month of June 2023**

<b>Vendor/ Invoice</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount to Pay</b>
<b>Orange County Water District</b>		
25346	April 2023 Postage, shared office & maintenance expense	8,573.82
***Total***		<u>8,573.82</u>
<b>Judy Pfister</b>		
33123	January-March 2023 Retiree medical premium	494.70
63023	April-June 2023 Retiree medical premium	494.70
***Total***		<u>989.40</u>
<b>Production Access Group Inc</b>		
3590	Service to tune and optimize a/v system in conference room 101	1,200.00
***Total***		<u>1,200.00</u>
<b>Soto Resources-Joey C Soto</b>		
GA-MAY-75	May 2023 Grant Research and Acquisition Assistance	3,250.00
***Total***		<u>3,250.00</u>
<b>Staples Inc</b>		
8070504934	06/03/23 Office supplies	58.81
***Total***		<u>58.81</u>
<b>USAFact Inc</b>		
3053306	May 2023 Background checks for three new hires	107.70
***Total***		<u>107.70</u>
<b>Vox Civic Communications-Saoirse LLC</b>		
1610	Design service for OC Register Special two-page insert	11,250.00
***Total***		<u>11,250.00</u>
<b>Pauline D Wennerstrom</b>		
63023	April-June 2023 Retiree medical premium	494.70
***Total***		<u>494.70</u>
<b>Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors</b>		
2007	June 2023 Strategic Advisory services	6,000.00
***Total***		<u>6,000.00</u>
<b>Wyland Foundation</b>		
MAY182023	Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation	10,000.00
***Total***		<u>10,000.00</u>
<b>Total Core Expenditures</b>		<u>186,524.55</u>

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Disbursement Approval Report  
For the month of June 2023**

Vendor/ Invoice	Description	Amount to Pay
<b>Choice Expenditures:</b>		
<b>Bryton Printing Inc</b>		
17170	Water Use Efficiency Summer 2023 Bill inserts for member agencies	3,707.74
***Total***		<u>3,707.74</u>
<b>Building Block Entertainment Inc</b>		
3628-3	May 2023 Choice Elementary School Program grades K-2	14,175.00
***Total***		<u>14,175.00</u>
<b>Droplet Technologies</b>		
1190	May 2023 Rebate Platform Signature Fees	12,650.00
1191	May 2023 Rebate Platform Licensing and Platform Upgrades	17,500.00
***Total***		<u>30,150.00</u>
<b>GardenSoft Corp</b>		
5847	Water Wise Gardening website license fee July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024	4,000.00
***Total***		<u>4,000.00</u>
<b>Mission RCD</b>		
3369	May 2023 Field inspection and verification for Water Use Efficiency rebate programs	6,134.82
***Total***		<u>6,134.82</u>
<b>Office Solutions</b>		
I-02129095	05/31/23 Supplies for Water Loss Control Shared Services	56.93
***Total***		<u>56.93</u>
<b>Orange County Dept of Education</b>		
94SI4520	April 2023 Choice School Programs for grades 3-8	15,888.53
***Total***		<u>15,888.53</u>
<b>Orange County Water District</b>		
25346	April 2023 Postage for Water Use Efficiency rebate programs	72.98
***Total***		<u>72.98</u>
<b>Total Choice Expenditures</b>		<u>74,186.00</u>
<b>Other Funds Expenditures:</b>		
<b>E Source Companies LLC</b>		
10865	April 2023 Technical Assistance Program services for Water Loss Control	2,460.00
10948	May 2023 Technical Assistance Program services for Water Loss Control	1,090.00
***Total***		<u>3,550.00</u>



**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Disbursement Approval Report  
For the month of June 2023**

<b>Vendor/ Invoice</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount to Pay</b>
<b>Mission RCD</b>		
3369	May 2023 Field inspection and verification for Water Use Efficiency rebate programs	4,218.00
***Total***		<u>4,218.00</u>
<b>NV5 Geospatial-Quantum Spatial, Inc</b>		
332981	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for the City of Brea	12,399.84
332988	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for the City of Fountain Valley	8,783.22
332989	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for Moulton Niguel Water District	6,974.91
332990	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for Laguna Beach County Water District	9,558.21
332992	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for the City of Fullerton	48,049.38
332996	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for the City of Anaheim	64,324.17
332999	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for the City of Orange	55,282.62
333001	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for the City of Newport	21,958.05
333003	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for the City of San Clemente	42,366.12
333005	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for the City of Santa Ana	84,215.58
333007	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for the City of Seal Beach	10,591.53
333010	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for South Coast Water District	43,657.77
333013	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for Trabuco Canyon Water District	6,199.92
333017	3/25/22-5/31/23 Dedicated Irrigation Meter Measurement Services for the City of Tustin	27,124.65
***Total***		<u>441,485.97</u>
<b>Orange County Fire Authority</b>		
S0484708	Base Fee and AF33R Combustible Liquids for Primary EOC on 03/21/23	174.00
***Total***		<u>174.00</u>
<b>The Plant Nerd</b>		
7922	May 2023 Landscape Design and Landscape Maintenance Assistance Program	11,360.00
***Total***		<u>11,360.00</u>
<b>Joey C Soto</b>		
SA-MAY-74	May 2023 Grant Administration Services for Prop 1 North	1,031.25
***Total***		<u>1,031.25</u>
<b>Total Other Funds Expenditures</b>		<u>461,819.22</u>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<u><u>722,529.77</u></u>

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Disbursement Ratification Report  
For the Month of May 2023**

Name/ Date	Check/ EFT	Invoice	Description	Amount
<b>Core Disbursements:</b>				
<b>Tiffany Baca</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	42023	April 2023 Business expense	217.62
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>217.62</b>
<b>Hilary Chumpitazi</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	40423	April 2023 Business expense	76.47
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>76.47</b>
<b>Corodata Records Management Inc</b>				
5/15/2023	EFT	RS4904152	April 2023 Records Storage Fees	65.01
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>65.01</b>
<b>Larry Dick</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	42923	April 2023 Business expense	246.98
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>246.98</b>
<b>Tina Jocelyn Fann</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	41223	April 2023 Business expense	20.31
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>20.31</b>
<b>Leah Frazier</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	51823	May 2023 Business expense	18.64
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>18.64</b>
<b>Melissa Haley</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	42623	April 2023 Business expense	99.56
5/31/2023	EFT	51123	May 2023 Business expense	358.96
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>458.52</b>
<b>Robert McVicker</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	42923	April 2023 Business expense	35.37
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>35.37</b>
<b>Metropolitan Water District</b>				
5/31/2023	142312	48790	FY 2021-22 Operation and Maintenance Cost of the East Orange County Feeder No. 2	527,408.65
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>527,408.65</b>
<b>Al Nederhood</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	42923	April 2023 Business expense	304.29
5/31/2023	EFT	51923	May 2023 Business expense	636.37
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>940.66</b>
<b>Petty Cash</b>				
5/15/2023	142212	FEB-MAR23	February-March 2023 Petty cash reimbursement	(132.51)
5/15/2023	142212	APR23	April 2023 Petty cash reimbursement	169.20
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>36.69</b>

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Disbursement Ratification Report  
For the Month of May 2023**

<b>Name/ Date</b>	<b>Check/ EFT</b>	<b>Invoice</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Megan Schneider</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	42923	April 2023 Business expense	367.34
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>367.34</b>
<b>Karl Seckel</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	42923	April 2023 Business expense	189.56
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>189.56</b>
<b>Nathan Shepherd</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	42823	April 2023 Business expense	65.87
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>65.87</b>
<b>Spectrum Business</b>				
5/10/2023	142202	375210043023	May 2023 Telephone and internet expense	1,721.26
5/31/2023	142318	343564051023	May 2023 Telephone expense for one fax line	39.99
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>1,761.25</b>
<b>US Bank</b>				
5/31/2023	142319	0208/2978/4192/8910-APR23	03/23/23-04/24/23 Cal Card Charges	18,534.26
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>18,534.26</b>
<b>Verizon Wireless</b>				
5/10/2023	142203	9933259662	April 2023 4G Mobile broadband unlimited service	114.03
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>114.03</b>
<b>Katie Vincent</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	52623	May 2023 Business expense	1,019.78
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>1,019.78</b>
<b>Total Core Disbursements</b>				<b>551,577.01</b>
<b>Choice Disbursements:</b>				
<b>US Bank</b>				
5/31/2023	142319	8910-APR23	03/23/23-04/24/23 Cal Card Charges	182.36
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>182.36</b>
<b>US Bank Voyager Fleet Systems</b>				
5/15/2023	EFT	8694349932317	03/25/23-04/24/23 Fuel for Water Loss Control Shared Services vehicles	459.31
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>459.31</b>
<b>Total Choice Disbursements</b>				<b>641.67</b>

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Disbursement Ratification Report  
For the Month of May 2023**


Name/ Date	Check/ EFT	Invoice	Description	Amount
<b>Other Funds Disbursements:</b>				
<b>David Anderson</b>				
5/31/2023	142306	50723	May 2023 Business expense	1,406.86
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>1,406.86</b>
<b>AT&amp;T</b>				
5/31/2023	142307	19854857	April 2023 Telephone expense for WEROC Primary & N. EOC	471.72
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>471.72</b>
<b>American Campus Communities</b>				
5/15/2023	142204	WSP4917	WSIP Rebate 10% initial payment for Toilet Leak Detection System at American Campus Communities	1,360.00
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>1,360.00</b>
<b>Metropolitan Water District</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT053123	11089	March 2023 Water deliveries	6,903,371.80
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>6,903,371.80</b>
<b>Santa Margarita Water District</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	33123	March 2023 SCP Operation Surcharge	17,089.92
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>17,089.92</b>
<b>Santiago Aqueduct Commission</b>				
5/31/2023	142316	33123	March 2023 SAC Pipeline Operation Surcharge	1,235.42
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>1,235.42</b>
<b>Janine Schunk</b>				
5/31/2023	EFT	50723	May 2023 Business expense	2,019.70
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>2,019.70</b>
<b>Spray to Drip Rebate</b>				
5/31/2023	142217	S2D5-R-HB-42744-18220	T. Amelotte	308.16
5/31/2023	142290	S2D5-R-HB-47579-18897	T. Spooner	1,168.50
5/31/2023	142299	S2D5-R-SM-47168-18825	J. Verbeerst	1,636.00
5/31/2023	142268	S2D6-C-IRWD-38663-19392	Lake Forest II MHO (Lake Forest)	38,680.00
5/31/2023	142236	S2D6-C-MNT-38663-19650	Colinas de Capistrano Comm Assc (Laguna Niguel)	1,324.40
5/31/2023	142264	S2D6-C-MNT-42600-19562	Laguna Heights Comm Assc (Laguna Niguel)	867.30
5/31/2023	142265	S2D6-C-MNT-42600-19563	Laguna Heights Comm Assoc (Laguna Niguel)	1,834.70
5/31/2023	142229	S2D6-C-MNT-49139-19316	Buile Area M LLC (Laguna Niguel)	2,610.30
5/31/2023	142223	S2D6-C-SM-41984-19520	Bella Ventana Maint Corp (Rancho Santa Margarita)	9,307.50
5/31/2023	142240	S2D6-C-SM-49032-19285	Dakota (Trabuco Canyon)	2,076.00
5/31/2023	142241	S2D6-C-SM-49032-21758	Dakota (Trabuco Canyon)	437.00
5/31/2023	142242	S2D6-C-SM-49032-21759	Dakota (Trabuco Canyon)	20,897.50
5/31/2023	142283	S2D6-R-BREA-50982-21808	T. Preston	1,451.00
5/31/2023	142244	S2D6-R-GSWC-51002-21754	J. Ebiya	387.50
5/31/2023	142234	S2D6-R-HB-48814-19216	T. Clark	362.00
5/31/2023	142227	S2D6-R-IRWD-25451-21723	D. Bucka	312.00

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Disbursement Ratification Report  
For the Month of May 2023**

Name/ Date	Check/ EFT	Invoice	Description	Amount
<b>Spray to Drip Rebate - Continued</b>				
5/31/2023	142273	S2D6-R-IRWD-39905-19473	D. Minx	136.80
5/31/2023	142221	S2D6-R-IRWD-44245-19582	T. Beckett-Maines	885.60
5/31/2023	142231	S2D6-R-IRWD-48440-19114	P. Chin	329.60
5/31/2023	142280	S2D6-R-IRWD-48954-19272	C. Pierce	293.79
5/31/2023	142254	S2D6-R-IRWD-51016-21785	J. Herrick	709.60
5/31/2023	142232	S2D6-R-IRWD-51018-21769	T. Chue	229.60
5/31/2023	142258	S2D6-R-NWPT-47742-21846	K. Jaggers	348.50
5/31/2023	142272	S2D6-R-SM-49641-19537	L. Mellinger	727.50
5/31/2023	142238	S2D6-R-SM-50874-21739	N. Curiel	394.00
5/31/2023	142291	S2D6-R-TUST-46201-21813	V. Tambayong	1,923.00
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>89,637.85</b>
<b>Turf Rebate</b>				
5/31/2023	142266	TR15-C-MNT-42600-46636	Laguna Heights Comm Assc (Laguna Niguel)	7,863.00
5/31/2023	142267	TR15-C-MNT-42600-46657	Laguna Heights Comm Assc (Laguna Niguel)	4,263.00
5/31/2023	142301	TR15-R-GG-47989-46558	F. Villalpando	6,114.00
5/31/2023	142218	TR15-R-HB-42744-41424	T. Amelotte	3,378.00
5/31/2023	142228	TR15-R-IRWD-25451-45273	D. Bucka	1,008.00
5/31/2023	142248	TR15-R-MESA-44128-45325	C. Flynn	6,849.00
5/31/2023	142259	TR15-R-NWPT-47742-46327	K. Jaggers	2,091.00
5/31/2023	142282	TR15-R-SC-47322-45924	K. Prather	1,872.00
5/31/2023	142300	TR15-R-SM-47168-45772	J. Verbeerst	7,275.00
5/31/2023	142230	TR16-C-ETWD-38663-46888	Casa De Laguna Owners Assc (Laguna Hills)	15,478.00
5/31/2023	142269	TR16-C-IRWD-38663-47252	Lake Forest II MHO (Lake Forest)	227,202.00
5/31/2023	142289	TR16-C-IRWD-4463-48220	Smoketree Serrano Assc (Lake Forest)	36,253.27
5/31/2023	142304	TR16-C-IRWD-46078-47462	Xylem Inc-Flow Control LLC (Irvine)	53,258.99
5/31/2023	142237	TR16-C-IRWD-48953-47478	Colony Club Homeowners Assc (Irvine)	4,725.00
5/31/2023	142288	TR16-C-IRWD-49021-47539	Simpson Irvine Inc (Irvine)	68,200.00
5/31/2023	142294	TR16-C-IRWD-49691-48225	Turtle Rock Crest Comm Assc (18880 Ridgeline, Irvine)	33,075.43
5/31/2023	142295	TR16-C-IRWD-49691-48236	Turtle Rock Crest Comm Assc (2 Altair, Irvine)	23,690.00
5/31/2023	142296	TR16-C-IRWD-49691-48237	Turtle Rock Crest Comm Assc (4 Altair, Irvine)	20,367.91
5/31/2023	142297	TR16-C-IRWD-49691-48238	Turtle Rock Crest Comm Assc (18990 Ridgeline, Irvine)	14,070.00
5/31/2023	142303	TR16-C-IRWD-49870-48430	Woodbridge Village Assc (Irvine)	8,724.75
5/31/2023	142277	TR16-C-NWPT-335-49577-PA	City of Newport Beach (10 La Vida, Newport Beach)	10,670.43
5/31/2023	142285	TR16-C-SC-4463-48229	Rancho Del Rio Master Assc (San Clemente)	71,040.00
5/31/2023	142321	TR16-C-SC-49849-48399	Ken Hite (San Clemente)	4,524.00
5/31/2023	142253	TR16-C-SOCO-38652-48183	Harbor Creek Comm Assc (Dana Point)	9,038.00
5/31/2023	142278	TR16-C-SOCO-42533-48300	Niguel Beach Terrace Condo Assc (Dana Point)	14,170.00
5/31/2023	142270	TR16-C-SOCO-4463-47670	Marluna HOA (Dana Point)	1,302.00
5/31/2023	142246	TR16-C-YLWD-4463-48063	Fairmont Hill Comm Assc (Yorba Linda)	45,836.51
5/31/2023	142224	TR16-R-BP-50902-49461	J. Bird	4,269.00
5/31/2023	142284	TR16-R-BREA-50982-49546	T. Preston	7,452.00
5/31/2023	142275	TR16-R-FV-47770-46354	J. Moore	1,077.00
5/31/2023	142245	TR16-R-GSWC-51002-49572	J. Ebiya	1,452.00
5/31/2023	142235	TR16-R-HB-48814-47335	T. Clark	1,803.00
5/31/2023	142293	TR16-R-HB-49678-48212	D. Taylor	4,857.00
5/31/2023	142243	TR16-R-HB-50952-49711	K. Duclos	672.00
5/31/2023	142274	TR16-R-IRWD-39905-46913	D. Minx	855.00
5/31/2023	142322	TR16-R-IRWD-48416-46954	Q. Dinh	2,155.00

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Disbursement Ratification Report  
For the Month of May 2023**

Name/ Date	Check/ EFT	Invoice	Description	Amount
<b>Turf Rebate - Continued</b>				
5/31/2023	142281	TR16-R-IRWD-48954-47480	C. Pierce	2,354.26
5/31/2023	142222	TR16-R-IRWD-49624-48145	T. Beckett-Maines	3,720.00
5/31/2023	142252	TR16-R-IRWD-49668-48198	L. Hall	1,875.00
5/31/2023	142225	TR16-R-IRWD-49787-48329	L. Boulard	7,450.00
5/31/2023	142279	TR16-R-IRWD-49855-48413	G. Noneman	6,570.00
5/31/2023	142257	TR16-R-IRWD-50911-49472	M. Hutchings	4,241.49
5/31/2023	142260	TR16-R-IRWD-50941-49507	P. Jiang	369.32
5/31/2023	142255	TR16-R-IRWD-51016-49588	J. Herrick	4,805.00
5/31/2023	142233	TR16-R-IRWD-51018-49591	T. Chue	825.00
5/31/2023	142261	TR16-R-IRWD-51134-49721	C. Keenan	7,190.00
5/31/2023	142256	TR16-R-IRWD-51139-49725	A. Hsu	1,340.00
5/31/2023	142286	TR16-R-LH-48550-47084	H. Raymond	1,872.00
5/31/2023	142298	TR16-R-MESA-48571-47096	M. Twitchell	2,442.00
5/31/2023	142249	TR16-R-MNT-48360-46906	G. Fuller	1,468.00
5/31/2023	142271	TR16-R-MNT-49712-48254	J. Martinez	2,134.01
5/31/2023	142226	TR16-R-MNT-51051-49631	L. Brown	3,376.00
5/31/2023	142250	TR16-R-MNT-51081-49662	C. Grandy	2,544.00
5/31/2023	142220	TR16-R-MNT-51361-49803	R. Balogh	8,716.00
5/31/2023	142247	TR16-R-NWPT-48868-47392	J. Fife	516.00
5/31/2023	142276	TR16-R-SM-49437-47953	F. Najafloo	3,396.00
5/31/2023	142239	TR16-R-SM-50874-49436	N. Curiel	2,364.00
5/31/2023	142302	TR16-R-SM-50905-49465	I. Williams	1,197.00
5/31/2023	142262	TR16-R-SM-50934-49498	A. Keith	1,446.00
5/31/2023	142219	TR16-R-SM-51123-49709	P. Arefi	1,290.00
5/31/2023	142292	TR16-R-TUST-46201-46715	V. Tambayong	6,060.00
5/31/2023	142251	TR16-R-YLWD-48922-47448	C. Greenfield	1,965.00
5/31/2023	142287	TR16-R-YLWD-49576-48090	D. Reich	2,379.00
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>810,836.37</b>
<b>US Bank</b>				
5/31/2023	142319	6066-APR23	03/23/23-04/24/23 Cal Card Charges	2,396.13
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>2,396.13</b>
<b>Verizon Wireless</b>				
5/10/2023	142203	9933259662	April 2023 4G Mobile broadband unlimited service	76.02
<b>***Total***</b>				<b>76.02</b>
<b>Total Other Funds Disbursements</b>				<b>7,829,901.79</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>				<b>8,382,120.47</b>

  
Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Manager

  
Hilary Chumprazi, Treasurer

**Cal Card Charges**  
**Statement Date: April 24, 2023**  
**Payment Date: May 31, 2023**

Date	Description	Amount
<b>Administration Card:</b>		
3/23/2023	Survey Monkey annual subscription renewal	468.00
3/23/2023	Principal Engineer job posting with Water District Jobs	145.00
3/23/2023	Predict Success Harrison Assessments for new hired staff	1,216.00
3/24/2023	Web hosting annual renewal fee and March 2023 Web hosting service for MWDOC website	1,395.51
3/27/2023	ACWA DC 2023 in Washington DC from February 28-March 2, 2023 - Airfare credits for canceled return flight for H. Baez and M. Haley	(945.60)
3/28/2023	Tanaka Farms veggie baskets for 3 staff members from Wellness Grant	111.00
3/29/2023	03/27/23 Maintenance on MWDOC entry doors	451.29
3/30/2023	Government Finance Officers Association membership renewal for H. Chumpitazi	160.00
3/30/2023	MWDOC All Staff Luncheon	289.10
3/31/2023	Oil change for Water Loss Control Shared Services truck	71.68
4/03/2023	Portable Hard Drive for Cycle 2 OCDAP Aerial Imagery Data	65.24
4/03/2023	FedEx shipment on 04/03/23	11.62
4/07/2023	2022 Use tax on purchases	186.19
4/07/2023	Meal for Special Board meeting held on 04/06/23	804.95
4/09/2023	Two Dell Latitude laptops for staff	2,876.95
4/11/2023	Toner cartridge for office printer	34.08
4/11/2023	FedEx shipment on 04/11/23 for Water Loss Control Shared Services	110.68
4/11/2023	Principal Engineer job posting with Brown and Caldwell	100.00
4/12/2023	Windows 11 operating system upgrade for staff laptop	99.99
4/12/2023	Two toner cartridges for check printer	120.73
4/13/2023	Orange County Register E-edition annual renewal	338.00
4/18/2023	Four 6-outlet surge protectors for IT	50.00
4/19/2023	AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference in Minneapolis, MN from April 16-19, 2023 - Accommodations for J. Berg and R. Davis	1,019.40
<b>Total:</b>		<b>9,179.81</b>

**Public Affairs Card:**

4/02/2023	04/02/23-05/01/23 Zoom Video Communications fee with audio licenses	174.93
4/03/2023	April 2023 Public Storage Unit for Public Affairs	485.00
4/11/2023	Two heavy duty wagons for community events	245.02
4/14/2023	UPS mailing for Poster Contest honorable mention prizes	143.02
4/14/2023	Clear storage boxes for storage unit	83.43
4/14/2023	Storage shelving unit for storage unit	128.22
4/19/2023	Final payment to Christopher Todd/Studios for website headshots of MWDOC staff and board	975.00
4/19/2023	Fiverr translation services for WEEA career brochures	12.55
<b>Total:</b>		<b>2,247.17</b>

**Cal Card Charges**  
**Statement Date: April 24, 2023**  
**Payment Date: May 31, 2023**

Date	Description	Amount
<b>General Manager Card:</b>		
4/10/2023	Delta Air refund for canceled AWWA Water Policy Conference in Washington DC from March 29-April 02, 2020 - Airfare for R. Hunter	(516.40)
<b>Total:</b>		<b>(516.40)</b>

**Interim General Manager Card:**

3/21/2023	CSMFO Orange County Chapter Meeting on April 20, 2023 in Orange, CA - Registration for H. Chumpitazi	45.00
3/21/2023	Online Supervisor Harassment Prevention training - Registration for Directors Yoo Schneider and McVicker	47.98
3/27/2023	AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference in Minneapolis, MN from April 16-19, 2023 - Registration for J. Berg	385.00
3/27/2023	AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference in Minneapolis, MN from April 16-19, 2023 - Registration for R. Davis	385.00
3/30/2023	Deposit for Office 365 Hybrid to Cloud Migration project	2,100.00
3/31/2023	Water Use Efficiency I Webinar from April 25-27, 2023 - Registration for C. Castro, L. Aguilar, C. Johnson, and M. Hurtado	1,400.00
4/10/2023	CSDA Special Districts Legislative Days in Sacramento, CA from May 16-17, 2023 - Registration for H. Baez	300.00
4/10/2023	CSDA Special Districts Legislative Days in Sacramento, CA from May 16-17, 2023 - Airfare for H. Baez	186.95
4/10/2023	ACWA Spring Conference from May 9-11, 2023 in Monterey, CA - Airfare for H. Baez	186.95
4/10/2023	ACWA Spring Conference in Monterey, CA from May 9-11, 2023 - Airfare for Directors Nederhood and Crane	439.92
4/17/2023	ACWA Spring Conference from May 9-11, 2023 in Monterey, CA - Airfare for M. Haley and A. Heide	424.90
4/20/2023	04/06-4/20/23 Meals for H. De La Torre's meetings	223.86
4/21/2023	CAPIO 2023 Annual Conference in Monterey, CA from May 1-4, 2023 - Accommodations for T. Baca and S. Wilson	1,680.48
<b>Total:</b>		<b>7,806.04</b>

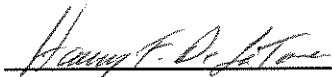
**WEROC Card:**


3/21/2023	CESA Conference from April 30-May 4, 2023 in Lake Tahoe, CA - Deposit for accommodations for D. Anderson	348.23
4/06/2023	Zoll AED Plus Refresh Pack for EOC	325.17
4/11/2023	Three large capacity surge protectors for EOC	126.03
4/18/2023	California Specialized Training Institute Emergency Management training and certificates for member agencies	1,305.00
4/18/2023	Two ethernet switches with power over ethernet for EOC	99.82
4/23/2023	QR Code Generator Pro annual plan for training and evaluation materials	191.88
<b>Total:</b>		<b>2,396.13</b>



**Municipal Water District of Orange County**  
**GM Approved Disbursement Report <sup>(1)</sup>**  
**For the Month of May 2023**

Name/ Date	Check/ EFT	Invoice	Description	Amount
<b>Core Disbursements:</b>				
E Art Consulting				
5/31/2023	142310	1435F	Final payment for Office Artwork on canvas and installation	7,347.59
***Total***				7,347.59
Total Core Disbursements				7,347.59
<b>Choice Disbursements:</b>				
Total Choice Disbursements				-
<b>Other Funds Disbursements:</b>				
Total Other Funds Disbursements				-
Total Disbursements				7,347.59

  
Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Manager

  
Hilary Chumplitzi, Treasurer

<sup>(1)</sup> For disbursements that did not make the cut-off of previous month's Disbursement Approval report.  
Disbursements are approved by GM for payment and need A & F Committee ratification.



# **Municipal Water District of Orange County Consolidated Summary of Cash and Investment**

April 30, 2023

District investments and cash balances are held in various funds designated for certain purposes as follows:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Book Value</b>	<b>% of Portfolio</b>
Restricted Reserves		
WEROC Operating Fund	\$388,769	3.19%
Designated Reserves		
Operating Reserves	\$5,675,047	46.58%
Election Reserve	461,678	3.79%
OPEB Reserve	297,147	2.44%
Total Designated Reserves	\$6,433,872	52.81%
General Operations Fund	\$6,589,790	54.09%
Water Purchase Payments Fund	335,689	2.75%
Conservation Fund	(1,583,071)	(12.99%)
Trustee Activities - AMP	18,673	0.15%
Total Other Funds	\$5,361,081	44.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,183,722</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The funds are invested as follows:

<b>Term of Investment</b>	<b>% of Portfolio</b>	<b>Book Value</b>	<b>Market Value</b>
Cash	0.86%	\$105,114	\$105,114
Short-term investment			
• LAIF	40.09%	4,883,875	4,883,875
• OCIP	33.61%	4,094,802	4,094,802
Long-term investment			
• US Government Issues	2.05%	249,931	227,880
• Corporate Bond	9.85%	1,200,000	1,082,889
• Certificates of Deposit	13.54%	1,650,000	1,585,332
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$12,183,722</b>	<b>\$11,979,892</b>

The average number of days to maturity/call as of April 30, 2023 equaled 140 and the average yield to maturity is 2.892%. During the month, the District's average daily balance was \$16,799,664.01. Funds were invested in US Bank Checking Account, Negotiable Certificate of Deposits, Corporate Bonds, US Government Issues, Local Agency Investment Funds (LAIF) and Orange County Investment Pool (OCIP) during the month of April 2023.

The (\$203,830) difference between the book value and the market value on April 30, 2023 represents the exchange difference if all investments had been liquidated on that date. Since it is the District's practice to "buy and hold" investments until maturity, the market values are a point of reference, not an indication of actual loss or gain. There are no current plans or cash flow requirements identified in the near future that would require the sale of these securities prior to maturity.

  
Harvey De La Torre  
Interim General Manager

  
Hilary Chumpitazi  
Treasurer

Street Address:  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, California 92708

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 20895  
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-0895

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Megan Yoo Schneider, P.E.  
President

Bob McVicker, P.E., D.WRE  
Vice President

Randall Crane, Ph.D.  
Director

Larry D. Dick  
Director

Al Nederhood  
Director

Karl W. Seckel, P.E.  
Director

Jeffery M. Thomas  
Director

Harvey De La Torre  
Interim General Manager

## MEMBER AGENCIES

City of Brea  
City of Buena Park  
East Orange County Water District  
El Toro Water District  
Emerald Bay Service District  
City of Fountain Valley  
City of Garden Grove  
Golden State Water Co.  
City of Huntington Beach  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Laguna Beach County Water District  
City of La Habra  
City of La Palma  
Mesa Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
City of Newport Beach  
City of Orange  
Orange County Water District  
City of San Clemente  
Santa Margarita Water District  
City of Seal Beach  
Serrano Water District  
South Coast Water District  
Trabuco Canyon Water District  
City of Tustin  
City of Westminster  
Yorba Linda Water District



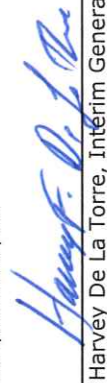
# MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY

## Portfolio Management - Portfolio Summary April 30, 2023

4/30/2023	Par Value	Market Value	Book Value	% of Portfolio	Days to Mat/Call	YTM @ Cost
Negotiable Certificate Of Deposit	1,650,000.00	1,585,331.50	1,650,000.00	13.66	739	2.762
Corporate Bond	1,200,000.00	1,082,888.50	1,200,000.00	9.93	380	1.518
US Government Issues	250,000.00	227,880.00	249,930.87	2.07	26	0.860
Local Agency Investment Funds	4,883,875.66	4,883,875.66	4,883,875.66	40.44	1	2.861
Orange County Investment Pool	4,094,801.71	4,094,801.71	4,094,801.71	33.90	1	3.509
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>12,078,677.37</b>	<b>11,874,777.37</b>	<b>12,078,608.24</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>2.892</b>
<b>Cash</b>						
Cash	105,114.22	105,114.22	105,114.22		1	0.00
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>12,183,791.59</b>	<b>11,979,891.59</b>	<b>12,183,722.46</b>		<b>140</b>	<b>2.892</b>

Total Earnings	Month Ending April	Fiscal Year to Date
Current Year	38,809.47	395,488.20
Average Daily Balance	16,799,664.01	
Effective Rate of Return	2.892%	

We certify that this report reflects the cash and investments of the Municipal Water District of Orange County and is in conformity with the Government Code requirements and the District Investment Policy and Guidelines in effect at the time of investment. The Investment Program herein shown provides sufficient cash flow liquidity to meet the next six month's estimated expenditure. The source for the market values are from U.S. Bank. Per Resolution 2059 there are no compliance exceptions to report.

  
Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Manager

06/08/2023  
Date

  
Hilary Chumtazi, Treasurer

06/08/2023  
Date

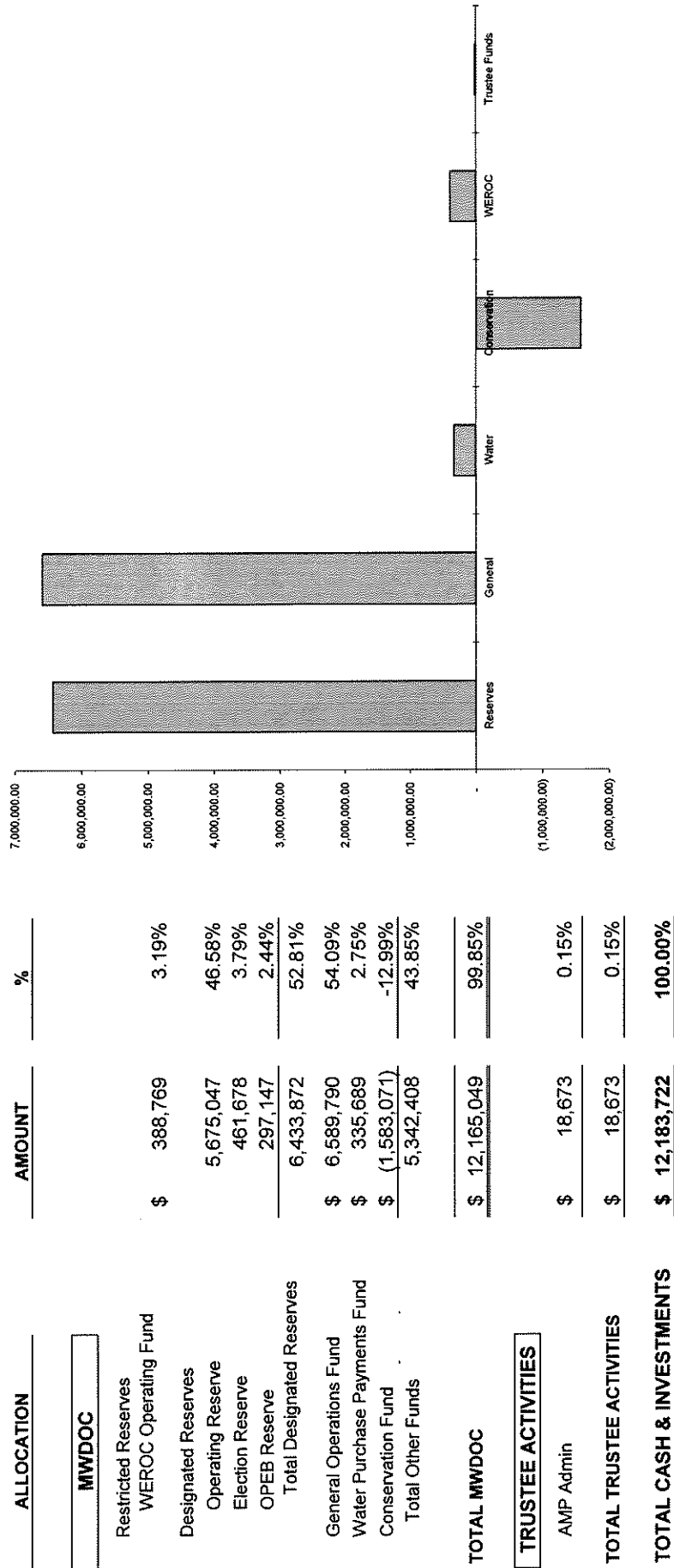
**April 30, 2023**

Current Year	5,379.15	53,689.59
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**MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY**  
**Portfolio Management**  
**Short-Term Portfolio Details - Cash and Investments**  
**April 30, 2023**

Investments	CUSIP/Ticker	Settlement Date	Par Value	Market Value	Book Value	Coupon Rate	YTM @ Cost	Days To Call/Maturity	Maturity Date
<b>Local Agency Investment Funds</b>									
LAIF LGIP	LAIF	6/30/2010	4,883,875.66	4,883,875.66	4,883,875.66	2.861	2.861	1	N/A
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>4,883,875.66</b>	<b>4,883,875.66</b>	<b>4,883,875.66</b>	<b>2.861</b>	<b>2.861</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Orange County Investment Pool</b>									
County of Orange LGIP	OCIP	6/29/2005	4,094,801.71	4,094,801.71	4,094,801.71	3.509	3.509	1	N/A
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>4,094,801.71</b>	<b>4,094,801.71</b>	<b>4,094,801.71</b>	<b>3.509</b>	<b>3.509</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Total Investments</b>			<b>8,978,677.37</b>	<b>8,978,677.37</b>	<b>8,978,677.37</b>	<b>3.157</b>	<b>3.157</b>		
<b>Cash</b>									
Petty Cash Cash	CASH	7/1/2010	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.000	0.000	1	N/A
US Bank Cash	CASHUSBANK	7/25/2018	104,614.22	104,614.22	104,614.22	0.000	0.000	1	N/A
<b>Total Cash</b>			<b>105,114.22</b>	<b>105,114.22</b>	<b>105,114.22</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>			<b>9,083,791.59</b>	<b>9,083,791.59</b>	<b>9,083,791.59</b>	<b>3.157</b>	<b>3.157</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Total Earnings</b>									
Current Year			33,430.32		Fiscal Year To Date				
					341,798.61				

**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Cash and Investments at April 30, 2023**



MUNICIPAL WATER DIST OF ORANGE COUNTY  
PARS Post-Employment Benefits TrustAccount Report for the Period  
4/1/2023 to 4/30/2023Hilary Chumpitazi  
Accounting Manager  
Municipal Water Dist of Orange County  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

## Account Summary

Source	Balance as of 4/1/2023	Contributions	Earnings	Expenses	Distributions	Transfers	Balance as of 4/30/2023
OPEB	\$2,502,204.80	\$0.00	\$17,672.83	\$1,208.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,518,668.98
PENSION	\$1,089,144.77	\$0.00	\$7,692.52	\$526.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,096,311.20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,591,349.57</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$25,365.35</b>	<b>\$1,734.74</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,614,980.18</b>

## Investment Selection

Source	
OPEB	Moderate HighMark PLUS
PENSION	Moderate HighMark PLUS

## Investment Objective

Source	
OPEB	The dual goals of the Moderate Strategy are growth of principal and income. It is expected that dividend and interest income will comprise a significant portion of total return, although growth through capital appreciation is equally important. The portfolio will be allocated between equity and fixed income investments.
PENSION	The dual goals of the Moderate Strategy are growth of principal and income. It is expected that dividend and interest income will comprise a significant portion of total return, although growth through capital appreciation is equally important. The portfolio will be allocated between equity and fixed income investments.

## Investment Return

Source	1-Month	3-Months	1-Year	Annualized Return			Plan's Inception Date
				3-Years	5-Years	10-Years	
OPEB	0.71%	-0.10%	-0.05%	5.74%	4.68%	5.40%	10/26/2011
PENSION	0.71%	-0.10%	-0.02%	5.70%	-	-	7/31/2018

Information as provided by US Bank, Trustee for PARS; Not FDIC Insured; No Bank Guarantee; May Lose Value

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Performance returns may not reflect the deduction of applicable fees, which could reduce returns. Information is deemed reliable but may be subject to change.

Investment Return: Annualized rate of return is the return on an investment over a period other than one year multiplied or divided to give a comparable one-year return.

Account balances are inclusive of Trust Administration, Trustee and Investment Management fees

**MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY  
COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AND  
BUDGET COMPARATIVE  
JULY 1, 2022 THRU APRIL 30, 2023**



**Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Combined Balance Sheet  
As of April 30, 2023**

	<u><b>Amount</b></u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>	
Cash in Bank	105,114.22
Investments	12,078,608.24
Accounts Receivable	17,103,906.49
Accounts Receivable - Other	471,818.66
Accrued Interest Receivable	70,504.08
Prepays/Deposits	244,158.71
Leasehold Improvements	7,001,517.44
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	885,094.81
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(3,829,331.69)</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>34,131,390.96</u></b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u></b>	
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>	
Accounts Payable	16,651,450.86
Accrued Salaries and Benefits Payable	693,973.96
Other Liabilities	1,124,390.80
Unearned Revenue	<u>1,062,950.06</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>19,532,765.68</u></b>
<b><u>FUND BALANCES</u></b>	
<u>Restricted Fund Balances</u>	
WERO Reserve	<u>240,442.01</u>
Total Restricted Fund Balances	<u>240,442.01</u>
<u>Unrestricted Fund Balances</u>	
<u>Designated Reserves</u>	
Operating Reserve	5,675,047.00
Election Reserve	461,678.00
OPEB Reserve	<u>297,147.00</u>
Total Designated Reserves	<u>6,433,872.00</u>
General Fund	5,811,879.95
General Fund Capital	<u>83,747.32</u>
Total Unrestricted Fund Balances	<u>12,329,499.27</u>
<b><u>Excess Revenue over Expenditure</u></b>	
Operating Fund	2,363,306.47
Other Funds	<u>(334,622.47)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b><u>14,598,625.28</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b><u>34,131,390.96</u></b>

**Municipal Water District of Orange County**  
**Revenues and Expenditures Budget Comparative Report**  
**General Fund**  
**July 1, 2022 thru April 30, 2023**

	<u>Month to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% Used</u>	<u>Encumbrance</u>	<u>Budget Remaining</u>
<b><u>REVENUES</u></b>						
Retail Connection Charge	0.00	8,885,401.25	8,885,401.25	100.00%	0.00	0.00
Ground Water Customer Charge	0.00	367,806.00	367,805.72	100.00%	0.00	(0.28)
<b>Water Rate Revenues</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>9,253,207.25</b>	<b>9,253,206.97</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(0.28)</b>
Interest Revenue	42,198.71	413,197.51	145,971.00	283.07%	0.00	(267,226.51)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>42,198.71</b>	<b>9,666,404.76</b>	<b>9,399,177.97</b>	<b>102.84%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(267,226.79)</b>
Choice Programs	9,307.41	1,307,388.57	1,328,114.20	98.44%	0.00	20,725.63
MWD Revenue - Shared Services	0.00	62,730.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	(62,730.00)
Miscellaneous Income	23.44	2,240.86	3,000.00	74.70%	0.00	759.14
School Contracts	14,370.54	97,575.22	429,837.67	22.70%	0.00	332,262.45
Delinquent Payment Penalty	0.00	3,597.63	0.00	0.00%	0.00	(3,597.63)
Transfer-In from Reserve	0.00	0.00	457,061.00	0.00%	0.00	457,061.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23,701.39</b>	<b>1,473,532.28</b>	<b>2,218,012.87</b>	<b>66.43%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>744,480.59</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>65,900.10</b>	<b>11,139,937.04</b>	<b>11,617,190.84</b>	<b>95.89%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>477,253.80</b>

**Municipal Water District of Orange County**  
**Revenues and Expenditures Budget Comparative Report**  
**General Fund**  
**July 1, 2022 thru April 30, 2023**

	<u>Month to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% Used</u>	<u>Encumbrance</u>	<u>Budget Remaining</u>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>						
Salaries & Wages	310,495.05	3,649,753.18	4,429,129.50	82.40%	0.00	779,376.32
Salaries & Wages - Grant Recovery	0.00	(4,511.35)	(20,000.00)	(22.56)%	0.00	(15,488.65)
Director's Compensation	22,920.10	223,962.12	275,041.20	81.43%	0.00	51,079.08
MWD Representation	11,787.48	117,219.94	157,166.40	74.58%	0.00	39,946.46
Employee Benefits	104,447.13	1,133,656.57	1,441,831.24	78.63%	0.00	308,174.67
Employee Benefits - Grant Recovery	0.00	(908.93)	0.00	0.00%	0.00	908.93
CalPers Unfunded Liability Contribution	0.00	207,000.00	207,000.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00
Director's Benefits	8,844.66	88,488.37	132,976.50	66.54%	0.00	44,488.13
Health Insurance for Retirees	4,061.03	61,081.77	94,554.00	64.60%	0.00	33,472.23
Training Expense	1,445.00	6,974.58	53,000.00	13.16%	0.00	46,025.42
Tuition Reimbursement	0.00	2,653.00	5,000.00	53.06%	0.00	2,347.00
Temporary Help Expense	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00%	0.00	5,000.00
<b>Personnel Expenses</b>	<b>464,000.45</b>	<b>5,485,369.25</b>	<b>6,780,698.84</b>	<b>80.90%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,295,329.59</b>
Engineering Expense	27,122.32	175,970.32	410,000.00	42.92%	76,531.28	157,498.40
Legal Expense	14,168.02	133,769.73	235,750.00	56.74%	121,230.27	(19,250.00)
Audit Expense	0.00	27,000.00	35,000.00	77.14%	4,500.00	3,500.00
Professional Services	104,908.61	926,919.31	1,516,256.00	61.13%	940,800.21	(351,463.52)
<b>Professional Fees</b>	<b>146,198.95</b>	<b>1,263,659.36</b>	<b>2,197,006.00</b>	<b>57.52%</b>	<b>1,143,061.76</b>	<b>(209,715.12)</b>
Conference - Staff	1,070.00	18,430.00	56,205.00	32.79%	0.00	37,775.00
Conference - Directors	0.00	11,009.72	23,905.00	46.06%	0.00	12,895.28
Travel & Accom. - Staff	5,882.91	40,690.91	90,325.00	45.05%	0.00	49,634.09
Travel & Accom. - Directors	666.85	12,002.52	32,900.00	36.48%	0.00	20,897.48
<b>Travel &amp; Conference</b>	<b>7,619.76</b>	<b>82,133.15</b>	<b>203,335.00</b>	<b>40.39%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>121,201.85</b>
Membership/Sponsorship	160.00	144,503.24	145,847.00	99.08%	0.00	1,343.76
CDR Support	14,365.50	57,462.00	57,462.00	100.00%	0.00	0.00
<b>Dues &amp; Memberships</b>	<b>14,525.50</b>	<b>201,965.24</b>	<b>203,309.00</b>	<b>99.34%</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,343.76</b>
Business Expense	89.39	1,074.85	2,500.00	42.99%	0.00	1,425.15
Office Maintenance	8,765.27	135,133.78	151,400.00	89.26%	25,797.85	(9,531.63)
Building Repair & Maintenance	1,002.55	20,868.34	22,056.00	94.62%	10,809.32	(9,621.66)
Storage Rental & Equipment Lease	65.01	591.24	1,800.00	32.85%	208.76	1,000.00
Office Supplies	1,640.65	22,608.96	35,000.00	64.60%	1,593.32	10,797.72
Supplies - Water Loss Control	162.41	6,456.85	4,000.00	161.42%	0.00	(2,456.85)
Postage/Mail Delivery	495.06	7,011.82	11,300.00	62.05%	986.91	3,301.27
Subscriptions & Books	806.00	1,009.40	1,000.00	100.94%	0.00	(9.40)
Reproduction Expense	54.09	14,776.27	84,000.00	17.59%	3,503.88	65,719.85
Maintenance - Computers	50.00	4,668.22	7,000.00	66.69%	0.00	2,331.78
Software Purchase	3,809.03	84,786.87	95,093.00	89.16%	349.86	9,956.27
Software Support	1,889.51	32,110.53	55,615.00	57.74%	0.00	23,504.47
Computers and Equipment	2,876.95	26,037.36	43,950.00	59.24%	0.00	17,912.64
Maintenance Expense	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00%	0.00	6,000.00
Automotive Expense	1,235.97	5,309.12	13,500.00	39.33%	0.00	8,190.88
Vehicle Expense	530.99	8,400.21	7,343.00	114.40%	0.00	(1,057.21)
Toll Road Charges	28.96	259.14	2,100.00	12.34%	0.00	1,840.86
Insurance Expense	14,953.21	152,225.20	140,000.00	108.73%	0.00	(12,225.20)
Utilities - Telephone	4,472.64	31,430.05	43,690.00	71.94%	228.06	12,031.89
Bank Fees	100.79	881.37	2,600.00	33.90%	0.00	1,718.63
Miscellaneous Expense	12,010.15	54,215.51	69,520.00	77.99%	970.00	14,334.49
MWDOC's Contrb. to WEROC	24,690.83	246,908.34	296,290.00	83.33%	0.00	49,381.66
Depreciation Expense	7,951.21	79,513.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	(79,513.00)
<b>Other Expenses</b>	<b>87,680.67</b>	<b>936,276.43</b>	<b>1,095,757.00</b>	<b>85.45%</b>	<b>44,447.96</b>	<b>115,032.61</b>
Election Expense	0.00	643,450.91	300,728.00	213.96%	0.00	(342,722.91)
Capital Acquisition	8,054.47	123,916.66	113,280.00	109.39%	43,022.18	(53,658.84)
Building Expense	12,956.29	39,859.57	723,077.00	5.51%	58,383.50	624,833.93
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>741,036.09</b>	<b>8,776,630.57</b>	<b>11,617,190.84</b>	<b>75.55%</b>	<b>1,288,915.40</b>	<b>1,551,644.87</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>(675,135.99)</b>	<b>2,363,306.47</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>(1,288,915.40)</b>	<b>(1,074,391.07)</b>

**Municipal Water District of Orange County**  
**Revenues and Expenditures Budget Comparative Report**  
**Water Fund**  
**July 1, 2022 thru April 30, 2023**

	<u>Month to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% Used</u>	<u>Budget Remaining</u>
<b><u>WATER REVENUES</u></b>					
Water Sales	7,514,220.40	120,383,034.70	157,620,717.70	76.38%	37,237,683.00
Readiness to Serve Charge	1,141,583.00	10,652,583.19	11,142,354.00	95.60%	489,770.81
Capacity Charge CCF	293,620.00	3,870,069.86	5,396,060.00	71.72%	1,525,990.14
SCP/SAC Pipeline Surcharge	23,932.46	269,247.43	318,000.00	84.67%	48,752.57
Interest Revenue	0.00	0.00	4,547.00	0.00%	4,547.00
<b>TOTAL WATER REVENUES</b>	<b>8,973,355.86</b>	<b>135,174,935.18</b>	<b>174,481,678.70</b>	<b>77.47%</b>	<b>39,306,743.52</b>
<b><u>WATER PURCHASES</u></b>					
Water Sales	7,514,220.40	120,383,034.70	157,620,717.70	76.38%	37,237,683.00
Readiness to Serve Charge	1,141,583.00	10,652,583.05	11,142,354.00	95.60%	489,770.95
Capacity Charge CCF	293,620.00	3,870,070.00	5,396,060.00	71.72%	1,525,990.00
SCP/SAC Pipeline Surcharge	23,932.46	269,247.43	318,000.00	84.67%	48,752.57
<b>TOTAL WATER PURCHASES</b>	<b>8,973,355.86</b>	<b>135,174,935.18</b>	<b>174,477,131.70</b>	<b>77.47%</b>	<b>39,302,196.52</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,547.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>4,547.00</b>

**Municipal Water District of Orange County**  
**Revenues and Expenditures Budget Comparative Report**  
**Water Use Efficiency**  
**July 1, 2022 thru April 30, 2023**

	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% Used</u>
<b>Spray To Drip Conversion</b>			
Revenues	355,492.47	434,927.51	81.74%
Expenses	471,106.45	434,927.51	108.32%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	(115,613.98)	0.00	
<b>Member Agency Administered Pass-Thru</b>			
Revenues	0.00	255,000.00	0.00%
Expenses	0.00	255,000.00	0.00%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	0.00	0.00	
<b>ULFT Rebate Program</b>			
Revenues	280.00	1,000.00	28.00%
Expenses	280.00	1,000.00	28.00%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	0.00	0.00	
<b>HECW Rebate Program</b>			
Revenues	49,896.84	60,000.00	83.16%
Expenses	42,960.00	60,000.00	71.60%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	6,936.84	0.00	
<b>CII Rebate Program</b>			
Revenues	399.00	2,000.00	19.95%
Expenses	399.00	2,000.00	19.95%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	0.00	0.00	
<b>Turf Removal Program</b>			
Revenues	5,177,576.33	6,061,364.00	85.42%
Expenses	5,484,106.38	6,061,364.00	90.48%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	(306,530.05)	0.00	
<b>Comprehensive Landscape (CLWUE)</b>			
Revenues	103,264.62	321,700.00	32.10%
Expenses	108,007.35	321,700.00	33.57%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	(4,742.73)	0.00	
<b>Recycled Water Program</b>			
Revenues	1,582.75	50,000.00	3.17%
Expenses	1,582.75	50,000.00	3.17%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	0.00	0.00	
<b>WSIP - Industrial Program</b>			
Revenues	0.00	32,645.00	0.00%
Expenses	0.00	32,645.00	0.00%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	0.00	0.00	
<b>Land Design Program</b>			
Revenues	269,177.50	331,303.00	81.25%
Expenses	316,381.90	331,303.00	95.50%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	(47,204.40)	0.00	
<b>Pressure Regulation Program</b>			
Revenues	21,675.00	26,960.50	80.40%
Expenses	21,675.00	26,960.50	80.40%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	0.00	0.00	
<b>Rotating Nozzle</b>			
Revenues	15.70	1,750.00	0.90%
Expenses	0.00	1,750.00	0.00%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	15.70	0.00	
<b>Dedicated Irrigation Meters Measurement Project (DIMM)</b>			
Revenues	0.00	966,624.00	0.00%
Expenses	0.00	966,624.00	0.00%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	0.00	0.00	

**Municipal Water District of Orange County**  
**Revenues and Expenditures Budget Comparative Report**  
**Water Use Efficiency**  
**July 1, 2022 thru April 30, 2023**

	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% Used</u>
<b>Rain Barrel</b>			
Revenues	180.00	0.00	0.00%
Expenses	180.00	0.00	0.00%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	0.00	0.00	
 <b>Total WUE Projects</b>			
Revenues	5,979,540.21	8,545,274.01	69.97%
Expenses	6,446,678.83	8,545,274.01	75.44%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	(467,138.62)	0.00	
 <b>WEROC</b>			
Revenues	516,559.36	565,941.00	91.27%
Expenses	599,457.09	565,941.00	105.92%
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	(82,897.73)	0.00	



**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM**

June 21, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** **Administration & Finance Committee**  
(Directors Dick, Thomas, Crane)

**Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Manager**

Staff Contact: Cathy Harris, Director of Human Resources &  
Administration

**SUBJECT:** **Annual Approval of District Salary Schedule**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the proposed Pay Structure, as presented, effective July 1, 2023; adjusting the salary ranges by 7.45%, as approved during the budget process; and approve changes to positions, as noted. (Option1)

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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Committee concurred with staff recommendation.

**SUMMARY**

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Pursuant to recently approved 2023-24 Budget, attached is the proposed Pay Structure, adjusting the Salary Ranges by 7.45%. The schedule is effective as of July 1. This is an adjustment to the salary ranges only and not to individual salaries.

In addition, positions and titles were added and or reclassified due to recent organizational changes and to allow for career progression within job families.

The annual adjustment to the ranges keeps the salary ranges consistent with the market to avoid falling behind. Without the annual adjustment to the pay structure, a significant gap can develop and requires a significant adjustment to the pay structure during the Total Compensation Assessment, which is performed every three years. The next comprehensive salary survey, to evaluate market practices and job grading will be initiated in November

<b>Budgeted (Y/N):</b> Y	Budgeted amount: NA	Core X	Choice _
<b>Action item amount:</b> NA			
<b>Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):</b>			

2023 for completion in spring of 2024. The last comprehensive study was completed in spring 2021.

In compliance with the Public Employees Retirement Law, the District is required to maintain a publicly available pay schedule that is approved by the Board.

## **BOARD OPTIONS**

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**Option #1** It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve the proposed Pay Structure, as presented, effective July 1, 2023; adjusting the salary ranges by 7.45%, as approved during the budget process; and approve changes to positions, as noted. (Option1)

**Option #2** Do not approve.  
This will cause the District's positions and salary ranges to fall behind the market, causing a future financial impact in having to make several position reclassification adjustments to salary ranges.



# MWDOC PAY STRUCTURE - EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023 (7.45% range adjustment)

Grade	Dept	Status	Job Classification		Range Min \$	25th % \$	Mid \$	75th % \$	Range Max \$
INT			Intern (varies by department)	hourly	19.38	21.07	22.76	24.47	26.14
R1	ADMIN	Open		annually	43,329	47,111	50,895	54,701	58,460
				monthly	3,610	3,926	4,241	4,558	4,872
				hourly	20.83	22.65	24.47	26.30	28.11
R2	ADMIN	NE	Office Assistant	annually	46,579	50,639	54,701	58,808	62,846
				monthly	3,881	4,220	4,558	4,901	5,237
				hourly	22.39	24.35	26.30	28.27	30.21
R3			WUE Program Assistant	annually	50,059	54,446	58,808	63,218	67,558
			WLC Program Assistant	monthly	4,171	4,538	4,901	5,268	5,630
				hourly	24.07	26.18	28.27	30.39	32.48
R4	ADMIN	NE	Database Coordinator	annually	53,818	58,530	63,242	67,929	72,687
				monthly	4,485	4,877	5,270	5,660	6,057
				hourly	25.87	28.14	30.40	32.66	34.95
R5	FIN	NE	Accounting Technician	annually	57,858	62,916	67,952	73,058	78,117
	PA	NE	Public Affairs Assist	monthly	4,821	5,244	5,663	6,088	6,509
				hourly	27.82	30.25	32.67	35.12	37.56
R6	ADM	NE	Administrative Assistant	annually	62,197	67,604	73,081	78,535	83,966
				monthly	5,183	5,634	6,090	6,545	6,997
				hourly	29.90	32.50	35.14	37.76	40.37
R7	ADM	NE	Sr. Admin Assistant	annually	66,838	72,733	78,559	84,430	90,255
R7	PA	NE	Public Affairs Coordinator I	monthly	5,570	6,061	6,547	7,036	7,522
R7	WUE	NE	Water Loss Control Programs Tech I	hourly	32.13	34.97	37.77	40.59	43.39
R8	ADM	NE	Records Coordinator	annually	71,898	78,163	84,454	90,743	96,985
				monthly	5,991	6,514	7,038	7,562	8,082
				hourly	34.57	37.58	40.60	43.63	46.63
R9	PA	NE	Public Affairs Coordinator II	annually	77,282	84,012	90,766	97,542	104,319
	WUE	NE	Water Loss Control Program Tech II	monthly	6,441	7,001	7,563	8,129	8,694
				hourly	37.15	40.39	43.64	46.90	50.15
R10	WUE	NE	WUE Analyst I	annually	83,037	90,348	97,589	104,877	112,140
R10	ADM	NE	Executive Assistant	monthly	6,920	7,529	8,133	8,740	9,345
R10	ENG	NE	Assoc. Water Resources Analyst	hourly	39.92	43.44	46.92	50.42	53.91
R10	FIN	NE	Accountant						
R10	WEROC	NE	WEROC Emergency Coordinator						
R11	PA	NE	Public Affairs Specialist	annually	89,304	97,125	104,877	112,697	120,518
R11	WUE	NE	WUE Analyst II	monthly	7,442	8,094	8,740	9,391	10,043
R11	WEROC	NE	WEROC Specialist	hourly	42.93	46.69	50.42	54.18	57.94
R11	WUE	NE	Water Loss Control Program Lead						
R11	FIN	E	IT System Analyst I						
R12	ENG	E	Water Resources Analyst	annually	95,987	104,389	112,767	121,168	129,570
R12	FIN	NE	Sr. Accountant	monthly	7,999	8,699	9,398	10,097	10,798
				hourly	46.15	50.19	54.21	58.25	62.29
R13	FIN	E	Fin. Analyst/Database Analyst	annually	103,158	112,233	121,214	130,312	139,316
R13	FIN	E	IT System Analyst II (Network Systems Engineer)	monthly	8,597	9,352	10,101	10,859	11,610
R13	ADM	NE	Sr. Executive Assistant	hourly	49.60	53.96	58.28	62.65	66.98
R13	WUE	NE	Sr. WUE Analyst						
R13	PA	E	Public Affairs Supervisor						
R14	FIN	E	Accounting Supervisor	annually	110,934	120,612	130,358	140,036	149,737
R14	ENG	E	Sr. Water Resources Analyst	monthly	9,245	10,051	10,863	11,670	12,478
R14	ENG	E	Associate Engineer	hourly	53.33	57.99	62.67	67.33	71.99
R15	WUE	E	WUE Program Supervisor	annually	119,265	129,662	140,105	150,549	160,970
R15	ADM	E	District Secretary	monthly	9,939	10,805	11,676	12,546	13,414
R15	WUE	E	Water Loss Control Programs Supv	hourly	57.34	62.34	67.36	72.38	77.39
R15	WEROC	E	WEROC Programs Manager						
R15	FIN	E	Sr. Fin. Analyst/Database Analyst						

title change

new position

new position

new position

title change

range adj. (R12)

range adj (R13)

# MWDOC PAY STRUCTURE - EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023 (7.45% range adjustment)

R16	ENG	E	Sr. Engineer	annually	128,177	139,410	150,619	161,828	173,014	
R16	PA	E	Public Affairs Manager	monthly	10,682	11,617	12,551	13,486	14,418	range adj. (R14)
R16	ADM	E	Executive Assist. to the GM & District Secretary	hourly	61.62	67.02	72.41	77.80	83.18	new position
R17	ENG	E	Principal Water Resources Analyst	annually	137,785	149,829	161,898	173,966	186,034	
R17	WUE	E	WUE Program Manager	monthly	11,482	12,486	13,491	14,497	15,503	
R17	FIN	E	Accounting Manager/IT	hourly	66.24	72.03	77.84	83.64	89.44	
R17	GA	E	Governmental Affairs Mgr.							
R18	ENG	E	Principal Engineer	annually	148,136	161,086	174,058	187,032	199,982	
R18	ADMIN	E	Administrative Services Manager	monthly	12,345	13,424	14,505	15,586	16,665	
				hourly	71.22	77.44	83.68	89.92	96.15	
R19			OPEN	annually	159,252	173,154	187,102	201,050	214,928	
				monthly	13,271	14,429	15,592	16,755	17,911	
				hourly	76.56	83.25	89.95	96.66	103.33	
R20	FIN	E	Director of Finance/IT	annually	171,204	186,150	201,142	216,111	231,103	range adj. (R19) (no range adjustment)
R20	PA	E	Director of Public Affairs	monthly	14,267	15,513	16,762	18,009	19,259	range adj (R19)
R20	WUE	E	Director of Water Use Efficiency	hourly	82.31	89.50	96.70	103.90	111.11	range adj (R19)
R20	WEROC	E	Director of Emergency Management							range adj (R19)
R20	GA	E	Director of Government Affairs							new position
R20	ENG	E	Director of Engineering/District Engineer							
R20	ENG	E	Director of Metropolitan Issues & Policy							new position
R20	ADMIN	E	Director of Human Resources & Administration							range adj (R19)
R21	ENG	E	Associate General Manager	annually	184,015	200,121	216,227	232,310	248,439	range adj (R20)
				monthly	15,334	16,677	18,019	19,359	20,703	
				hourly	88.47	96.21	103.96	111.69	119.44	
R22	ENG	E	Assistant General Manager	annually	193,716	213,071	232,472	251,828	271,183	
				monthly	16,143	17,756	19,373	20,986	22,599	
				hourly	93.13	102.44	111.77	121.07	130.38	
R23			OPEN		208,244	229,051	249,908	270,715	291,522	
					17,354	19,088	20,826	22,560	24,294	
					100.12	110.12	120.15	130.15	140.15	
GM			General Manager		249,908				349,872	

Rev 4-19-23



**ACTION ITEM**

June 21, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Ad Hoc Committee: (President Yoo Schneider & Directors McVicker and Thomas)

Staff Contact: Cathy Harris, Director of Human Resources

**SUBJECT: Award Contract for Executive Search Firm Services for the General Manager Recruitment**

**AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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The Ad Hoc Committee recommends the Board of Directors authorize the President of the Board to enter into a consulting services agreement for the District's General Manager recruitment, with Colleague, LLC, based upon 25% of the first-year guaranteed earnings of the successful candidate, calculated to be approximately \$79,000, plus reimbursable expenses, as outlined in the proposal.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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The Committee concurred with the Ad Hoc Committee recommendation.

**DETAILED REPORT**

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The Ad Hoc Committee consisting of President Yoo Schneider and Directors McVicker and Thomas worked with the Director of Human Resources to draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) and to issue the RFP to a list of executive search firms recommended by Board members, other agencies, and staff. The RFP was issued on May 11<sup>th</sup> and sent to 12 executive search firms with a submission due date of June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The RFP was also posted on the District website. A total of 6 firms responded with proposals ranging from \$25,000 to \$104,000.

<b>Budgeted (Y/N): N</b>	Budgeted amount: 0	Core X _	Choice _
<b>Action item amount: \$79,000</b>			
<b>Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):</b> Funds to cover this expense will be taken from Reserves.			

On June 12th, the Ad Hoc Committee convened to assess the proposals submitted in response to the RFP, evaluating them against the specified criteria. After thorough review, the Committee unanimously recommends Colleague, LLC as the preferred choice to handle the recruitment for the District's General Manager position. Colleague's proposal stood out as the most comprehensive, encompassing various aspects such as fees for meetings with the Board, Member Agencies, and staff. Additionally, their thoughtful approach to recruitment, effective utilization of technology, and implementation of assessments, such as DISC assessments, to evaluate a candidate's workstyle, strengths, and communication style, set them apart from other contenders. Notably, Colleague's proposal not only excelled in its comprehensiveness but also included many services and deliverables that were considered additional costs by the other proposers.

The following identifies some of the key components that makes Colleague stand out above all others:

Colleague is uniquely positioned in the marketplace to attract the most highly qualified leaders for the MWDOC role. Colleague's unique philosophy and point of view about talent acquisition will help Colleague attract and place a General Manager who is a strong, proven leader, able to steer the District into the next phase of its development.

- Colleague organically approaches every search with the goal of presenting a slate of candidates who are truly energized by the opportunity, and capable of leading and dealing with employees, leaders, and stakeholders with a myriad of capabilities and concerns.
- There is no "one size fits all" process at Colleague. They adjust their approach based on the unique needs of every organization, in consultation with their clients.
- To Colleague, talent acquisition is both a research practice and a sales practice, both a science and an art. They have the tools to do a deep dive into the competitive marketplace to surface the best candidates for their clients. That's the science of what they do. But Colleague is also aware that identifying the right candidates is not equal to attracting and landing the right candidates. This is where Colleague differentiates itself from other executive placement firms. And this is where the art comes in. A candidate's first conversation about a role sets the stage for all future conversations. It can intrigue and excite them, or it can leave them deflated or uninterested. Colleague approaches this first meeting with the enthusiasm of a brand ambassador, having honed their knowledge of their clients' priorities, pain points, and overall goals well beforehand. Colleague wants their candidates to see what Colleague sees in their clients. And they want them to want to work there. Colleague's approach is always informed, optimistic and energized.
- Colleague will lean into their personal and professional connections with executives across the nation in every industry, but particularly in the resource management and government sectors. This includes executives at: relevant federal agencies; private sector companies and institutions at the leading edge of environmental technology; decision makers in local and state agencies,

authorities, and departments; elected officials who impact resource management; and non-profits and NGOs that maintain significant physical premises.

- Colleague utilizes productivity and teamwork tools (such as DISC assessments) to get an overview of the existing workplace environment, and to uncover the nuances of personality and approach that the ideal candidate should possess. These tools also help existing employees gain insight into their own practices and approach - why they do what they do, how they do it, and where they can grow - and can prove extremely valuable as Colleague seeks to gain consensus from multiple stakeholders on the new, senior leader.
- Colleague's approach to client service is second to none. They respond fast, work hard, pivot quickly, and are wholly dedicated to their clients' needs.

### **AD HOC RECOMMENDATION**

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**Option #1** - Authorize the President of the Board to enter into a consulting services agreement for the District's General Manager recruitment, with Colleague, LLC, based upon 25% of the first-year guaranteed earnings of the successful candidate, calculated to be approximately \$79,000, plus reimbursable expenses, as outlined in the proposal.

**Option #2** – Do not approve the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation and return the process to the Committee for further discussion.



**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM**

June 21, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** **Administration & Finance Committee**  
(Directors Dick, Thomas, Crane)

Harvey De La Torre  
Interim General Manager

Staff Contact: Damon Micalizzi

**SUBJECT: AWARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT FOR STRATEGIC  
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Interim General Manager to enter into a professional services contract with *HashtagPinpoint* Inc. (Hashtag) to provide Strategic Digital Communications Services for the Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC or District) outreach initiatives.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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Committee concurred with staff recommendation and chose Option 1 (entering into a professional service contract with *HashtagPinpoint, Inc.* for three years with two consecutive options to renew for one additional year.

**SUMMARY**

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On April 21, 2023, MWDOC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to find and contract with an experienced firm to provide strategic digital communications services for the District. The selected firm will work with MWDOC staff to identify, monitor, and engage social audiences and will develop educational, informational, and attention-grabbing content that will highlight MWDOC's programs and services and illustrate the District's mission.

Pursuant to section 8000 of the District's Administrative Code, "All contracts should be reviewed and re-bid at least every five (5) years, except in situations with documented significant benefits to MWDOC." The Strategic Digital Communications Services contract was last competitively bid in 2018; therefore, a competitive RFP process was implemented this year.

<b>Budgeted (Y/N): Y</b>	Budgeted amount: \$120,000	Core X	Choice __
<b>Action item amount:</b> 95,000	Line item: 32-7040		
<b>Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):</b>			

Staff prepared and issued an RFP for strategic digital communications services, and District received proposals from four qualified firms. After careful review, MWDOC staff invited three firms to participate in a formal interview process. On June 5, an interview panel comprised of MWDOC Public Affairs staff members, the MWDOC Interim General Manager, and the District Manager for OC Vector Control conducted interviews with the top three firms. Based on final scores and following an in-depth discussion with the interview panel, staff recommends that the District retain the services of Hashtag.

## **REPORT**

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### **Why Strategic Digital Communications?**

An effective Digital Communications strategy acts as a guide to demonstrate accomplishments, promotes the mission, drives target audiences to engage with the organization, and ultimately helps achieve defined objectives. Digital communications efforts *enhance* and *support* traditional media outreach. Traditional pathways to news and information are still essential. However, much like a 'diverse water portfolio,' digital communications ensures that there are additional tools in the toolbox to reach developing target audiences where they spend time.

Over the past decade, social media has redefined how we communicate with one another, how we share and consume information, and how we interact with organizations and groups. Social networks provide a two-way channel for building relationships with target audience members who spend a great deal of their time online. Additional benefits include:

- Builds trust and establishes credibility
- Engages target audience members in your narrative
- Opportunities exist in real time to obtain real audience insights
- Promotes your content
- Drives traffic to your website and other digital channels

### **RFP and Interview Process**

On April 21, 2023, MWDOC issued an RFP requesting proposals from experienced firms that have demonstrated proficiency in successful strategic digital communications including social media marketing and development. Staff posted the RFP online and invited several respected firms to submit proposals. This opportunity was distributed to 72 different individuals and firms. Using specific criteria, a review panel of MWDOC Public Affairs staff evaluated and graded the four proposals received. Based on this evaluation, MWDOC staff requested that the top three consulting firms - Communications Lab, Kleinfelder Construction Services, and Hashtag - participate in a formal interview process. The interview panel was comprised of MWDOC representatives from Public Affairs, the MWDOC Interim General Manager, and an outside expert whose previous responsibilities included managing strategic traditional and digital communications for OC Vector Control.

### **Recommendation**

While all three firms were impressive, and each outlined a digital communications strategy for the District, Hashtag proposed the most comprehensive plan moving forward. Additionally, Hashtag demonstrated an intimate understanding of issues presently facing the District and proposed additional accouterments and services to help achieve the

District's goals while also presenting the lowest bid. Furthermore, the consultant's ability to be nimble and adapt to the moving targets and priorities of water policy, coupled with their familiarity with the District, Public Affairs staff, and our campaigns and goals, provides seamless continuity. Finally, over the course of their previous contract, MWDOC has enjoyed many successes while partnering with Hashtag. The District, under contract with Hashtag, has won five (5) awards for digital campaigns or content.

The creation and distribution of more original video content is recommended and will be amplified moving forward, as moving graphics and video are far more effective than static graphics. All services proposed by the consultant will be included under their current rate, a monthly retainer of \$7,917 a month, which *includes advertising expenses (boosted posts)*. The consultant proposes this single service retainer fee without escalation for three years.

Based on interviews conducted with the top three firms, a thorough comparison of proposal components, the consultant's previously demonstrated success, and their extremely competitive pricing structure, staff recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the Interim General Manager to enter into a contract with Hashtag to provide Strategic Digital Communications Services for the District.

## BOARD OPTIONS

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### Option #1

- Approve a contract with HashtagPinpoint Inc. to provide Strategic Digital Communications Services to the District **for three years with two consecutive options to renew for one additional year**.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$95,000/year for three years. (\$120,000 currently budgeted)

**Business Analysis:** Continuity of business, communications, outreach, and campaigns with a known entity.

### Option #2

- Approve a contract with HashtagPinpoint Inc. to provide Strategic Digital Communications Services to the District **for two years with three consecutive options to renew for one additional year**.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$95,000/year for three years.

**Business Analysis:** Continuity of business, communications, outreach, and campaigns with a known entity.

### Option #3

- Do not renew the contract with HashtagPinpoint Inc.; and seek direction from the Board regarding Strategic Digital Communications Services to the District

**Fiscal Impact:** \$120,000 would be added to the District's general fund

**Business Analysis:** Staff would be without critical technical expertise, audio/video, editing, equipment, and production support. Separate services may be needed and may cost the District more funds, depending on the level of services needed.

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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### Option #1

**Attached:** HashtagPinpoint Inc. Proposal



Proposed to  
**Municipal Water District  
of Orange County**

Proposed on  
May 26, 2023

# ***Strategic Digital Communications Services***

## ***RFP No.PA0423-001***

As proposed by  **HashtagPinpoint**



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Mr. Damon Micalizzi  
Director of Public Affairs  
Municipal Water District of Orange County  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
RE: Municipal Water District of Orange County Request for Proposals (RFP) for Strategic Digital Communications Services: RFP No. PA0423-001

Dear Mr. Micalizzi:

HashtagPinpoint is pleased to submit our proposal in response to the Municipal Water District of Orange County's Request for Proposals for Strategic Digital Communications Services. For nearly six years, HashtagPinpoint has had the privilege to serve as MWDOC's strategic communications partner. Together, we have celebrated countless awards, events and campaigns, doing our best to surpass the expectations that a contractor would have for their digital consultant.

Since 2016, HashtagPinpoint has evolved from a remote social media consulting company into a full-service strategic communications firm with new offices, with a full studio, in Old Towne Orange. We are proud to serve many organizations throughout the state of California and assist them in their communications needs. We currently provide services to not only public water agencies in Orange County, but many nonprofit organizations and advocacy groups throughout the state. Our award-winning team has become a trusted partner for many organizations looking to improve their strategic communications plan and brand footprint.

We are proud to offer an array of services - From video production, digital strategy, and public affairs work. We have been successful for government, non-profit and corporate clients, as well as continue to maintain professional relationships with key stakeholders that will allow us to continue to help MWDOC achieve its strategic communication goals.

Together, we have learned much over these past five years. As times have changed, so has the need on how we communicate with stakeholders and the importance of being strategic. We are confident in our plan moving forward and are excited to continue our relationship so that we can continue to offer new and exciting ideas for your communication success.

Please contact me directly with any questions and thank you for the opportunity to submit our proposal.

Sincerely,



Pasquale Talarico  
President, CEO  
HashtagPinpoint





## Section B: Background Information





# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LEGAL NAME:	HashtagPinpoint Corporation	
OFFICE LOCATION:	100 West Chapman Ave. Ste. 200 Orange, CA 92866	
WEBSITE:	www.HashtagPinpoint.com	
ORGANIZATION:	S Corporation, Established in 2014	
PRIMARY CONTACT:	Pasquale Talarico <i>President, CEO</i>	<b>Phone:</b> (714) 719-3345 <b>Email:</b> Pasquale@HashtagPinpoint.com

## LITIGATION STATEMENT

At this time, HashtagPinpoint is not involved in any pending litigation, and is not subject to any circumstances that would affect its ability to provide communications support and services to Municipal Water District of Orange County.

# STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

DELIVERING THE **RIGHT MESSAGE**, TO THE **RIGHT PERSON**.

HashtagPinpoint (**#P**) was founded in 2014 providing social media services to political campaigns, government entities and nongovernment organizations. Since then, **#P** has developed an array of strategic communication services and tools that allow its clients to **deliver the right message, to the right person, at the right time**.

*"HashtagPinpoint is more than a consulting company, **they are an invested member of our team**. Together we have built a robust social media presence, increased our website traffic substantially and cemented our brand within Orange County."*

*- Tiffany Baca, Public Affairs Manager - Municipal Water District of Orange County*

## HashtagPinpoint offers the following Services:

- **Full Agency**
  - Strategy, Design, Execution, Copy, Branding, Video/Photo, Social Media, Brand Management & Reporting
- **Content Curation**
  - Video Production - Studio-Style Interviews or Stories with Produced B-Roll
  - Video Animation - Cartoon, Explainer Type, Motion Graphics
  - Photography - Full Resolution RAW Images, Edited with Custom Designed Presets
  - Graphic Design - Custom, Branded Graphics for Promotion or Issue-Based Messaging
  - Copywriting - Strategic and Effective Copywriting to Deliver the Right Message, to the Right Person
- **News & Media Support**
  - In Collaboration with the Communications Team, Draft Effective Press Releases and Media Advisory Services to Appropriate Outlets to Gain Maximum Exposure
    - Utilizing Hashtags Press/Media Database (Statewide & National)
  - Commissioned Written Articles - As desired by the communications team, our award-winning team will write effective articles that may be used both for internal and external communications; as well as, earned media pieces
- **Online Advertising/Media Buy**
  - Boost content viewership and drive specific calls to action
  - Targeted by Consumer Demographic, Location, Issue/Message, Multiple Languages
  - Facebook/Instagram, YouTube, Google Search and Google Display Ads
  - Custom-built audiences utilizing behaviors, interests, interactions on posts, and more
- **Website Design & Development**
  - Design and development of full sites, landing pages, blogs, microsites
  - SEO - Keyword research, market analysis, monitoring traffic and user analysis, backlink management
- **Data Analysis & Review**
  - Review engagement, and tune messaging based on statistical information
  - Utilize *Meltwater Social Listening* Software for Brand and Reputation Management



## Section C: Organization







# ORGANIZATION BREAKDOWN

*We have organized our Team to provide MWD OC with a offering of industry leading experts dedicated to providing high quality service. Our "in-house" focus on services keeps our team available for our clients, ensuring we're there when you need us!*







## Section D: Work Plan





## Task One

**Produce regular digital content for all the District's social media platforms through concept development, including quality graphic design and targeted hashtags.**

Producing quality content, that is delivered on a regular basis, is the key to strong engagement. HashtagPinpoint's team of videographers, graphic designers and writers will ensure that the content being viewed by MWDOC's stakeholders is creative, relevant and effective.

- **Subtask:** Create Quality Content
  - Approach: Following best practices for each platform, use creatives that connect with the audience. These creatives will vary from high quality video production to quality graphics.
- **Subtask:** Deliver Digital Message
  - Approach: Develop messaging that connects with stakeholders. These messages will vary in topic, but it is essential that these messages be relevant and reflect the goals of the communication plan. It is also important that the delivery of these messages is improved targeted hashtags or tagging of groups or individuals.

**Goal:** Create the very best in content that will be seen by as many people as possible

### **Deliverables:**

1. Graphics
2. Videos (Produced & Animated)
3. Photography

## Task Two

**Create messaging to promote audience interaction and generate interest through sharing relevant content such as events, news, programs, and milestone achievements.**

Utilizing years of experience in the water industry, HashtagPinpoint will work alongside the team at MWDOC to identify key messaging areas and design campaigns centered around dynamic, relevant content and messaging with a clear call to action for engagement.

- **Subtask: Define clear messages that need to be communicated to stake holders and deliver them in a timely and relevant manner.**
  - Approach: Work with MWDOC Team, determine a messaging calendar for the year. This calendar will help us set clear expectations for each month on the message that is being sent out and making sure it is done in a timely manner.



## Task Two (Continued)

**Goal:** Building and controlling a narrative that resonates with the Orange County community.

**Deliverables:**

1. Outside-the-Box Content & Creative Messaging Ideas
  - Utilizing multiple options and formats of delivery (Reels, Stories, Posts)
2. Op-Ed writings and placements

## Task Three

**Assist District staff in developing digital content for special events, including promotions, onsite support, and event highlights.**

Building and maintaining brand strength and credibility should be a core focus for any organization, which is why HashtagPinpoint will work closely with MWDOC on special events, such as Water Policy Dinners, the OC Water Summit and more to establish trust and build a reputation of leadership to both the local community and industry professionals. Events serve as a great opportunity for content creation, which includes photography, videography and audio recording to be used in future messaging to highlight the District's efforts and expertise.

HashtagPinpoint's unique set of skills allows organizations, like MWDOC, to take advantage of services outside of a general communications scope including sound, lighting and general AV support.

- **Subtask:** Assist with promotions for MWDOC Special Events
  - Approach: Events are a lot of work and the HashtagPinpoint Team is no stranger to helping facilitate events. It is important these events utilize great promotion and teamwork to make them successful.

**Goal:** Assistance in the development of great events for MWDOC and the community.

**Deliverables:**

1. Promotional Materials
2. Day of Event Assistance (Sound, AV, Lighting, Photography, Videography, etc.)
3. Creatives to be used for event recap



## Task Four

### Maintain staff availability to respond to audience inquiries in a timely manner.

More than ever, people are using social media platforms as their preferred method for receiving news and contacting organizations. Our entire team becomes an active "watchdog" for the District; monitoring pages, managing direct messages and responding to inbound communication, with the support of the MWDOC team. Because of our understanding of the platforms and the sensitivity of timely messaging, our team is dedicated to working around the clock to manage messaging, as needed.

HashtagPinpoint's also offers tools, like Meltwater®, that help our team manage mentions of the District outside of our network. This includes news outlets, blogs and more.

- **Subtask:** Respond to inquiries that are sent over social media messenger and direct message in a timely manner.
  - Approach: Develop a social media response protocol so that HashtagPinpoint can assist in fielding any messages that come through the platforms, respond accordingly or route them to the correct individual so their question(s) can be answered.

**Goal:** Ensure that all inbound questions, comments, or complaints are responded to in a timely manner with a clear and accurate response.

#### Deliverables:

1. Development of a social media response plan
2. Daily monitoring of social media messaging platforms
3. Weekly report to MWDOC Team on messages and steps taken to resolve the inquiry.

## Task Five

### Manage social media posting schedule and purchases of sponsored content as requested.

It is important to maintain a reliable delivery of messages on each of the social platforms. Each platform functions differently and some may be more effective at different times. Utilizing social media scheduling software allows content creators the ability to determine the best time and type of post to schedule. HashtagPinpoint's has worked closely with the MWDOC team's CoSchedule® account for the past several years and is now actively preparing to switch to Hootsuite® to better accommodate the District's needs.





## Task Five (Continued)

- **Subtask:** Scheduling of Posts
  - Approach: Utilize social posting software to deliver the right number of messages to each platform each day

**Goal:** Ensure that content is being posted in a timely fashion and that the content is being seen by as many people as possible.

- **Subtask: Deliver Sponsored Content**
  - Approach: Use social media ad platforms to deliver sponsored content. Utilize custom audiences and other important advertising strategies to make sure that the right people are seeing your message.

**Goal:** Use ad platforms to deliver desired content to targeted audiences in a cost-effective manner.

### **Deliverables:**

1. Maintain schedule of content delivered on multiple platforms using scheduling software
2. Identify ad platforms that are best to deliver quality content
3. Maintain ad budgets and deliver reports on ad effectiveness

## Task Six

### **Monitor, track, and analyze sentiment on social media related to water issues and the District and or its member agencies, as requested.**

Monitoring, tracking, and analyzing sentiment on social media allows you to understand stakeholder perceptions, manage your brand's reputation, handle crises effectively, analyze competitors, and evaluate the success of your strategic communication efforts.

- **Subtask:** Stay informed on relevant news and District mentions in the local community
  - Approach: HashtagPinpoint utilizes 3rd party software, such as keyhole analytics, to view, evaluate and organize audience sentiment.

**Goal:** Stay Informed on relevant organizations and/or topics of importance

### **Deliverables:**

1. Incorporate sentiment analysis software
2. Create alerts, in order to stay connected and updated on relevant news and information
3. Provide a sentiment update during weekly check-in calls and meetings



## Task Seven

### Attend the District's Committee meetings, as requested.

To maintain ongoing communication not only with MWDOC staff but the Board of Directors, HashtagPinpoint understands the importance of meeting attendance and is happy to offer both verbal and written reports to leadership and stakeholders.

- **Subtask:** Meeting Attendance
  - Approach: Tim Kearns, HashtagPinpoint's COO and MWDOC's Account Manager, will be in attendance of the monthly Public Affairs and Legislation (PAL) meetings, as requested, and will be prepared to report on social media and additional items as requested.

**Goal:** Maintain communication with leadership and provide insight on the strategic communications plan.

#### Deliverables:

1. Attend monthly Public Affairs and Legislation (PAL) Committee meetings.
2. Deliver both verbal and written reports to the committee

## Task Eight

### Prepare quarterly social media analytics reports and an annual audit.

Social media metrics are crucial for understanding and evaluating the performance and effectiveness of social media marketing efforts. They provide insights into the impact of your social media activities, audience engagement, and the overall success of your strategic communication campaigns. For the past 5 years, HashtagPinpoint has created a comprehensive, annual audit for MWDOC - highlighting each platform, audience breakdown and recommendations on strategy adjustments.

- **Subtask:** Quarterly social media analytics reports
  - Approach: Use social media metrics to track the performance of messages being used across multiple platforms. With these metrics, evaluate and determine if and what changes need to be made to increase effectiveness.

**Goal:** To be able to measure the effectiveness of the work that is being done.

#### Deliverables:

1. Quarterly report on metrics from all social platforms being utilized
2. Analysis of the report and offer thoughts and recommendations on them.
3. Annual audit of all social platform and recommendations for improvement



## Section E:

### Project Team



## Pasquale Talarico

CEO | PRESIDENT

Pasquale Talarico has been active in Orange County public affairs for the last sixteen years. He served as a trusted advisor and Deputy Chief of Staff for California State Senate Senator John M.W. Moorlach, and has worked in a multitude of policy areas including homelessness, mental health, pension reform and water policy. He's considered an expert in social messaging, strategy and execution; leading numerous, successful local and State political campaigns including work with many political action committees and independent expenditures. After leaving the California State Senate, Pasquale became Director of Public Affairs with the Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD). During this time, Pasquale raised the bar for YLWD's messaging approach utilizing videos and engaging content to tell the story of the District. Pasquale is a sought- after speaker and thought leader around extending Facebook well beyond how the average person uses the platform for promotion.

## Tim Kearns

COO | CREATIVE DIRECTOR

With a background centering around creative content and dynamic messaging, Tim leads the creative team with content design, development and management strategies. While working with a vast array of clients, he has mastered the skill of distilling messages down into consumable forms of content. Tim understands the importance of developing content specifically tailored to a unique, targeted audience. His ability to integrate messaging that combines passionate, persuasive storytelling with pioneering strategies has made him one of Orange County's most sought after digital experts. In addition to his work at HashtagPinpoint, Tim serves as President of the Orange County based Non-Profit, Moustaches for Kids.

## ADDITIONAL STAFF SUPPORT

Our *award-winning* social media and video production team has become even stronger with the addition of industry-leading writers, designers & developers.

Alanzo Moreno  
CONTENT CREATOR

Christian Samson  
CONTENT CREATOR - VIDEO & PHOTO

Gino Jose  
VIDEOGRAPHER

John Seiler  
COPYWRITER

David Calavitta  
LEAD DESIGNER

Carlos Madriles  
LEAD WEB DEVELOPER

Ian Caberra  
VIDEOGRAPHER

Dino Pastrano  
PHOTOGRAPHER





**Tim Kearns**  
COO, Creative Director

**Awards/Recognition:**

- 2019 CAPIO Award of Distinction
- 2020 CAPIO – EPIC (x2)
- 2019 DotComm
- 2019 OCPRSA - Award of Excellence
- OCPRSA – Award of Excellence

**Relevant Accounts:**

- MWDOC (2017 - Current)
- YLWD (2019 - 2021)
- Mesa Water (2017 - 2021)

HashtagPinpoint (#P) was founded in 2014 providing social media services to non-profits, political campaigns, and government entities & nongovernment organizations. Since then, we've developed an array of strategic communication services and tools that allow our clients to deliver the right message, to the right person, at the right time.

# ACCOUNT MANGER

## MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY

RESUME

With a background centering around creative content and dynamic messaging, Tim Kearns leads the digital team with content design, development and management strategies. While working with a vast array of clients, he has mastered the skill of distilling messages down into consumable forms of content. Tim understands the importance of developing content specifically tailored to a unique, targeted audience. His ability to integrate messaging that combines passionate, persuasive storytelling with pioneering strategies has made him one of Orange County's most sought after digital experts.

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

**HashtagPinpoint**

COO/Creative Director

- Lead and Coordinate Creative Team with Strategy and Outlook
- Provide Strategy Approach for Clients
- Credited with Being the Deciding Factor in High Profile Campaigns
- Manage Daily Content, Including Graphics, Video, Animation and More
- Organize, plan and Direct Client Strategy Meetings (Weekly)
- Track Trends, Provide Analysis for Digital Movement

**Assemblywoman Laurie Davies (AD74)**

Communications Consultant

- Lead and Coordinate Overall Messaging Strategy and Delivery
- Work with Member and Key Staff to identify Issues pertaining to District
- Manage Daily Content, Including Graphics, Video, Animation and More
- Design & Send District Update Newsletters & Other Outbound Communications
- Main Contact for Press & Media Inquiries

**Moustaches for Kids**

Board President

- 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization ID# 87-1231634
- Manage Vision and Brand
- Coordinate Events, Venues and Program
- Build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders and donors
- Build and maintain relationships with industry partners



## Section F: Qualifications and Experience





# WE KNOW WATER. WE KNOW MWDOC.

For nearly 6 years, HashtagPinpoint has worked closely with MWDOC as their Strategic Communications partner. Our firm has been **submerged** in the water industry, working with member agencies like Mesa Water, Yorba Linda Water District, and the Moulton Niguel Water District! We have also had the pleasure of working with key organizations surrounding the industry including WELL (Water Education for Latino Leaders), CA-NV AWWA and more!

HashtagPinpoint has had it's fingerprints on countless awards, events and programs celebrated by the MWDOC team. Together, we've developed campaigns, built strategies and expanded partnerships!

***We know your brand. We know your voice. We know your story.***

## CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

### IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER

Imagine a Day Without Water (IDWW) is a national campaign that aims to raise awareness about the importance of water and the challenges associated with water scarcity. It is organized by the Value of Water Campaign, a collaboration of water utilities, businesses, and organizations.

**Partnerships:** Fullerton Fire Department, Brea Fire Department, Harris Farms, SEER, Santiago College, Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Miss Mini Donuts, Bottle Logic Brewing, MoonGoat Coffee and more!

OVER  
**75,000**  
VIDEO VIEWS







## CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

### STREAMS OF HOPE

Our coasts and waterways not only support and nourish us, they inspire us. That's why communities across southern California are working together this spring on "Streams of Hope," a countywide public art and community cleanup campaign. **Streams of Hope** is a great way to protect the resources we love and take actions that benefit everyone who lives downstream from us.

**Partnerships:** Wyland Foundation, OCCC, County of Orange, Inside the Outdoors, Laguna Beach Water District, Hope School and more!

OVER  
**76,000**

TARGETED  
PEOPLE REACHED

OVER  
**5,300**

WEBSITE VIEWS\*

\*WEBSITE DESIGNED AND BUILT  
BY HASHTAGPINPOINT



### OC IS GARDEN SMART

OC's semi-arid climate supports the diverse landscapes that are enjoyed here, including coastal, canyon, mountainous, and metropolitan areas. Successful gardens and landscapes in these areas require a range of water and garden smart know-how, and OC residents and businesses are increasingly up to the challenge!

**Partnerships:** Orange County Coast Keepers, UCCE Master Gardeners and UCI

OVER  
**55,000**  
VIDEO VIEWS





## EVENT COVERAGE

MWDOC takes an active role in public education, and provides informational materials to the public through participation in community events, speaking engagements, public meetings, water industry conferences, workshops and special events.

**Previous Events Include:** Water Policy Dinner & Forum, OC Water Summit, Press Conferences, Ribbon Cuttings and More

**Services Provided:** Audio/AV Support, Lighting, Photography, Videography, Live Streaming, Green Screen Production and Live Event Posting



## ANALYTIC SNAPSHOT (LAST 90 DAYS)



### What is Reach?

The number of Accounts Center accounts that saw any content from your Page or about your Page, including posts, stories, ads, social information from Accounts Center accounts that interact with your Page and more. Reach is different from impressions, which may include multiple views of your posts by the same Accounts Center accounts. This metric is estimated.



## QUICK SUMMARY

MWDOC's platforms consist of a combination of videos and static imagery. In the last 90 days, over 507,000 people we're reached on Facebook/Instagram and a total of 19,100 minutes (318 hours) of video content has been viewed by **targeted, Orange County residents.**



## Section G: Client References





# CLIENT REFERENCES

## **Marice DePasquale**

*Vice President - Mesa Water District*

📞 949 - 433 - 4261

✉️ marice@mconsensus.com

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## **Scott Maloni**

*Client Director, State and Local Government - Black & Veatch*

📞 858 - 663 - 8838

✉️ malonis@bv.com

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## **Desi Alvarez**

*Vice President - West Basin Water District*

📞 310 - 739 - 1625

✉️ mcm\_management@verizon.net

## SERVICES PERFORMED FOR THE DISTRICT IN THE PAST THREE (3) YEARS

Since 2017, HashtagPinpoint has provided and performed our full suite of services.

### **Those services include:**

- Strategic Planning
- Content Production
- Online Advertising/Media Buy
- Branding and Voice Development
- Media Relations
- Advocacy
- Website Design & Development
- Social Listening
- Reporting





## Section H:

### Cost/Pricing Information







## COST/PRICING INFORMATION

Previous RFPs have called for specific deliverables, which Hashtag*Pinpoint* regularly under-promised and over-delivered. Whether developing the Strategy & Best Practices document, providing a consistent framework for success, or providing last-minute coverage for an event, we have never waived in our commitment and support of MWDOC. As an ongoing sign of our commitment and partnership, Hashtag*Pinpoint* is pleased the same pricing from when we started in 2017 with the same level of commitment, excellence in work product, and new ways to engage and further the MWDOC mission.

Hashtagpinpoint offers 'Open Agency' pricing for clients & projects that require the strategy to determine what is in needed in a given week or month. Open Agency allows clients to receive exactly what is needed to complete our strategy and achieve our goal. **Our team truly becomes an extension of your staff!**

Description	Price Schedule
Open Agency access, including the entire suite of services ( audience definition, regular meeting attendance, same day response	July 2023 – June 2023 = \$7,917/mo, \$95,000/year July 2024 – June 2025 = \$7,917/mo, \$95,000/year July 2025 – June 2026 = \$7,917/mo, \$95,000/year

## APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

Following is a description of the management roles **#P** will use to manage the account:

- **Tim Kearns** – Primary Account Manager; Representative for the overall direction for the deliverables and work performed for the District. Provides presentations and reports, works with staff on establishing best practices
- **Pasquale Talarico** – Secondary Account Manager; Provides operational support, lead on political and advocacy needs and concerns, submits billings and present on weekly team check-ins
- **Christian Samson** – Primary Creative; Provides additional photography and videography needs
- **Gino Jose** – Secondary Videographer; Provides content support
- **Dino Pastrano** - Secondary Photographer; Provides content support
- **John Seiler** - Primary Writer; Provides translation services and op-ed placement



## Questions? Contact Us.



**PASQUALE TALARICO**

CEO/PRESIDENT

📞 714-719-3345

✉️ [PASQUALE@HASHTAGPINPOINT.COM](mailto:PASQUALE@HASHTAGPINPOINT.COM)

**TIM KEARNS**

COO/CREATIVE DIRECTOR

📞 714-388-8307

✉️ [TIM@HASHTAGPINPOINT.COM](mailto:TIM@HASHTAGPINPOINT.COM)



**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM**

June 21, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** **Administration & Finance Committee**  
(Directors Dick, Thomas, Crane)

Harvey De La Torre  
Interim General Manager

Staff Contact: Heather Baez

**SUBJECT: AWARD CONTRACT FOR GRANTS TRACKING AND ACQUISITION SERVICES**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Interim General Manager to enter into a professional services contract with Soto Resources to provide grants tracking and acquisition services.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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Committee concurred with staff recommendation.

**REPORT**

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Pursuant to section 8000 of the Administrative Code, "It is MWDOC's policy that purchasing and contracting shall be conducted in a fair, open, and transparent manner so as to maximize benefits to MWDOC. All contracts should be reviewed and re-bid at least every five (5) years, except in situations with documented significant benefits to MWDOC." The grants tracking and acquisition contract went out for competitive bid in 2018; therefore, a competitive RFP process was implemented this year.

With this in mind, staff led the effort in preparing and issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for grants tracking and acquisition services under the schedule below:

<b>Budgeted (Y/N):</b> Y	Budgeted amount: \$39,000	Core X	Choice __
<b>Action item amount:</b> None	Line item: 31-7040		
<b>Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):</b> Additional \$3,000 for kick-off meeting/s and updated report			

<b>GRANTS PROGRAM RFP PROJECT TIMELINE</b>	
<b>Task Item</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. Release RFP to Potential Vendors (emailed directly to seven firms, and posted on the MWDOC website)	April 12
2. Closing date for submittal of comments and questions by Consultants and Agencies	April 28
3. Proposals Due	May 12 5:00 PM
4. Review Committee met to evaluate and discuss potential interviews	May 15-16
5. Review Committee rankings due	May 16
6. Recommendation to the MWDOC Administration & Finance Committee	June 14
7. Authorization by MWDOC Board	June 21
8. Contract start	July 1, 2023

### **Proposals and Proposal Evaluation**

MWDOC received the following five proposals by the closing date:

- California Consulting, Inc.
- Global Urban Strategies, Inc.
- Hoch Consulting
- Soto Resources
- The Ferguson Group

The Review Committee consisting of Heather Baez and Rachel Waite from MWDOC, and Michael Van Dyke from Irvine Ranch Water District, independently reviewed and scored all five proposals received. The scoring criteria included:

- Qualifications and Experience of Firm and Project Manager
- Demonstration of Grants Tracking, Writing, and Acquisition for Municipals
- Understanding of the District, Functions and Mission, including Success with Water Grants
- Management Plan and Approach to Scope of Work
- Cost of Services

Based on the combined scoring and group discussions, Soto Resources was the unanimous choice for the Committee.

### **Recommendation**

Staff's recommendation is to proceed with a contract with Soto Resources to provide grant tracking and acquisition services. All of the proposing firms were well qualified and capable. Ultimately, the group determined that Soto Resources was the best fit for the District. Their

proposal stood out based on the following qualities the committee felt was important for MWDOC's grants program to continue its success.

1. They have considerable knowledge of Orange County, particularly with MWDOC's member agencies
2. While all proposing firms have had success acquiring grants for water projects, Soto Resources specializes in water and natural resources grants tracking and writing and has a number of successful grants for water projects and programs in Orange County.
3. Their proposal was within MWDOC's budgeted amount, and was significantly lower than the other proposals received.

## BOARD OPTIONS

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### Option #1

- Enter into a five year contract with Soto Resources to provide grants tracking and acquisition services

**Fiscal Impact:** \$39,000/year for five years, plus a one-time \$3,000 fee for a kick-off meeting and updated comprehensive report.

**Business Analysis:** Soto Resources has provided consistent and timely grants tracking reports to MWDOC and its member agencies for the last five years. The feedback from our member agencies has been positive and value the services of grant tracking and acquisition.

### Option #2

- Do not renew the contract with Soto Resources; and seek direction from the Board regarding grant tracking services program

**Fiscal Impact:** \$39,000 would be added to the District's general fund

**Business Analysis:** MWDOC would not have dedicated grants tracking and acquisition services to provide for its member agencies

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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### Option #1

**Attached:** Soto Resources Proposal



**Soto Resources**  
*Professional Funding Services*  
(949) 370-6079  
[Joey@sotoresources.com](mailto:Joey@sotoresources.com)

May 11, 2023

Ms. Heather Baez  
Governmental Affairs Manager  
Municipal Water District of Orange County  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
[hbaez@mwdoc.com](mailto:hbaez@mwdoc.com)

Subject: Proposal to Provide MWDOC Grants Tracking and Acquisition Services  
RFP No. GA0423-001 & Addendum 1

Dear Ms. Baez,

The Soto Resources team is pleased to present this proposal for Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Grant Tracking and Acquisition Services in response to RFP No. GA0423-001, including Addendum 1. Soto Resources provides over 20 years of experience in grant acquisition services for water-related projects throughout Southern California and has helped clients secure more than \$791 million in competitive grant and loan funding while maintaining an ~80-percent grant win rate. Soto Resources collaborates with water districts, cities, counties, and other municipal stakeholders to provide grant acquisition services that include, but are not limited to, funding research and reporting, application preparation and submittal, and funding agreement management.

During 2018-2023, Soto Resources has had the pleasure of working with you and MWDOC staff on the Grant Tracking and Acquisition Services Contract, providing the following services: maintaining a comprehensive project list, monthly funding reporting, go/no-go evaluations, presentations, lobbyist coordination, and communication with MWDOC member agencies and funding agencies (including workshop attendance). Together, these services established a foundational Grants Assistance Program, resulting in MWDOC member agencies winning nearly \$165 million in grant and loan funding via separate Soto Resources contracts for funding application submittals; while agencies have individually secured funding well beyond \$165 million for water projects. Soto Resources is highly qualified and committed to continuing providing MWDOC and its member agencies with professional grant services. The Soto Resources team is excited about the opportunity to continue collaborating with MWDOC and its member agencies, and wants to continue our success securing funding for critical infrastructure projects in our local community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joey Soto", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ms. Joey Soto, M.S.  
Principal Funding Specialist  
Soto Resources  
30767 Gateway Place, #505  
Rancho Mission Viejo, CA 92694  
[joey@sotoresources.com](mailto:joey@sotoresources.com)  
(949) 370-6079 (phone) / (949) 558-5721 (fax)



# Proposal for Grants Tracking and Acquisition Services

RFP No. GA9423-001 & Addendum 1

*in partnership with*



Presented to

## Municipal Water District of Orange County



May 11, 2023



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## Appendix A – Resumes





## 1. Background Information

❖ Legal name, address, and telephone and fax numbers of the principal office (national headquarters) and local office:

Joey Soto, DBA Soto Resources

30767 Gateway Place, #505, Rancho Mission Viejo, CA 92694 (Serves as local and national office)  
(949) 370-6079 (phone), (949) 558-5721 (fax)

❖ Year established: 2011

❖ Type of organization (partnership, corporation, etc.): Sole Proprietorship

❖ Name, title, address, e-mail and telephone and fax number of the person to whom correspondence shall be directed:

Ms. Joey Soto, M.S., Principal Funding Specialist

Soto Resources

30767 Gateway Place, #505, Rancho Mission Viejo, CA 92694

joey@sotoresources.com

(949) 370-6079 (phone), (949) 558-5721 (fax)

❖ Description of the scope of services usually provided: Soto Resources provides grant acquisition services to clients seeking to fund water-related and other municipal projects throughout Southern California. Soto Resources works closely with water districts, cities, counties, and other stakeholders to provide grant acquisition services that include, but are not limited to, funding research, monitoring (tracking), and reporting for federal, state, and local funding opportunities; Go/No-Go evaluations; presentations; funding strategy & lobbyist coordination; funding application preparation and submittal; and funding agreement management.

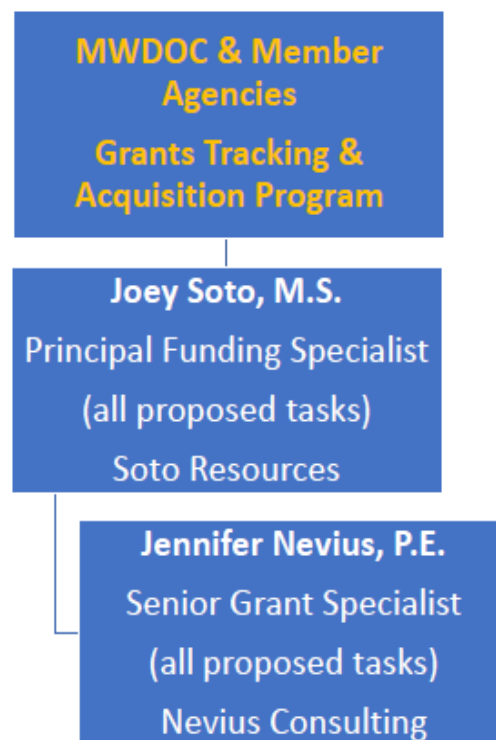
❖ Description of any relevant pending litigation or litigation against the firm, or any of its proposed sub-consultants that was settled in the past three years: None

## 2. Organization / Project Team / Resumes

Soto Resources with its partner, Nevius Consulting, herein called *The Soto Resources Team*, is highly qualified and organized to continue providing MWDOC with professional grant services in all areas of grant acquisition. The Soto Resources Team provides expert grant professionals with a wide-ranging history in water resource planning, environmental planning, and civil engineering, delivering just the right balance of expertise for grant assistance. As long-time specialists, the Soto Resources Team brings decades of experience to water districts, cities, counties and other special districts. Collectively, the Soto Resources Team has secured approximately **\$170 million in grants** and **\$625 million in loans** for water projects by providing professional grant services to water agencies and cities, and a long history of excellent relationships with funding agencies. As a result, our Team delivers a full-service approach with a solid understanding of how grants leverage the capacity to move projects from planning to completion. The Soto Resources Team maintains the right balance of clients, work and time to be able to provide each client with the services needed. Each Team member manages their time to commit to every client once a contract is executed. Commitment to service is paramount to success. The Soto Resources Team is led by Project Manager and Principal Funding Specialist, Joey Soto, M.S., in partnership with Senior Grant Specialist, Jennifer Nevius, P.E., as shown in the Organization Chart on the following page.



Ms. Joey Soto, the founder and sole proprietor of Soto Resources, has more than 20 years of professional experience providing grant acquisition services to clients for water-related projects in Southern California. She began her consultancy, Soto Resources, in 2010 after a successful career at a large consulting firm in Orange County. Ms. Soto will serve as the Project Manager and Principal Funding Specialist in all aspects of the proposed services, with a management-level role overseeing all tasks described herein. Ms. Soto will maintain 100% availability, as demonstrated by her proven track record and commitment over the past 5 years for the MWDOC Grant Tracking and Acquisition Services Contract.



Ms. Nevius has more than 20 years of professional experience and is a registered professional engineer specializing in civil and environmental engineering. She has led and contributed to grant research, management, and funding application writing. She has secured funding for projects focused in Southern California addressing water supply and reliability, water conservation, emergency power supply, and air quality. Ms. Nevius will serve as the Senior Grant Specialist with 100% availability for supporting all proposed services and as demonstrated by her current efforts supporting the MWDOC Grant Tracking and Acquisition Services Contract.

**Resumes** for key members of the Soto Resources Team are included in Appendix A.

### 3. Work Plan / Technical Approach / Project Management

In 2018, Soto Resources developed the Work Plan tasks listed below for the MWDOC Grants Tracking and Acquisition Program. Soto Resources' experience, combined with MWDOC's winning leadership from 2018 to 2023 to implement the tasks below, has resulted in nearly \$165 million in funding success for MWDOC and its member agencies. The following sections present the Work Plan, Technical Approach and Project Management approach for the project, which includes assumptions and desired outcomes based on Soto Resources' direct experience:

#### Work Plan

##### Task 1. Project Initiation Meeting

Upon authorization, Soto Resources will host a project initiation meeting with the District to:

- Verify current team members and update points of contact, if needed.
- Evaluate existing MWDOC 2018 to 2023 program processes (e.g., what has been working well

and request suggestions for changes to maximize effectiveness). Confirm project approach and process, including establishing a communication plan, schedule.

- Review/Update current Project List and obtain updated information based on MWDOC and its member agencies' grant needs. The "Project List" includes key project and contact information provided by each participating agency.
- Continue to identify potential funding opportunities for water projects. Assumes only funding for water-related infrastructure projects included, and one Project Initiation Meeting.

#### **Deliverables / Desired Outcomes: Agenda and Meeting Notes**

#### **Task 2. Grant Research and Preliminary Report**

Based on information generated in Task 1, Soto Resources will conduct research and comprehensively update the existing MWDOC Project List and funding reporting matrices including project matches with potential funding opportunities. The report will provide key information to plan for upcoming opportunities, including funding program name and agency, critical dates/deadlines, funding type (grant, loan, or incentive), project eligibility requirements, funding availability, and cost share requirements. Federal, state and local funding opportunities will be researched for upcoming opportunities, and may include programs presented in Table 1 in Section 3 below. Assumes one standalone Preliminary Grant Research Report presenting a summary of the potential funding opportunities for water-related projects will be provided to the District.

#### **Deliverables / Desired Outcomes: Preliminary Grant Research Report**

#### **Task 3. Ongoing Grant Reporting, Go/No-Go Evaluation, and Coordination**

Monitor/track local, state, and federal grant funding and low-interest loan opportunities included in the Preliminary Grant Research Report and research new funding opportunities as they are identified or released by funding agencies.

##### *Ongoing Grant Reporting*

Ongoing reporting of funding opportunities will be accomplished via the following approach:

- **Project List & Monthly Reporting** – Maintain/update the Project List for funding needs (with agencies' input) and develop a monthly report summarizing potential current and upcoming funding opportunities for each participating agency's project, in a matrix format. The Project List is updated on an ongoing basis, serving as the foundation for monthly research of funding opportunities. The monthly report includes the Project List, a table that matches the Project List to potential funding opportunities, and separate spreadsheets that summarize key funding opportunity information. Attachments in PDF format including, "Potential Funding Opportunities (Current)" and "Potential Funding Opportunities (Programs with Past Deadlines Tracked for Future Funding)" will provide funding program name, total funding available, maximum grant request, cost share requirement, project eligibility, project completion date, and grant deadline for each funding opportunity. An *additional work product*, a summary table titled "Applications with Upcoming Deadlines" is provided to help draw member agencies' attention to near-term funding opportunities for their projects; the table identifies their agency name and encourages closer review of the monthly report. The full monthly report consists of the Summary of Upcoming Funding Deadlines and 3 attachments in spreadsheet and PDF formats. Assumes reports will be submitted electronically to MWDOC.
- **Periodic Funding Alert** – When a funding opportunity is released with a short-term grant application due date, a high priority email summarizing key funding details (similar to those in the Monthly Report) will be sent to MWDOC for distribution to member agencies.

### *Member Agency Outreach and Project Identification*

Soto Resources will provide ongoing coordination and outreach to assist member agencies with funding program understanding in the form of direct emails and/or phone calls about a potential funding opportunity. Assumes member agencies would review the Preliminary and Monthly funding reports, and ask for Go/No-Go Evaluation by Soto Resources.

### *Go/No-Go Evaluation*

When requested by MWDOC or a member agency, Soto Resources will provide a recommendation on whether or not to proceed with a grant proposal. Soto Resources will review grant funding guidelines (state grants), proposal solicitation package (state grants), or funding opportunity announcement (federal grants) against application evaluation criteria. In addition, Soto Resources would contact the funding agency to discuss the project eligibility and evaluation criteria. A Go/No-Go decision would be made based on the following assessment criteria:

- Project eligibility: *Does the project meet what the agency is looking to fund?*
- Maximum funding award amount: *Is the potential grant award a large enough portion of the overall project budget to be worthwhile?*
- Timeframe for completing the project: *Can the project realistically be completed by the deadline?*
- Cost/level of effort to prepare the grant proposal: *Is the potential grant amount worth the cost of preparing an application?*
- Proposal due date: *Do we have the required project information to prepare a competitive application in time?*
- Competitiveness: *How many grant awards are anticipated for the specified region?*

Upon a “Go” decision to submit a funding application, application preparation will be performed under separate contract with the applicant as discussed under Task 4.

### *Coordination with Lobbyists and Attendance at Funding Workshops or Other Meetings*

A key component of winning grants and loans is coordination with lobbyists on upcoming funding legislation. Soto Resources would work closely with MWDOC or its member agencies’ lobbyists to strategize funding opportunities for priority projects throughout service areas. In addition, attendance at funding agency public workshops is critical for establishing and maintaining a solid relationship with funding program managers. As authorized, Soto Resources would attend funding workshops to connect with funding program key personnel, discuss and promote project concepts, and obtain insight on funding priorities. This coordination effort may also include attendance of meetings for grant-related efforts including, but not limited to, Board Meetings, Committee Meetings, or other District events, as requested. Assumes, annually, no more than one presentation or update on program successes to the MWDOC Board of Directors, one other presentation, and 4 workshops attended. Assumes MWDOC will serve as the point of contact for Task 3 deliverables.

**Deliverables / Desired Outcomes: Monthly or Periodic Funding Report, Funding Alert Emails, Email Correspondence, Workshop Notes, Presentations.**

## **Task 4. Grant / Funding Application Preparation and Submission**

### *As-Needed Application Preparation and Submission / Review and Comment*

When a decision is made to pursue a funding opportunity (as discussed in Task 3), Soto Resources will provide a proposal under separate contract for MWDOC or its member agency to prepare and submit an application. This includes detailed review of the evaluation criteria included in the funding

opportunity announcement with a focus on the highest weighted (most points) components of the grant application. The project scope, budget, and schedule will be reviewed to ensure these elements coincide with each other, as these components are the backbone of any grant application. A draft and final application will be prepared for review by MWDOC or its member agency. Soto Resources can also provide review and comment services on an application prepared by MWDOC or a member agency upon request. Assumes adequate time is provided for a thorough review.

**Deliverables / Desired Outcomes: Grant or Loan Application.**

### Technical Approach / Project Management

The Soto Resources Team's winning, all-inclusive, technical approach includes:

- **Identifying and prioritizing projects:** Our Team's experience working with MWDOC and its member agencies for 20+ years provides a high level of efficiency and knowledge for maintaining the Project List. Understanding projects/programs provides the foundation to conduct targeted and productive funding searches. The Project List assists in project planning, understanding financial needs of the project, establishing relationships and partnerships, and planning a funding strategy.
- **Researching and tracking funding opportunities:** Our Team is continually tracking more than 175 funding opportunities at the local, state, and federal levels, including active, planned, and archived opportunities, that can be a direct time and cost saving to the District.
- **Building relationships with funding agencies:** Our Team's long history of well-established funding agency relationships is valuable for project awareness, application guidance from an insider perspective, and preparing highly competitive applications. Moreover, these positive professional working relationships with funding agencies lead to repeat funding opportunities for clients.
- **Applying a strong and *realistic* Go/No-Go decision process:** The Soto Resources Team has a proven grant acquisition strategy that relies on a preliminary screening process and adequate cost/benefit assessment of grant opportunities that results in high win rates. The screening process includes a set of criteria to follow to assist the client in the decision to pursue a grant opportunity, such as meeting eligibility criteria; history of awards – to whom, what projects, and how much; project competitiveness based on meeting the funding goals and objectives; financially feasible award amount and meets the funding strategy for a project; sufficient capacity and time to prepare the application; manage the award, and complete the project in the required timeframe; and other criteria. The Soto Resources Team would advise pursuing only those grants that have a high likelihood of being awarded, and advise against pursuing grants that have little chance of success.
- **Performing comprehensive application development (via separate contract):** A front-to-back review of the funding solicitation is essential to understanding the application requirements for the application framework; identify and submit questions to the funding agency early; participate in pre-application webinars, as available; provide a comprehensive data request to the client for quality information needed to prepare a competitive application; communicate with the client throughout application development; and submit funding applications early.

### 4. Qualifications and Experience

✓ **Extensive Experience and Knowledge of MWDOC and its Member Agencies:** Our Team has over 20 years of experience working with MWDOC and many of its member agencies with a particular emphasis in Orange County. **Since 2010, nearly 70% of Soto Resources' clients have included MWDOC and its member agencies.** Notably, from **2018 to 2023, Soto Resources** worked closely with **MWDOC on the Grant Tracking and Acquisition Services Contract**, resulting in MWDOC



member agencies winning nearly **\$165 million in grant and loan funding** via separate Soto Resources' contracts for funding application submittal. This brings an elevated level of efficiency and in-depth knowledge about the member agencies, their projects, relationships, and unique interests. Established familiarity with MWDOC and its member agencies has been cultivated over the years, making communication effective with proven results. Additionally, the Team understands MWDOC's role in helping its member agencies leverage funding for each project to maximize outside funding support.

✓ **Proven Regional Success in Funding Water Projects:** The Soto Resources' Team provides grant acquisition services to clients seeking to fund water-related and other municipal projects throughout Southern California, with **80% of current clients located in Orange County**. Soto Resources works closely with water districts, cities, counties, and other stakeholders to provide grant acquisition services that include, but are not limited to, monitoring and reporting of federal, state, and local funding opportunities for priority projects, application preparation and submittal, and grant award agreement management. Soto Resources maintains a strong **80% grant win rate** and has won more than **\$170 million in competitive grants** and is on track to secure approximately **\$625 million in loan funding for water-related projects**, as demonstrated in Table 1 below. This achievement is a result of over 20 years of funding experience and a grant acquisition strategy that relies on a preliminary screening process (Go/No-Go Process) to assess competitiveness.

**Table 1. Grants Tracking and Acquisition Services Summary of Past Funding Opportunities**

Funding Source	Funding Program Name	Amount Awarded
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Prop 1, Water Quality, Supply/Infrastructure	\$3,599,368
	Prop 50, Clean Drinking Water/Coastal	\$1,500,000
	Prop 13, Watershed Protection	\$5,650,000
	Prop 13, Groundwater Storage Construction	\$10,788,000
	Prop 50, 84, 1 Integrated Regional Water Management	\$39,115,811
	Water Energy Grant Program	\$1,396,500
	Prop 1 Water Desalination Grant Program	\$10,000,000
	Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program	\$4,572,750
CA Dept. of Health Services	Proposition 50, Reduce Demand on the Colorado River	\$1,500,000
	Proposition 50, UV and Ozone Treatment	\$600,000
CA Dept. of State Parks	Proposition 40, California Clean Water/Parks	\$125,000
	Murray-Hayden Urban Parks and Youth Service Program	\$945,821
	Urban Park Act of 2001	\$6,000,000
	Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program	\$101,815
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Title XVI, Water Reclamation and Reuse Program	\$10,353,615
	WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Program	\$5,750,000
	WaterSMART: Desalination Construction Projects WIIN Act	\$20,000,000
	CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant	\$749,960
	Water Conservation Field Services Program	\$100,000
	WaterSMART Drought Response: Drought Resiliency	\$4,749,981
	WaterSMART: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects	\$75,000
State Water Resources Control Board	CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program	\$4,198,000
	Prop 13, Nonpoint Source Pollution Control	\$3,300,000
	Water Recycling Funding	\$15,000,000
	Prop 50 Water Recycling Funding	\$1,897,213
	Prop 1 Round 2 Storm Water Grant Program	\$5,967,691
	Division of Financial Assistance / Earmark	\$1,050,000
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Watershed Restoration Grant & Delta Water Quality	\$65,000
CA Dept. of Finance	COVID-19 Fiscal Relief for Special Districts	\$53,500
Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.	Future Supply Actions Funding Program	\$350,000
US EPA	STAG Grant Community Project Funding / Earmarks	\$7,850,000
Cal OES	Power Resiliency Program PSPS	\$150,000
	<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>\$167,555,025</b>
US EPA	WIFIA Loans (In Process)	\$419,523,400
SWRCB	SRF Loans	\$204,823,515
	<b>Total Loans</b>	<b>\$624,346,915</b>
	<b>Total Grants and Loans</b>	<b>\$791,901,940</b>

✓ **Focused Water Project Experience:** The Soto Resources Team has successfully secured funding and assisted with project implementation for a large variety of water-related projects, including water and stormwater infrastructure, flood control, hazard mitigation, conservation and water use efficiency, parks and open space, groundwater programs, public education, and many others. The Soto Resources Team has a specific focus, interest, and experience in water-related planning and implementation projects. The Team collaborates strategically with each client to identify an optimized project funding package based on project timing, funding availability, cost to pursue the funding, eligibility of pairing funding sources together, and eligible use of funds.

## 5. Client References / Current Clients

Below is a list of current clients and reference/contact information. In addition, current Soto Resources Team's clients include the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and Amador Water Agency.

**Table 2. Client References/Current Clients**

Reference	Client Contracts/Services Information
<b>Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager, MWDOC</b>	Contracts/Services: 1) \$39,000/year FY 18-23 - Grant tracking and acquisition services: Maintaining a comprehensive project list, monthly funding reporting, Go/No-Go evaluations, presentations, lobbyist coordination, and communication with MWDOC member agencies and funding agencies (including workshop attendance). 2) \$46,200 4/2021-3/2023 - Grant administration services for the SAWPA Regional Comprehensive Landscape Rebate Project for MWDOC under Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Funding. Team: Joey Soto, Jennifer Nevius
<b>Jerry Vilander, General Manager, Serrano Water District</b>	18021 East Lincoln Street, Villa Park, CA 92861 (714) 538-0079   <a href="mailto:jerryv@serranowater.org">jerryv@serranowater.org</a> Contracts/Services: \$42,000 4/2022-4/2023 – District Representative for Lobbyist(s) and Funding Strategy Services, including grants/loans research and application services. Team: Joey Soto, Jennifer Nevius
<b>Dan Ferons, General Manager, Santa Margarita Water District</b>	26111 Antonio Parkway, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA (949) 459-6602   <a href="mailto:danf@smwd.com">danf@smwd.com</a> Contracts/Services: 1) \$39,750 3/2023 -3/2024 – General Grant Assistance Services: Researching funding opportunities, funding agency coordination, reporting for seven funding agreements, presentations/meetings, and other as-needed efforts. 2) \$33,620 FY 21-22- General Grant Assistance Services: same as above description. *Other contracts issued over the past 2 years for application preparation/submittal. Team: Joey Soto, Jennifer Nevius, Amy Griffin.
<b>Rick Shintaku, General Manager, South Coast Water District</b>	31592 West St, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 (949) 342-1152   <a href="mailto:rshintaku@scwd.org">rshintaku@scwd.org</a> Contracts/Services: 1) \$74,625 FY 21-22 - Funding Strategy Services: Funding tracking/reporting, funding strategy team management, and lobbyist coordination. 2) \$77,800 FY 20-23 – General Grant Assistance Services: Grant agreement management & reporting. *Other separate contracts have been issued over the past 2 years for grant application preparation and submittal. Team: Joey Soto, Jennifer Nevius, Amy Griffin
<b>Thomas Crowley, Utilities Manager, City of Rialto</b>	150 S. Palm Avenue, Rialto, CA 92376 (909) 820-2869   <a href="mailto:tjcrowley@rialtoca.gov">tjcrowley@rialtoca.gov</a> Contracts/Services: \$250,000 2021-2023 - Funding Strategy Services: Funding reporting, funding strategy team management, application preparation, grant management. Team: Joey Soto, Jennifer Nevius

## 6. Cost / Pricing Information

As a standard practice, Soto Resources does not typically charge mileage or other direct costs and is located in Orange County. Therefore, direct expenses, such as mileage, travel, etc., are anticipated to be low, and Soto Resources will pass on these savings to MWDOC and its member agencies. Our estimated costs assume no travel out of Orange County, but that could be provided for an additional expense, if requested by MWDOC or a member agency. Labor costs are encompassed in the team's hourly rates.

**Table 3. Estimated Fee**

Task	Rate	Estimated Cost (1)
<i>Task 1. Project Initiation Meeting</i>		\$3,000 FIXED FEE
<i>Task 2. Grant Research and Preliminary Report</i>		\$9,000 FIXED FEE
<i>Task 3. Ongoing Grant Reporting, Go/No-Go Evaluation, and Coordination</i>		\$3,250: MONTHLY FIXED FEE \$0: TRAVEL & OTHER DIRECT EXPENSES
<i>Task 4. Grant/Funding Application Preparation and Submission</i>	\$175/hr.- \$190/hr.	\$5,000-\$8,000: REVIEW/COMMENT ONLY \$12,000-\$22,000: FULL APPLICATION

Note: (1) *The Soto Resources Team reserves the right to adjust fees annually based on a minimum of the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.*

## 7. Acceptance Statement

The Soto Resources team has reviewed the District's Standard Consultant Agreement and the General Insurance Requirements, and if selected, Soto Resources will execute the said agreement and Soto Resources and any subconsultants will fulfill the insurance requirements; and provide the required insurance documents and the additional insured endorsements as specified.





## Appendix A – Resumes

## Joey Soto, Principal Funding Specialist

### *Grant Acquisition and Management Consultant*

Ms. Soto provides grant acquisition services to clients seeking to fund water-related projects throughout California. Joey Soto has helped clients secure \$170 million in competitive grant funding and \$620 million in loan funding over more than 20 years of grant and water planning services. Ms. Soto works closely with water districts, cities, counties, and other stakeholders when providing them with grant acquisition services, such as grant research, application preparation and submittal, and grant management for project implementation. The emphasis that Soto Resources places on establishing positive working relationships with funding agencies leads to repeat funding opportunities for clients. Soto Resources collaborates with project managers, grant managers, accounting/finance departments, and engineering teams to ensure across-the-board compliance with the terms of grant agreements. Ms. Soto maintains an 80-percent grant win rate. This achievement is due to a grant acquisition strategy that relies on a preliminary screening process and adequate cost/benefit assessment of grant opportunities. Further, Ms. Soto advises her clients to pursue only those grants that have a high likelihood of being awarded; conversely, clients are also advised against pursuing grants that have little chance of success. This strategy has ensured a high win rate for Soto Resources' clients.



**SOTO RESOURCES**

*Joey Soto, M.S.*

*Principal Funding Specialist*

*Senior Grant Writer and Grant Manager*

*Joey@sotoresources.com*

*(949) 370-6079*

### Education:

M.S., Environmental Policy and Planning, California State University, Fullerton, 2007

B.A., Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2002

**Certifications:** MBE/WBE, SBE

**Office:** Orange County, CA

**Years of Experience:** 20

## Relevant Grant Experience

- \$170 million in successful grant acquisition
- \$625 million in low interest loans secured
- Over 20 years of grant and low-interest loan acquisition experience

***Grant Writing and Management, Santa Margarita Water District. Rancho Santa Margarita, CA, 2010–Present.*** ***Awarded \$145 million in grants and low-interest loans.*** Providing funding acquisition and grant management services for grant agreements from state and federal agencies. Awarded **\$4.6 million** in California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Funding for the Ranch Water Filtration Plant. Awarded nearly **\$10 million** in United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART Title XVI funding for the San Juan Watershed Project. Awarded **\$6 million** in Prop 1 Storm Water Grant Program Funding for the San Juan Watershed Project, which would capture stormwater for groundwater recharge and reuse. In addition, secured funding for Trampas Canyon Reservoir Dam Project, including a **\$96 million** SRF loan and **\$15 million** grant from SWRCB Prop 1 Water Recycling Funding. Secured **\$750,000** federal grant from USBR and **\$500,000** state grant from the DWR Prop 1 IRWM Program for the Las Flores Enhanced Water Reliability Project. Awarded **\$750,000** USBR federal grant and **\$1 million** DWR 2015 IRWM Grant for the 3A /Oso Water Recycling Plant Tertiary Expansion Project. Successfully secured a Prop 50 SWRCB grant in the amount of **\$2.5 million** and a Prop 1E DWR grant in the amount of **\$5 million** for the Gobernadora Multipurpose Basin Project. In addition, secured a DWR IRWM Drought grant of approximately **\$500,000** for the Califia Recycled Water Project and **\$1 million** award from the DWR 2015 IRWM Implementation grant for the Oso Water Recycling Plant Tertiary Expansion Project. Secured a USBR Title XVI feasibility study grant for **\$225,000** in 2014 to fund research related to the San Juan Groundwater Basin. Awarded **\$2 million** Prop 50 Water Recycling Grant from SWRCB for the Middle Chiquita Recycled Water Facilities Project.

## *Professional Services in Grant Consulting, Acquisition, and Management*

**Grant Writing and Management, South Coast Water District, Laguna Beach, CA, 2010-Present.** *Awarded \$40 million in grants, on track for \$215 million in low-interest loans.* Providing grant acquisition and management services for District projects, including grant application preparation, lobbyist coordination, and grant management for funding agreements. Awarded **\$3.45 million** in EPA STAG Community Grant Funding for the Del Obispo Water Recycling Project. Awarded **\$53,500** in Covid-19 Fiscal Relief for Special Districts Funding. Awarded **\$2 million** in USBR WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Grant Funding for Recycled Water Distribution Improvements Phase II Project. Awarded **\$2.4 million** in EPA STAG Community Grants Funding for Doheny Ocean Desalination Phase 1 Slant Well Project. Awarded **\$20 million** in federal grants from USBR and a **\$10 million** state grant from the DWR for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Phase 1 Project. Awarded **\$75,000** from USBR WaterSMART Grant Funding for the Targeted Water Conservation Program. Awarded **\$150,000** for the Pump Station 9 Emergency Generator Project from the Cal OES Power Resiliency Program PSPS. Awarded **\$300,000** from USBR WaterSMART Grant Program for an Advanced Metering Infrastructure Implementation Program Phase 1 Project. Awarded **\$750,000** in DWR IRWM funding for the Recycled Water Distribution Upgrade Project. Awarded **\$500,000** in DWR IRWM Drought Grant Funding for the Recycled Water System Extension Project. Awarded **\$236,000** in Prop 84 DWR IRWM funding for the Targeted Water Conservation Program. Awarded **\$103 million** from SWRCB CWSRF funding for the Tunnel Stabilization and Pipeline Replacement Project. Selected for **\$110 million** in EPA WIFIA Loan funding for the Doheny Desalination Project.

**Municipal Water District of Orange County Grant Assistance Services, Fountain Valley, CA. 2018-2023.** Providing grant acquisition services, including reporting and funding assistance to 26 member agencies to identify funding opportunities, provide guidance on deciding whether to pursue a funding opportunity or not, and presenting funding opportunities regularly to Orange County water agencies. Secured nearly **\$160 million** in grant and loan funding via separate Soto Resources' contracts for funding application submittal. In 2011, secured **\$1.3 million** for the South Orange County Water Smart Landscape Project via the DWR prop 84 IRWM Grant program. Awarded **\$709,000** in 2013 for the Comprehensive Landscape Water Use Efficiency Program from the DWR Prop 84 IRWM Grant Program. Also awarded **\$3 million** in 2015 from the DWR IRWM Grant Program for the Strategic Turfgrass Removal and Design Assistance Program.

**Grant Writing and Management, City of Rialto, CA, 2021 - Present.** Providing grant writing services involving state and federal funding programs. Awarded a **\$2.0 million** federal grant from the USBR Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program for Rialto's Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project, a **\$2.0 million** federal grant from the USBR Drought Resiliency Projects Program for the City Well 3A Treatment System Project and a **\$2.15 million** state grant from the DWR Proposition 1, Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program, and **\$1.05 million** in Congressional Earmark Funding, and **\$2.0 million** in EPA Community Project Funding for the Lake Rialto Habitat Management and Community Open Space Project.

**Grant Assistance Services, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Monrovia, CA, 2014-2023.** Providing grant research and writing services for various projects. Services include funding research to identify grant/loan funding opportunities, State, and federal grant proposal development and submittal. Awarded Secured **\$1,000,000** from USBR's WaterSMART Grant Program; **\$100,000** from USBR's Water Conservation Field Services Grant Program; and **\$1,396,500** from California DWR's Water-Energy Grant Fund for the Large Landscape Survey and Retrofit Program. Awarded **\$65,000** from CA Department of Fish and Wildlife's Prop 1 Watershed Restoration & Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program. Awarded a **\$150,000** federal grant from the USBR Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program for Upper District's Water Smart Home Kit Project.

**Grant Assistance Services, Trabuco Canyon Water District, Trabuco Canyon, CA. 2018-2021.** Awarded a **\$500,000** federal grant from USBR's WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program for the Automatic Meter Reading / Advanced Metering Infrastructure Implementation Project

**Grant Writing Services, City of Newport Beach, Newport Beach, CA. 2017-2019.** Provided grant research and writing services and was awarded a **\$1.5 million** federal grant for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Implementation Program Phase 2 Project from USBR's WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants.

## *Professional Services in Grant Consulting, Acquisition, and Management*

***Grant Writing and Management, Laguna Beach County Water District, Laguna Beach, CA 2015–2016.*** Providing grant writing and management services for the water district's various projects. Services include funding research to identify grant/loan funding opportunities, state and federal grant proposal development and submittal. Secured **\$300,000** from USBR's WaterSMART Water And Energy Efficiency Grants Program for an Advanced Metering Infrastructure upgrade project.

***Grant Assistance Services, County of Orange Department of Public Works, OC Watersheds, CA, 2005–2017.*** Provided watershed planning, project development, and grant services. Secured over **\$28 million** in grant funding from Props 50, 84, and 1E for South Orange County IRWM Group for various water supply, water recycling, water conservation, habitat restoration, and environmental protection projects. Awarded a 2014 IRWM Drought Grant for **\$1.5 million** for three projects. Secured a 2013 DWR Prop 84 IRWM Round 2 Implementation Grant for **\$1.78 million** for the four projects. Secured a 2011 DWR Prop 84 IRWM Round 1 Implementation Grant for **\$1.3 million** for three projects. Wrote the 2005 and 2010 Update and assisted with the 2017 Update of the South Orange County Watershed Management Area IRWM Plan in accordance with the State guidelines.

***Grant Assistance Services, City of Oceanside, CA, 2016.*** Provided grant application preparation and submittal to the San Diego Integrated Regional Watershed Management (IRWM) Group for Prop 1 IRWM Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Project Concept funding for the City of Oceanside's Improving Water Quality by Reducing Pollution from Homeless Encampments Project and the Coast Highway Corridor Study. Proposal was recommended for funding under San Diego IRWM DAC funding.

***Grant Writing Services, Rancho Mission Viejo, LLC, Rancho Mission Viejo, CA, 2012.*** Completed a grant application for Gobernadora Multipurpose Basin Project in coordination with Rancho Mission Viejo, LLC and Santa Margarita Water District. Awarded **\$5.0 million** under the California Department of Water Resource's Proposition 1E IRWM Stormwater and Flood Management Grant Program.

***Grant Management, County of San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo, CA, 2014–2016.*** Provided funding management for San Luis Obispo County's **\$200,000** Caltrans State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding for the Templeton to Atascadero Connector, a multiuse bicycle and pedestrian pathway. Grant administration included maintenance of project files, grant management, and close-out processes consistent with FHA and Caltrans standards. Coordinated with County of San Luis Obispo and Caltrans STIP grant project managers.

***Grant Writing Services, Hi-Desert Water District, Yucca Valley, CA, 2013–2014.*** Secured **\$500,000** from a USBR Title XVI grant application to fund a \$190 million wastewater treatment and reuse facility. Services included working closely with the USBR regional office and district staff to complete the grant application complied with USBR's requirements.

***Grant Writing Services, South Orange County Wastewater Authority, Orange County, CA, 2013.*** Completed a Prop 1E grant application requesting \$1.5 million for the South Orange County Wastewater Authority's Sulphur and Aliso Creek Stabilization Project. Coordinated with project partners to plan permitting in compliance with CEQA.

### ***Psomas Consulting, Water Resources Planner and Grant Writer (2003–2010)***

***Funding Management, City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, CA, 2007–2010.*** Managed stormwater quality project implementation program funded by the **\$500 million** Prop O Stormwater Bond Program. Projects include eight demonstration stormwater treatment projects throughout the City of Los Angeles. Provided project management, pre-design report preparation, agency coordination for permitting, and subconsultant coordination.

***Grant Writing Services, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Elsinore, CA, 2004–2005.*** Submitted multiple grant applications for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District for funding under the California Department of Public Health Prop 50 Funding Program for the following projects: Security Enhancement Project requesting \$289,955; Arsenic Treatment Facility Project requesting \$1.5 million; Nitrate Well Project requesting \$262,500; and UV Disinfection Project requesting \$750,000.



## ***Professional Services in Grant Consulting, Acquisition, and Management***

***Grant Writing Services, Central Basin Municipal Water District, Carson, CA, 2004–2005.*** Prepared grant applications to the California Department of Health Care Services 2004 Water Security Funding Program for Central Basin’s member agencies. Completed grant proposal to the SWRCB’s Water Recycling Construction Program for \$3.8 million to fund Central Basin’s Montebello Loop Phase I Water Recycling Project and for Central Basin’s Commercial Landscape Wireless Valve End Use Management Research Project to the California DWR’s 2004 Water Use Efficiency Program for \$492,155 in funding.

***Grant Writing Services, El Toro Water District, Lake Forest, CA, 2004.*** Completed a grant application for El Toro Water District’s Security Enhancement Project requesting \$250,450 in funding from the California Department of Health Services Prop 50 Funding Program. Submitted grant application for \$3.4 million in funding on behalf of the El Toro Water District, Irvine Ranch Water District, and Moulton Niguel Water District Recycled Water Project for California Department of Health Services 2004 Water Recycling Construction Funding Program.

***Funding Services, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Alhambra, CA, 2003–2005.*** Completed research, review, and preparation of grants, loans, and other alternative funding opportunities from federal, State, and local funding agencies. Tracked legislation to identify future funding opportunities. Prepared reports, a Labor Compliance Program, conducted grant writing workshops, and communicated with funding agencies.

***Water System Funding, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles, CA, 2003– 2004.*** Assisted in the research, review, and preparation of three grant applications to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for the West Basin Wells Project, Sepulveda Basin Water Recycling Project, and Hansen Area Water Recycling Project.

***Grant Assistance, City of Bell, CA, 2004.*** Provided research, review, and preparation of three California Department of Parks and Recreation grant applications for the City of Bell for the following multi-benefit projects: 1) A new 4.4-acre, multiuse sports complex with grant value of \$10.7 million; 2) a new, 5-acre community library / performing arts facility with grant value of \$28.6 million; 3) and a new soccer field with grant value of \$1.8 million.

***Grant Writing Services, City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles, CA, 2003.*** Submitted two grant proposals to California Department of Parks and Recreation for the Harvard Recreation Center Pool and Bathhouse Replacement Project for \$2.5 million.

***Grant Writing Services, Eastern Municipal Water District, Perris, CA. 2003.*** Assisted in the preparation of a Proposition 13 Groundwater Storage Construction Grant application submitted to the California DWR requesting \$4,397,750 for the Hemet/San Jacinto Recharge and Recovery Program. Project included construction of 15 recharge ponds on a 100-acre site in the San Jacinto River channel, new pipelines, pump station upgrades, and new monitoring wells.

***Water Supply Assessment, Rothbart Development Corporation, Los Angeles, CA, 2005.*** Wrote a water supply assessment for a 60-acre, 650,000-square-foot proposed development, “The HomeStretch,” at Hollywood Park in the City of Inglewood. The water supply assessment information was included in the environmental impact report for the project.

***Urban Water Management Plans, Southern California, 2005.*** Prepared 2005 Urban Water Management Plan Updates to ensure compliance with State requirements and eligibility for grant funding. Included data collection, analysis of existing and planned development, and analysis of required water supply for 15 agencies.

***Seawater Desalination Research, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles, and West Basin Municipal Water District, Carson, CA, 2003.*** Conducted research on legislation applicable to seawater desalination projects and related permitting issues for siting and operating proposed seawater desalination plants. Compiled legislative requirements and evaluated permitting strategy for proposed LADWP and West Basin Municipal Water District desalination projects.

## Jennifer Nevius, Senior Grant Specialist

*Grant, Engineering, and Project Management Consultant*

Ms. Nevius is a registered professional engineer specializing in geotechnical and environmental engineering. She has led and contributed to grant and low interest loan research, management, and writing projects for more than six years, securing tens of millions of dollars in funding for projects addressing water supply and reliability, water conservation, water quality, emergency power supply, and air quality. As a civil/environmental engineer, Ms. Nevius has managed and contributed to a wide variety of municipal and commercial water and wastewater infrastructure projects, giving her a unique perspective when pursuing funding opportunities and preparing grant applications. She has experience coordinating with staff and submitting technical documents to state and federal agencies (both funding agencies and regulatory agencies) on behalf of her clients and their priority projects. She also has experience preparing engineering cost estimates, making her an ideal team member to prepare funding pursuit budgets and quantifying project benefits for funding applications.



**NEVIUS CONSULTING**  
**Jennifer Nevius, P.E.**  
**Senior Grant Specialist**  
neviusjen@gmail.com  
(858) 705-5273

## Relevant Grant & Engineering Experience

- Over \$31 million in successful grant acquisition
- Over \$350 million in low interest loans
- Over 6 years of grant and low-interest loan research and application preparation experience
- Over 21 years of project management and civil and environmental engineering experience
- Engineering cost estimates – construction, monitoring, and reporting

### Education:

M.S., Civil Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA, 2000

B.S., Civil Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA, 1999

### Professional Registrations:

Professional Engineer,  
Geotechnical, No. 2825 & Civil,  
No. 64932, CA

Years of Experience: 21

***Grant Assistance Services, Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), Fountain Valley, CA, 2020 – Present.*** Providing grant reporting and assistance services to 27 member agencies to identify federal, state, and local opportunities, providing guidance on deciding whether to pursue a funding opportunity, and presenting funding opportunities regularly to multiple Orange County water agencies. Secured over **\$22.0 million** in grant funding via separate Soto Resources' contracts for funding application submittal.

***Grant Writing and Management, South Coast Water District, Laguna Beach, CA, 2020 – Present.*** Providing comprehensive funding assistance for South Coast Water District capital improvement plan projects, including grant research, identification and tracking of federal and state grant opportunities, grant application preparation and grant management. Awarded **\$3.5 million** in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) STAG Community Grant Funding for the Del Obispo Water Recycling Project. Awarded **\$2.4 million** in EPA STAG Community Grants Funding for Doheny Ocean Desalination Slant Well Project. Awarded **\$53,500** in Covid-19 Fiscal Relief for Special Districts Funding. Awarded **\$150,000** for the Pump Station Emergency Generator Project from the Cal Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Community Power Resiliency Program, **\$2.0 million** for the Bottleneck No. 2 Recycled Water Distribution Project from the USBR Drought Resiliency Grant Program, and **\$75,000** for the Targeted Water Conservation Incentive Program from the USBR Small-Scale Water Efficiency Program.

***Grant Writing, Santa Margarita Water District, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA, 2019 – Present.*** Providing grant writing services primarily for DWR and USBR funding programs. Awarded a **\$500,000** state grant from the DWR Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Grant Program for the Las Flores Enhanced Water Reliability Project. Awarded **\$4.6 million** in California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Funding for the Ranch Water Filtration Plant. Awarded nearly **\$10 million** in United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART Title XVI funding for the San Juan Watershed Project.

***Grant Writing and Management, City of Rialto, CA, 2021 – Present.*** Providing grant writing services including California DWR and USBR funding programs. Awarded a **\$2.0 million** federal grant from the USBR Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program for Rialto's Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project, a **\$2.0 million** federal grant from the USBR Drought Resiliency Projects Program for the City Well 3A Treatment System Project and a **\$2.15 million** state grant from the DWR Proposition 1, Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program, and **\$1.05 million** in Congressional Earmark Funding, and **\$2.0 million** in EPA Community Project Funding for the Lake Rialto Habitat Management and Community Open Space Project.

***Grant Research and Writing Services, Pacific Marine Mammal Center, 2018-2023.*** Providing grant writing and project management services. Awarded a **\$500,000** state grant from the DWR Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Grant Program for the PMMC Water Treatment and Recycling Project.

***Grant Assistance Services, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Monrovia, CA, 2021–Present.*** Providing grant research and writing services for various projects. Services include funding research to identify grant/loan funding opportunities, state, and federal grant proposal development and submittal. Awarded a **\$150,000** federal grant from the USBR Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program for Upper District's Water Smart Home Kit Project.

***Grant Assistance Services, Serrano Water District, Villa Park, CA, 2022 – Present.*** Providing loan and grant reporting and assistance services to research and identify funding opportunities, providing guidance on deciding whether to pursue a funding opportunity, and regular reporting on funding opportunities. Grant and low-interest loan application preparation and submittal (currently under agency review).

***Grant Assistance Services, El Toro Water District, El Toro, CA, 2021 – 2023.*** Providing grant reporting and assistance services to research and identify funding opportunities, providing guidance on deciding whether to pursue a funding opportunity, and regularly presenting tracked funding opportunities in a summary report.

***Grant Research and Writing, Amador Water Agency, CA, 2021 – Present.*** Providing grant research and writing services including bi-monthly research and reporting on upcoming funding opportunities and preparation of Notices of Interest and Grant Applications for the Cal OES/FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for five agency water and sewer infrastructure projects.

## Engineering & Engineering Instruction Experience

***Nevius Consulting, PC, San Diego, CA, September 2017 – 2023.*** As President, providing grant consulting, civil engineering consulting, and project management services to nonprofit, municipal, and commercial clients.

***Geosyntec Consultants, San Diego, CA, May 2010 – May 2017.*** As a Senior Engineer, contributed project management and engineering expertise to a wide variety of project types including site characterization, foundation/retaining wall design, slope stability evaluation, liquefaction assessment, grading design, earthwork and construction materials special inspection, feasibility studies for alternative energy, and waste containment permitting and design. Responsible for project scoping, proposal preparation, client communication, and technical work execution for geotechnical and environmental projects.

***AECOM (formerly URS Corporation), San Diego, CA, January 2001 – April 2010.*** As a Senior Engineer, similar expertise as noted for Geosyntec, with responsibilities focused on public infrastructure, utility, and commercial projects. As a Project Manager, responsible for project scoping, proposal preparation, client communication,

staff training, and technical work execution for geotechnical and environmental projects.

***San Diego City College, San Diego County, CA, August 2017 – 2023.*** As an Adjunct Instructor in the Manufacturing and Engineering Technologies Department and the Math, Science, and Engineering Department, teaching Introduction to Engineering and Properties of Materials.

***Southwestern College, Chula Vista, CA, August 2018 – May 2020.*** As an Adjunct Instructor in the Math, Science, and Engineering Department, taught Introduction to Engineering and Engineering Graphics.

## Representative Engineering Project Experience

***Los Angeles International Airport Argo Drain Project, Los Angeles, CA.*** Prepared the geotechnical investigation report addressing stormwater pollution associated with the North Westchester/LAX watershed. The project will divert stormwater flows from LAX to underground stormwater storage and infiltration facilities.

***Midway Atoll Stormwater Unit Design, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Midway Atoll.*** Designed hydraulic barrier and erosion protection layer final cover system components for this approximately 33,000 cubic yard waste containment unit on Sand Island within the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge/Battle of Midway Memorial. Prepared drawings and technical specifications for demolition, earthwork, geotextile and geomembrane, and stormwater conveyance. Developed an innovative, cost-effective design solution for backfilling an existing stormwater retention vault while retaining water storage capacity using a proprietary water storage product; conventional design solutions were less desirable due to the remote site location and material transportation constraints.

***Pasco Landfill Engineering Evaluation and Cost Estimate, Washington Department of Ecology, WA.*** Performed an evaluation reviewing portions of a Focused Feasibility Study for the 200-acre Pasco Landfill National Priorities List site. The site includes several former industrial and municipal waste disposal areas, and others prepared the Focused Feasibility Study to select the appropriate closure remedy. On behalf of the lead regulatory agency, performed a site reconnaissance, document review, and an independent evaluation to support preparation of an engineer's cost estimate with detailed backup for selected remediation alternatives.

***San Diego Gas & Electric Substation and Transmission Line Improvement Projects, San Diego County, CA.*** Performed geotechnical investigations and provided design recommendations, for several projects upgrading existing electrical power transmission lines. Geotechnical exploration programs included geotechnical borings, seismic refraction traverses, and test pit excavations. Investigation reports presented geologic hazard evaluations, foundation design parameters, and construction considerations.

***San Vicente Dam Raise, San Diego County, CA.*** The project raised the existing San Vicente Dam to increase water storage for the San Diego County Water Authority. Designed grading plans for a test quarry to evaluate the proposed aggregate source for dam construction roller compacted concrete and for a new marina.

***Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant, San Diego County, CA.*** Performed geotechnical field investigation, developed the geotechnical laboratory testing program, and prepared geotechnical engineering calculations for a proposed new 30-acre, 50-100 million gallon per day water treatment plant. Recommendations provided for earthwork, foundations, retaining walls, slabs-on-grade, pipelines, and flexible pavements.

***Willamette Egg Farms Wastewater Storage Lagoon, Canby, OR.*** Project Engineer for the geotechnical investigation and civil design for an additional geosynthetic-lined wastewater lagoon for managing wash water generated at the existing processing plant. The 5.3-acre lagoon was designed to provide wash water storage capacity of approximately 10.7 million gallons.





**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM**

June 21, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** **Planning and Operations Committee**  
(Directors McVicker, Nederhood, and Seckel)

Harvey De La Torre  
Interim General Manager

Staff Contact: Heather Baez

**SUBJECT: RENEW CONTRACT WITH ACKERMAN CONSULTING**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board of Directors to consider entering into a Sole Source contract with Ackerman Consulting for specialized services for Fiscal Years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Committee concurred with staff recommendation.

**REPORT**

Ackerman Consulting has provided legal and regulatory consulting services to the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC) since 2009. This contract was sent out for competitive bid in 2018 for a one-year contract beginning in fiscal year 2018-2019, with the option to renew annually for four additional years. At that time, we received only one other proposal, and while the bidder was fully qualified in the legal and regulatory fields, the review committee agreed that this other proposal was more (in scope and cost) than MWD OC required.

After the retirement of MWD OC's county advocate, John Lewis in 2022, the Ackerman Consulting scope was increased to include additional duties at the county level. Anticipating the additional duties, staff recommended a contract increase from \$36,000/year to \$42,000/year (the same amount as Mr. Lewis), which was approved by the Board of Directors in the 2023-2024 annual budget. Mr. Ackerman's current contract expires on June 30, 2023.

<b>Budgeted (Y/N):</b> Y	Budgeted amount: \$42,000	Core X	Choice __
<b>Action item amount:</b> \$42,000	Line item: 31-7040		
<b>Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):</b>			

Due to the nature of the services provided by Mr. Ackerman, particularly in the legal and regulatory field, his many contacts and relationships in Orange County and the MWDOC member agencies in particular, as well as other intangibles, staff believes this is a candidate for a sole source contract. Furthermore, staff recommends a two-year contract opposed to the standard five-year contract, which will allow the Board to reevaluate the scope and needs of the contract sooner, as local issues the District faces vary year to year.

A proposed scope of services is included for your review, input, and approval.

## SCOPE OF WORK

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Scope of Work for FY 2023-2024 & 2024-25:

- Monitor and keep MWDOC informed on opportunities to participate in various groups related to water, CEQA reform, and public works initiatives
- Advise MWDOC on current legal, regulatory and other events bearing on water issues
- Represent MWDOC's interests with the Orange County Board of Supervisors and staff and other local groups as requested
- Promote MWDOC projects and initiatives with local government agencies as requested
- Monitor, track, and analyze local issues that relate to MWDOC and its member agencies
- Monitor and advise MWDOC on issues of concern to its member agencies
- Work with Orange County cities, the Association of California Cities-Orange County, and the Orange County League of Cities in association with MWDOC and its priorities and principles
- Work with the Board of Directors, staff, and member agencies on regional efforts in Orange County
- Assist in developing strategies and policies to raise awareness and support of issues relating to MWDOC and its member agencies

Mr. Ackerman will continue working within the scope of services helping MWDOC identify priorities and opportunities in the outlined areas as needed.

## BOARD OPTIONS

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### Option #1

- Approve a two-year sole source contract with Ackerman Consulting, effective July 1, 2023.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$42,000/year for FY 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2025

**Business Analysis:** Mr. Ackerman's background, legal expertise, and community/industry relations provide MWDOC directors and staff with legal and

regulatory events and advocacy at the county level, information related to local, regional and statewide water issues. In addition, Mr. Ackerman provides assistance with CEQA reform, public works initiatives and issues of concern to MWDOC and its member agencies as needed.

**Option #2**

- Approve a six-month sole source contract with Ackerman Consulting, effective July 1, 2023, and direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals for a standard five-year contract.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$42,000/year or more for five years

**Option #3**

- Do not approve a contract extension with Ackerman Consulting.

**Fiscal Impact:** Reduced costs of \$42,000

**Business Analysis:** MWDOC will see a decrease in legal/regulatory information, advocacy at the county level, along with a decrease in access to a specialized consultant with years of institutional knowledge and beneficial relationships.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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**Option #1**



**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM**

June 21, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** **Planning & Operations Committee**  
(Directors McVicker, Nederhood, and Seckel)

**Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Manager**

Staff Contact: R. Waite, Senior Water Use Efficiency Analyst  
J. Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency

**SUBJECT: Alliance for Water Efficiency Commercial Turf Replacement and Spray-to-Drip Program Process and Impact Water Savings Evaluation**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize a cost share contribution in the amount of \$18,500 for participation in the Alliance for Water Efficiency Outdoor Water Savings Research Initiative Phase 3: Evaluating & Optimizing Large-Scale Landscape Irrigation Management and Transformation Strategies. MWD OC's \$18,500 cost share will leverage a total research investment of \$345,000.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Committee concurred with staff recommendation.

**SUMMARY**

The Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) is proposing to implement a research project titled *Water Efficiency Outdoor Water Savings Research Initiative Phase 3: Evaluating & Optimizing Large-Scale Landscape Irrigation Management and Transformation Strategies*. This effort will include process and impact evaluations for both Landscape Transformation (turf removal) and Irrigation Optimization (distribution uniformity and management) programs focused exclusively on Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional

Budgeted (Y/N): Y	Budgeted amount: \$18,500	Core X	Choice __
Action item amount: \$18,500		Line item: 35-7040	
Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted): Staff proposed to apply the remaining balance of budgeted research funds in the amount of \$17,500 and repurpose an additional \$1,000 from budgeted professional services funds for a total cost share of \$18,500.			

(CII) properties. Results will fill a research gap and be used to refine local programs. AWE is seeking participation from utilities implementing these programs throughout the country. The current list of Interested Research Partners is provided in Table 1.

<b>Table 1: Interested Research Partners - Water Efficiency Outdoor Water Savings Research Initiative Phase 3: Evaluating &amp; Optimizing Large-Scale Landscape Irrigation Management and Transformation Strategies</b>	
1. City of Santa Rosa	10. Municipal Water District of Orange County
2. Austin Water	11. City of Long Beach
3. Hunter Industries	12. California Water Service
4. Denver Water	13. San Antonio Water System
5. Eastern Municipal Water District	14. Sacramento Regional Water Authority
6. Turfgrass Water Conservation Alliance	15. Arizona Municipal Water Users Assoc.
7. San Diego County Water Authority	16. Central Utah Water Conservancy District
8. Bend, Oregon	17. City of Sacramento
9. County of Santa Barbara	

## **DETAILED REPORT**

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### **Research Need**

MWDOC has completed several statistical water savings evaluations over the past couple of decades. These evaluations quantified, with high levels of statistical significance, water savings associated with water use efficiency program implementation. Past evaluations have focused primarily on water savings associated with Smart Irrigation Timers, Turf Removal and Spray-to-Drip irrigation conversions for residential participants. Because of the extremely complex and variable nature of non-residential water use, only one evaluation has focused on CII Turf Removal, which was led by Dr. Hollis at Metropolitan with support from MWDOC. However, due to data constraints, the analysis became limited to only multi-family properties and provided an aggregate result across all Metropolitan member agencies.

AWE is proposing to implement the Water Efficiency Outdoor Water Savings Research Initiative Phase 3: Evaluating & Optimizing Large-Scale Landscape Irrigation Management and Transformation Strategies (Evaluation). This effort will include process and impact evaluations for both Landscape Transformation (turf removal) and Irrigation Optimization (distribution uniformity and management) programs that target CII properties and will provide MWDOC with Orange County specific analysis in addition to broader results.

MWDOC's participation in this study will fill an important gap in existing research by evaluating CII participants in Orange County and will satisfy a program evaluation

commitment made in our recent USBR Water Smart Water-Energy Efficiency grant award.

### **AWE Research Partnership Opportunity**

AWE is seeking participation from utilities implementing CII landscape programs throughout the country. While Table 1 provides the current List of Research Partners, it is anticipated this list will grow over the next couple of months. This broad group of agencies will bring varying climate/weather conditions, program implementation formats, and incentive levels into the evaluation, allowing for a robust compare and contrast of different program features/approaches and resulting water savings. This information can be used to identify ways to improve local programs in terms of customer experience and maximization of water savings.

A Project Brief is provided as Exhibit A and includes a summary of the Opportunity and Challenges relevant to this research, Research Questions, Expected Deliverables, Tasks & Proposed Budget, Benefits for Participating Agencies, and participation levels. AWE is offering participation at four cost share levels, as shown on page 3 of Exhibit A. Staff are proposing MWDOC participate in this research at the “Utility Participant- The Works” level with a contribution of \$18,500. This level of sponsorship will allow staff to provide comprehensive water and program data, participate on the Project Advisory Committee and Learning Cohort, and importantly receive individualized data analysis and evaluation (Orange County specific results). MWDOC’s sponsorship will leverage a total research investment of \$345,000.

The Evaluation is expected to be completed within 18 to 24 months. AWE hopes to begin summer of 2023, but timing is dependent on successful fundraising. The Evaluation will be performed by a combination of highly qualified AWE staff, led by Dr. Liesel Hans, and a consultant; AWE staff will focus primarily on the statistical water savings (impact) evaluation, and the consultant will focus on the market readiness (process) evaluation.

MWDOC staff will work in partnership with member agencies to collect pre and post retrofit water consumption data from past CII Turf Removal and Spray-to-Drip program participants, non-participants for a control group, corresponding weather data, and detailed program descriptions. This data will then be provided to AWE for the analysis. Upon completion, results will be used to refine local program implementation to streamline the participation process and maximize water savings.

### **BOARD OPTIONS**

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**Option #1:** Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize a cost share contribution in the amount of \$18,500 for participation in the Alliance for Water Efficiency Outdoor Water Savings Research Initiative Phase 3: Evaluating & Optimizing Large-Scale Landscape Irrigation Management and Transformation Strategies. MWDOC’s cost share will leverage a total investment for the evaluation in the amount of \$345,000.

**Fiscal Impact:** Budgeted funds in the amount of \$18,500, which will leverage a total research investment of \$345,000.

**Business Analysis:** Participation in the AWE Study will help to fill an important gap in our water savings research by quantifying water savings associated with CII landscape programs.

**Option #2:** Do not participate in the Alliance for Water Efficiency Outdoor Water Savings Research Initiative Phase 3: Evaluating & Optimizing Large-Scale Landscape Irrigation Management and Transformation Strategies.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Business Analysis:** Miss an opportunity to better understand the effectiveness of CII landscape program implementation.



## PROJECT BRIEF

### Outdoor Water Savings Research Initiative Phase 3

#### Evaluating & Optimizing Large-Scale Landscape Irrigation Management and Transformation Strategies

##### Large-scale Landscape Strategies

Large-scale landscapes = commercial, industrial and institutional (CII) property landscapes including municipal properties, multi-family and/or HOA common spaces.

##### Landscape transformation programs:

Often called "cash for grass" or xeriscape programs

Designed to replace high water requirement landscapes with low or no water requirement landscapes.

##### Irrigation optimization programs:

Irrigation audits, landscape water budgets, technology or equipment incentives/rebates, report services, repair/upgrade services, and more.

Not designed to change the landscape, but to irrigate the existing landscape efficiently.

#### Opportunity:

- Research is needed to help utilities quantify water use and water savings from large-scale landscape transformations and irrigation optimization strategies.
- Utilities want to optimize water used on landscapes to save water, reduce peak demands, reduce run-off, protect water quality, maintain beneficial landscapes, and more.
- Utilities are testing irrigation management strategies like requiring dedicated irrigation meters, direct repair/upgrade services, landscape water budget programs, watering schedules, incentivizing advanced smart irrigation technologies, auditing requirements, and more.
- Further, many utilities are considering or actively investing in large-scale landscape transformation programs. States have allocated additional funding for turf replacement programs, 30 cities in the Colorado River Basin signed an MOU to reduce non-essential turfgrass by 30%, and some have banned irrigation of non-essential turf.
- Optimizing water use on large-scale landscapes can generate significant savings. Variation in savings is expected across climates and by program design. By doing this work across multiple utilities, it greatly expands the body of knowledge and creates more widely useful results.

#### Challenge:

- There is no comprehensive published research about water savings from large-scale landscape and irrigation optimization strategies.
- It is predicted that water savings will be different from residential programs – but by how much?
- Large-scale landscapes have different functions and are managed differently than single-family residential landscapes. There are multiple stakeholders involved, like property owners, property managers, landscape and irrigation contractors, and the occupants/users of the landscapes.



**Exhibit A****Research Questions**

- How are utilities designing and implementing programs and services to either transform large-scale landscapes and/or optimize water use on large-scale landscapes?
- How effective are these programs, what drives differences across programs, and what factors might improve participation and water savings?
- How are these strategies achieving multiple benefits like offering pollinator habitat, mitigating urban heat, providing public education, stormwater capture, etc.?
- What resources are involved from both the agency and the participating customers including monetary expenses, time, and skilled contractors (irrigation and landscapers)?
- What ordinances, rules, or policies enable or enhance these programs? Conversely, what are the potential negative outcomes of such ordinances, rules, and policies on the programs.

**Expected Deliverables****Water Use Analysis and Evaluation Report:**

- Analyze water use impacts for a subset of irrigation optimization strategies across multiple utilities and climates.
- Analyze water use impacts for relatively similar large-scale landscape transformation programs across multiple utilities and climates.
- Market readiness assessment for large-scale landscape transformations.

**Guidance:**

- Demonstrate differences across program designs and what aspects may increase participation and water savings.
- Provide examples of complementary or enabling ordinances, service rules, policies, and technologies.

**Learning and Engagement Activities:**

**Tasks & Proposed Budget.** \$345,000 with data from 12-15 participating utilities. *Some tasks and overall project cost are scalable by the number of utilities that participate.*

Task	Description	Budget
1	<b>Discovery and Documentation.</b> Gather program information including rules and requirements, design features, funding sources, levels and partners, participation, communication/outreach materials, and any additional data that is available (e.g. aerial imagery, irrigation system information, etc.). We will also gather information about related program, services, ordinances, rules or policies that are in place to help enable efficient water use.	\$50,000
2	<b>Data Sharing, Transfer, and Clean-up.</b> Set up data-sharing agreements and systems. Data will be transferred, reviewed for completeness, and address any issues that will impact the analysis.	\$40,000
3	<b>Analyze Water Savings.</b> Estimate water savings from a select set of irrigation optimization programs and from landscape transformation programs across multiple utilities. We will analyze water use before and after the projects, both in the context of their local weather and regulations.	\$100,000
4	<b>Market Readiness Assessment.</b> Evaluate the willingness of property owners to implement large-scale transformations and what factors are important to them in	\$50,000

**Exhibit A**

	making these decisions. Information will be gathered from three groups: customers who have participated, customers who demonstrated interest but did not follow through, and customers who have not yet demonstrated interest.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Literature Review.</b> Gather and summarize literature on large-scale landscape and irrigation optimization programs, and any transferrable lessons from stormwater and green infrastructure programs. Efforts may include less formal documentation and white papers, and interviews, since there is little existing work in the formal published literature.	\$15,000
<b>6</b>	<b>Peer Learning Cohort Coordination.</b> Coordinate regular meetings among project participants to learn and share from each other.	\$5,000
<b>7</b>	<b>Report and Educational Event(s).</b> Create a report that captures all of the above, and host at least one educational event, like a recorded webinar or workshop.	\$25,000
	Project Management	\$35,000
	Contingency	\$25,000
	<b>Estimated Total</b>	<b>\$345,000</b>

**Benefits for Participating Agencies:**

- Utility Participants will have agency-specific evaluations of one or more programs, including analyses that can be used for internal and external planning, decision-making, promotions, and communications.
- Cost-effective means to get individualized technical analyses by coordinating with multiple utilities on single research effort.
- Improve the efficacy of your large-scale landscape and irrigation management programs given the climate specific to your region.
- Participate in peer learning discussions to share and learn from other agencies. Demonstrate leadership by contributing to recommendations and smart practices.
- Can serve on the PAC and better ensure your agency's perspective and issues are addressed.
- Resource to use to advocate for internal funding and/or apply for external grants.
- Early access to report findings.
- Professional development and networking.

**Funding and Participation.** The project and total cost are scalable by number of utility participants.

<b>Utility Participant – The Works*</b>	\$18,500	Provide comprehensive water and program data. Individualized data analysis and evaluation. Participate in PAC and Learning Cohort.
<b>Utility Participant - Limited*</b>	\$10,000	Provide data from a limited number of projects. Participate in PAC and Learning Cohort.
<b>Active Sponsors</b>	\$7,500	Participate in PAC and Learning Cohort. Qualitative program information. No data analysis.
<b>Research Supporters</b>	\$2,500	Interested in supporting project but have limited time for involvement.

\*Note: AWE applied for and was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Innovation Conservation Program. This grant will cover a portion of the costs for participation of 4-5 utilities from California. This research can also support work related to CA strategies related to dedicated irrigation meters and removal of "non-functional turf".

**Estimated Timeline:** Approximately 18 months from project kick-off. Project is expected to launch Summer 2023.



**INFORMATION ITEM**  
June 21, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Manager

**SUBJECT:** 2022-2023 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT – *HISTORIC RAIN, YET DROUGHT REMAINS*

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Staff recommends the Board of Directors receive report from staff and make recommendations as appropriate.

**REPORT**

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On June 9, 2023, the Orange County Grand Jury released the 2022-2023 report *Historic Rain, Yet Drought Remains*. This report presents information about the “current crisis in water planning, existing projects to increase the supply of non-potable water for irrigation, and storage issues.” The report also suggests a reliable source of potable water can be achieved through desalination of ocean water. As a result of their review the Grand Jury recommends “the creation of a *Climate Resiliency District* to lessen the County's dependence on State and regional water projects.”

The Orange County Grand Jury is a voluntary group of selected individuals to serve for one-year to review issues of their choice and provide findings and recommendations for governmental entities to review and consider. While numerous past Orange County Grand Jury reports<sup>1</sup> have dealt with the internal governance and organizational structure or the

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<sup>1</sup> The Groundwater Replenishment System - Providing Water for The Future. 2003-2004; Water Budgets, Not Water Rationing 2007-2008; "Paper Water" - Does Orange County Have A Reliable Future? 2008-2009; Orange County Water Sustainability: Who Cares? 2012-2013; Sustainable and Reliable Orange County Water Supply: Another Endangered Species? 2013-2014; Increasing Water Recycling: A Win-Win for Orange County 2014-2015; Water in Orange County Needs "One Voice." 2021-2022.

<b>Budgeted (Y/N):</b>	Budgeted amount: n/a	Core	
<b>Action item amount: n/a</b>	Line item:		
<b>Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):</b>			

need for conservation efforts, this report elaborates on the dependency on imported supplies.

The Grand Jury state the following twelve principal findings based on its investigation (F):

- F1 Future water supplies are impacted by climate change and current supplies will not meet future demands.
- F2 Climatologists predict future extended periods of low moisture with occasional wet years.
- F3 Climate change is inevitable and is exacerbated by human behavior.
- F4 South Orange County relies primarily on the importation of water.
- F5 Local water suppliers recognize that enhanced stormwater capture and storage, wastewater recycling, and infrastructure improvements will not be sufficient to address the long-term forecast of drought and its effects on supply.
- F6 There is significant water infrastructure planning, but inadequate implementation.
- F7 The review and approval process for major water capital projects is cumbersome and overly restrictive.
- F8 Failing to find solutions to water shortages will have a significant impact on the Orange County economy.
- F9 Continued development in Orange County creates additional water supply needs.
- F10 Conservation and efficient use of water is essential.
- F11 Increased outreach and public education are necessary.
- F12 Desalination has proven to be technologically and environmentally feasible and is slowly being embraced as a drought-resistant source of water.

Based on these findings, the Grand Jury concluded with four recommendations (R):

- R1 The County of Orange Board of Supervisors should take a leadership role by the end of calendar year 2023 to explore the establishment of a "Climate Resiliency District" or Joint Powers Authority to fund and expedite implementation of a drought-resistant source of water. F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F12
- R2 Orange County water agencies should expedite the planning, development, and construction of desalination plants over the next five years to insure a sustainable and reliable drought-resistant source of water. F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F11, F12

- R3 The County of Orange and all Orange County cities should formulate an emergency development moratorium plan in anticipation of the Colorado River water supply being constrained. The emergency moratorium plan should be developed by the end of calendar year 2023. F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
- R4 Orange County water agencies should update their public communication strategies, by calendar year end 2023, to inform the public of lifestyle changes if additional water sources are not developed. F10, F11, F12

According to California Penal Code Section 933, governing bodies of any public agency which the Grand Jury has reviewed, and about which it has issued a final report, are required to comment to the presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matter under the control of the governing body. **All comments shall be made no later than 90 days after the Grand Jury publishes its report.**

Thus, **MWDOC is required to respond by September 5, 2023,** to all the above findings as well as recommendations R2 and R4. In addition, it should be noted that other water agencies are also asked to respond to the Grand Jury's findings and select recommendations. The water agencies asked to respond are listed below.

With input and directions from the MWDOC Board, staff will start to develop our draft response to each finding and recommendation and return to the Board for review in August prior to submitting by the September 5 deadline.

This will also provide an opportunity for MWDOC agencies to review our responses as they prepare their own. Additionally, this item will be placed on the June 22 MWDOC Managers Meeting to both inform the MWDOC agencies of our timing and solicit their feedback on the findings and recommendations.

Agency	Required responses	
County of Orange Board of Supervisors	All findings F1-F12	R1, R3
Municipal Water District of Orange County	All findings F1-F12	R2, R4
Orange County Water District	All findings F1-F12	R2, R4
Irvine Ranch Water District	All findings F1-F12	R2, R4
Moulton Niguel Water District	All findings F1-F12	R2, R4
Santa Margarita Water District	All findings F1-F12	R2, R4
South Coast Water District	All findings F1-F12	R2, R4

Agency	Requested responses	
East Orange County Water District	All findings F1-F12	R2, R3, R4
El Toro Water District	All findings F1-F12	R2, R3, R4
City of Anaheim	All findings F1-F12	R2, R3, R4
City of Santa Ana	All findings F1-F12	R2, R3, R4
City of Fullerton	All findings F1-F12	R2, R3, R4
Emerald Bay Service District	All findings F1-F12	R2, R3, R4
Golden State Water Company	All findings F1-F12	R2, R4
Laguna Beach County Water District	All findings F1-F12	R2, R3, R4
Mesa Water District	All findings F1-F12	R2, R3, R4

Serrano Water District	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
Trabuco Canyon Water District	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
Yorba Linda Water District	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of San Juan Capistrano	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of San Clemente	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of Tustin	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of Fountain Valley	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of Westminster	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of La Habra	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of Brea	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of Buena Park	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of La Palma	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of Seal Beach	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of Huntington Beach	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of Garden Grove	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
City of Newport Beach	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>
Santa Ana Water Authority	Findings F1-F3, F5-12	<b>R2, R3</b>
Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA	All findings F1-F12	<b>R2, R3, R4</b>

Attachment: **2022-2023 Orange County Grand Jury Report – *HISTORIC RAIN, YET DROUGHT REMAINS* June 2023**



A WET WINTER IN THE WEST HASN'T  
CHANGED CALIFORNIA'S WATER  
CHALLENGES

# Historic Rain, Yet Drought Remains



County of Orange

Grand Jury 2022-2023

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# SUMMARY

The “atmospheric river” of winter 2022-23 in California, causing floods in the lowlands and record snowpack in the mountains, has many people assuming that the “drought is over.” *This assumption is far from the truth.* Drought conditions are here to stay. While Orange County dams and reservoirs are currently at full capacity and the Sierra snowpack is at its deepest level in many years, there has been limited impact on the Western Rockies, the Colorado River, Lake Powell, and Lake Mead from which Southern California draws a significant amount of its potable water supply.

For the purposes of this report, the Orange County Grand Jury differentiated between source and supply. The source of water is the ocean and the resultant precipitation. The supply of water is how precipitation is captured and delivered to consumers of water, including recycling and reuse of this water.

Climatologists, water experts, and water managers agree we must adapt to climate change because longer droughts and extreme weather patterns are inevitable, adding urgency towards finding new methods for obtaining additional water sources.

In Orange County, the lack of available water over the past few years has frequently been identified as a “Water Crisis”, yet the phrase has failed to capture the scope of how dire the situation is. Generally, people don’t think about having enough water because it has been reliably available their entire lives. Throughout the county, there are numerous innovative water projects under consideration or development, but they may not be timely enough to avoid people running short of water and having to conserve much more, ultimately leading to mandated rationing.

Approximately half of all water used in Southern California is imported from the Colorado River and from the California Aqueduct. This imported water is severely constrained and unreliable. With infrequent and unreliable amounts of precipitation supplying both the Northern California Water Project and the Colorado River, the situation is becoming more critical. Several South Orange County cities rely almost solely on these imports. Locally, significant efforts are being made to re-use wastewater. These efforts are limited by the amount of water available from everyday use and do not create a new water source.

North and Central Orange County are served by a well-managed supply of water in underground storage, but it cannot meet the needs of the entire County. South County is entirely dependent on imported water.

The State of California mandated local governments to provide more affordable housing and is also promoting higher density development. This does not recognize the limitations of the current water supply and its social and economic impacts. The State has failed to provide a supply of water to support these mandates.

Public awareness must be expanded to encourage better management of our water by expediting the process for planning and construction of new water sources such as desalination and prioritizing funding.

The Orange County Grand Jury recommends the creation of a “Climate Resiliency District” to lessen the County’s dependence on State and regional water projects. Just as Orange County supported Measure M and created the Orange County Transportation Authority to solve the county’s transportation crisis, the same bold leadership is needed to solve the county’s water crisis.

This report presents information about the current crisis in water planning, existing projects to increase the supply of non-potable water for irrigation, and storage issues. The report makes recommendations for a reliable source of potable water through desalination of ocean water.

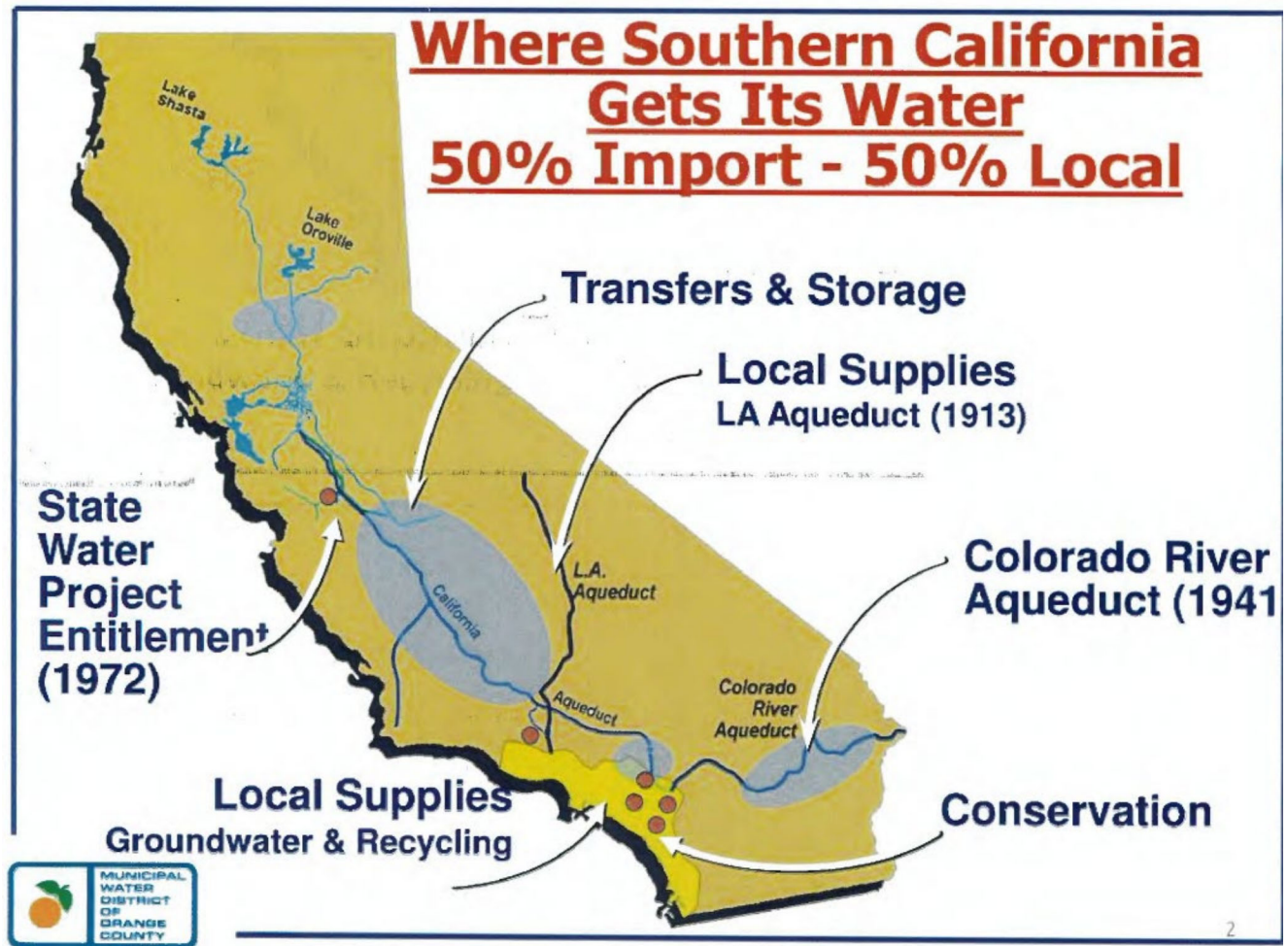
## BACKGROUND

Water is our most precious resource, but due to shifts in climatic weather patterns, the reliability of traditional water supplies is under intense pressure in Orange County. Many water business insiders are stating privately that these systemic events are now at a “crisis” stage, despite the recent precipitation.

To date, traditional water suppliers in Orange County have not addressed the implications of this systemic shift. They have maximized local resources by recycling, capturing flood water runoff, and finding new areas for storage. However, they have yet to fully develop a transformational drought-resistant water resource outside the status quo.

Numerous past Orange County Grand Jury reports<sup>1</sup> have dealt with the internal governance and organizational structure or the need for conservation efforts to maximize water utilization. This report elaborates on the dependency on outside water supplies such as the California Water Project and the Colorado River Basin that provide over 50% of our county’s local water supply. South Orange County lacks a bountiful aquifer that provides North and Central Orange County with 70% of its water supply.<sup>2</sup>

South Orange County depends on imported water for 90% of its needs. These imported water supplies are becoming less reliable, with annual reductions occurring in both the California Water Project and the Colorado River Basin creating major disruptions. Conservation measures have been put in place throughout Orange County to maximize existing supplies to help mitigate these concerns. This is simply inadequate to resolve the long-term supply issue. One of the ways to resolve this issue is desalination, a proven alternative that has not yet been fully implemented in Orange County.



## REASON FOR STUDY

The Western United States is experiencing a water crisis. The climate is changing, and our supply of water has diminished while our population has increased. This situation did not occur overnight and the efforts to mitigate the crisis have been slow and ineffective.

Existing water agencies in Orange County are not adequately structured or managed to implement the transformational strategies necessary to create a new source of potable water, specifically through desalination. It is possible that a merger of two or more agencies could pivot this new source, but they are already performing the functions for which they were created and it might be difficult to assimilate new functions. The Orange County Grand Jury recommends the creation of a new agency, a Climate Resiliency District, to develop and manage this drought-resistant resource.

Local water suppliers, including cities and special districts, are to be commended for attempting to meet the crisis within constraints. The Orange County Water District very

successfully manages the ground water basin serving North and Central Orange County. These efforts include actively pursuing water transfer and water banking agreements outside of Orange County. Local water suppliers need to expand their portfolio to meet demands. Additional capture of precipitation, supplying groundwater through infiltration, additional storage systems, development of ocean desalination, and recycling and reuse of water all need to be considered and improved and implemented.

The general public, the ultimate users of the water, need to continue their efforts to conserve water by installing low-flow toilets and showerheads, appliances that use less water, using recycled water for landscape irrigation, and eventually accepting the use of recycled water purified for drinking purposes. They also need to support and expedite the development of desalination plants to create a new source of water for the future. It will be necessary for the water suppliers to develop effective public awareness programs to help the public understand the need and desirability of this new paradigm.

## METHOD OF STUDY

The Orange County Grand Jury (OCGJ) took the following steps in investigating this issue:

- Identified and interviewed key personnel:
  - Persons or entities responsible for providing potable water to their Orange County constituents
  - Persons knowledgeable in projects to improve capture, reclamation, recycling, delivery, and infrastructure improvements
  - Persons involved in the planning and execution of providing new habitable dwellings
  - Persons who are reputable in the field of climatology – past, present, and future
- Reviewed information from the various water districts and interested parties including:
  - Orange County Water District (OCW)
  - Orange County Coast Keepers
  - California Department of Water Resources
  - Miscellaneous Water Districts
  - Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC)
  - Metropolitan Water District (MET)
- Reviewed numerous documents pertaining to this report (see bibliography for complete list)
- Members of the OCGJ toured the following facilities:
  - Municipal Water District of Orange County Headquarters
  - Orange County Water District Ground Water Recovery Facility
  - Metropolitan Water District
    - Headquarters

- F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and Quality Control Laboratory
- Pure Water Southern California Demonstration Plant in Carson

# INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSIS

## Climate

The current state of our climate is a prolonged drought. To survive, local sources of water need to be more resilient.

Throughout Earth's evolution, there have been and continue to be impacts on its climate. The continents have been drifting since there was a super continent, Pangea, 175 million years ago. The resulting different geographic locations have differing climate conditions which are still evolving. These "climate changes" have been extensively studied and documented by paleo-climatologists, and their data has been used to forecast what climate conditions will most probably be in the future.

***“The current state of our climate is a prolonged drought. To survive, local sources of water need to be more resilient. “***

Today's scientists and climatologists agree that Earth is changing due to evolutionary cycles and that climate warming is being acutely exacerbated and accelerated by the effects of human activities. Worldwide, glaciers are receding, sea levels are rising, and permafrost melting. Many global regions that were historically self-sufficient for potable water are now in periods of extended drought where precipitation is a declining resource. Orange County is directly affected by the resulting effects of climate change, evidenced by water reduction mandates and the various proposed means and methods to capture, recycle, and store more water.

This report acknowledges climate change and its effects on the people of Orange County. It examines whether the current proposed means and methods for securing more water are sufficient to sustain the projected growth in the county and support the green and vibrant lifestyle to which its inhabitants have become accustomed.

As evidenced over the past five decades, the durations and resulting expectations from the seasons in this geographic region of the U.S. (Western) have dramatically changed. Winters have seen declining periods of sustained precipitation, and summers are hotter, longer, and drier. This has directly affected the rivers, lakes, streams, dammed reservoirs above ground and aquifers below ground that rely on melted snow and rain for continued and reliable replenishment. Paleo-climatologists have validated the past

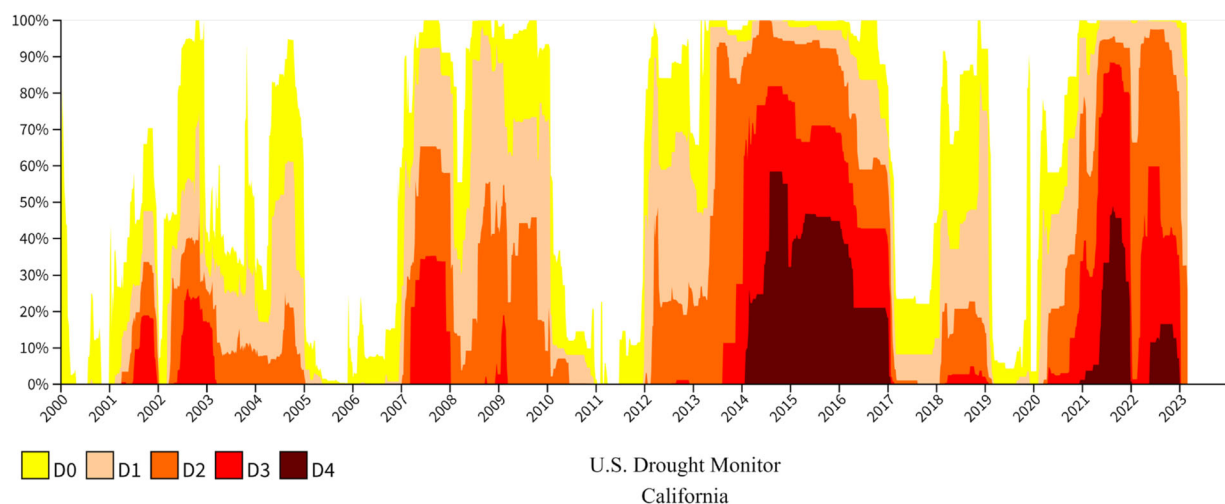


climate drought trends, and today's climatologists are predicting the same, punctuated by infrequent periods of precipitation, like the precipitation events of this past winter (2022-23). This all points to the current supplies of water not being dependable.

Key facts and predictions identified during interviews and the numerous climate articles reviewed are:

- The current Western United States drought is the longest in 1,200 years
- The drought is likely to continue for the next 100 years.
- The current Southern California climate is characterized as “drought” but this is likely to be interrupted by infrequent wet years.
- Human activities have affected the climate. The Southern California climate is expected to enter a cooler phase based upon long-term historic trends, rather than the current warming.
- Even if carbon emissions are suddenly decreased, the climate could take up to 100 years to adjust.

The following graph illustrates the current tendency of the climate. It shows five categories: Abnormally Dry (D0), showing areas that may be going into or are coming out of drought, and four levels of drought (D1–D4). The darker the color, the deeper the drought. It clearly shows increased and more frequent levels of drought for California.



Drought as the norm has reduced precipitation as a source of water and Orange County needs to respond to it by providing a more drought resilient supply of water.

## Water Demands

- In the past fifty years, California's population has nearly doubled. Water is needed, and expected, to sustain the current population in all aspects: quality of life, commerce, industry, agriculture, etc., and promote growth and development. However, current, and foreseeable circumstances regarding water availability

have severely impacted modern Californians' expected way of life. To preserve the status quo, water reduction mandates are used to facilitate further development.

- Some water agencies are paying farmers to not grow crops. They are transferring the farmer's water rights to the water agency to feed the thirst of metropolitan areas. Many projects to capture, transport, and store water have been proposed but not yet constructed due to various political and environmental obstructions. The projects that have been approved to capture, store, recycle, and transport more water will only succeed if there is enough water to do so. Precipitation is a declining source of water. Interviews with water experts, e.g., wholesalers, retailers, and suppliers have said that "we cannot conserve our way out of the drought" but they have yet to make Orange County self-sufficient.

## Overview of Water Suppliers and Agencies

The water supply for Orange County is primarily managed by three entities – Orange County Water District (OCWD), Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), and Metropolitan Water District (MET).

Consumers receive their water from 29 independent water districts and cities. The suppliers primarily receive water from either the groundwater basin managed by OCWD, directly from MET, or through MWDOC. The water agencies also have additional minor supplies of water, including treated surface waters and supplies obtained from agreements with other entities. Some of the water agencies provide treated wastewater for landscaping and industrial uses (recycling).

## Metropolitan Water District (MET) – (Water Wholesaler)

The Metropolitan Water District (MET) serves the water needs of Southern California by securing and transporting water. This includes overseeing the importation of water from the Colorado River Basin since 1941 and the State Water Project since 1971. MET is a wholesaler which sells and allocates this water to other water agencies, municipalities,<sup>3</sup> and counties from Ventura to San Diego. Orange County receives its purchased allocation through the Municipal Water District of Orange County. Recognizing the long-term effects of drought and reduced flows from the Colorado river and California Aqueduct, the MET has initiated major water conservation and recycling programs to make water management a priority. They have attempted to create storage capability and negotiate contracts with the agricultural entities within the Colorado basin to limit their water usage and acquire their allocations.

The long-term threat of climate change and historic droughts have challenged MET and they have failed to identify new supplies of water beyond their historic charter. The State Water Project is delivering only 10% of the historical allocation and the Colorado River supply allocation was reduced 25% in 2022.

Metropolitan Water District is in the water movement business and is not historically tasked with securing new sources of water. As the leading water agency in Southern California, MET has not taken on this responsibility. Their supply of water is dependent on precipitation. When the water allocation was reduced from the State Water Project, MET had to switch many of its customers to the Colorado River. However, numerous articles have documented that the lakes on the Colorado River (Mead and Powell) are at the lowest levels since they were built, and their future viability is at question due to a decade's long drought in the west.



The State Water Project<sup>4</sup> includes 700 miles of delivery canals (California Aqueduct) that serves 27 million people and irrigates 750,000 acres of farmland, which supplies fifty percent of the United States' produce. The project originated in 1960 and although it is well maintained, it has not been upgraded in years. The water for the State Water Project comes primarily from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. When forming its water strategies, Orange County needs to recognize that the State Water Project's reliability is in doubt due to its 53-year history of not being adequately maintained.

The Colorado River has been in the news due to the drought reducing its flow over the past twenty years. The agreements regarding the allocation of Colorado River water are set to expire in 2026 and are currently being renegotiated. Water levels at Lake Mead and Lake Powell have dropped significantly, and experts say it would take at least 10 years of above average precipitation to restore them. Orange County should simply not rely upon the Colorado River as a dependable supply, now or in the future.

Following numerous interviews and a thorough review of project documentation, the Grand Jury reached several conclusions regarding MET programs to replace dwindling



water supplies. Most notable is that the Carson wastewater reclamation project is years away from being completed and 20 years behind similar projects in Orange County. Overall, MET cannot be expected to significantly replace the reductions in water allocations from the Colorado River and the State Water Project within the next decade.

*“MET water will not be reliable for at least a decade and Orange County needs to consider developing other resources to make up for this lack of reliability.”*

### **Municipal Water District of Orange County (Water Wholesaler)**

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) is primarily a wholesale water provider and, to a lesser extent, a water resource development and planning agency for nearly 3.2 million Orange County residents, and businesses. MWDOC buys imported water from the California State Water Project in Northern California and the Colorado River through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. MWDOC has four representative seats on the Metropolitan Water District (MET) Board. Through its member agencies, MWDOC covers all of Orange County except the Cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana.

Orange County must import water due to limited local water supplies. Central and North County import approximately 30% of their water to supplement its existing supply. However, South County is highly reliant on the Municipal Water District, as South County water districts must import 90% of their water supply from outside of Orange County.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County is extremely important as a wholesaler or broker to the retail water districts in Orange County and as a representative of Orange County’s interest on the Metropolitan Water District Board.

MWDOC has completed a comprehensive study of Orange County’s water reliability needs that could serve to achieve a climate resilient water supply. The study covers MET system reliability and Orange County projects including desalination projects, water shed projects, and water banking projects. The study also identifies the crisis Orange County is facing – by 2030, eight out of every ten years can be expected to be in drought. However, the study is devoid of information about financing and implementation, and its conclusions rely too much on MET efforts that are decades behind where they should be.

Based upon this study and MWDOC’s countywide area of responsibility, MWDOC could conceivably lead Orange County’s efforts to plan, finance, and implement water source and supply projects.

MWDOC serves no other purpose than to distribute water and has not attempted to expand its supply of water beyond its engagement with the MET. Previous Orange

County Grand Juries have recommended that the MWOC and OCWD merge for a more efficient and streamlined approach towards water management.

## Orange County Water District (Water Wholesaler)

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) provides water to 2.5 million residents in North and Central Orange County. The District effectively manages the Orange County groundwater basin that provides approximately 77% of water used in the region. It supplies the 19 cities and retail water agencies in Central and North Orange County with potable water. As the sole adjudicator of Orange County's ground water basin, the agency plays a vital role in assuring the aquifer is effectively managed.

The Orange County Water District has been a true innovator in water management and operates the world's largest water purification replenishment system for indirect potable water use. Over 130 million gallons per day are recycled into the Orange County aquifer, thus replenishing this vital resource. It has exhausted the wastewater supply available for recycling through its comprehensive efforts.

The management of Orange County's underground reservoir has been exceptional. OCWD has also implemented a regional groundwater banking program to assure long-term reliability and increasing stormwater capture behind Prado Dam where water eventually gets released and recharged into the Orange County aquifer, thus becoming part of the local water supply.

Despite its absolute success at recycling, the Orange County Water District must still import 23% of its water brokered by the Municipal Water District of Orange County through the Metropolitan Water District. The local Orange County ground water basin is simply not large enough to meet demand.

## Water Retailers

The **Irvine Ranch Water District** serves a large Orange County populace of 600,000, primarily in the Cities of Irvine, Lake Forest, parts of the Cities of Orange, Costa Mesa, Tustin, and Newport Beach. IRWD provides water as well as reliable sewage collection and treatment. The combination of being a water retailer combined with managing sewage treatment has allowed IRWD to implement groundbreaking recycling water programs for non-potable use and innovative urban runoff programs. The district relies partially on the Orange County basin for its water supply, but also is dependent on 20% of imported water from the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

As an innovator, the IRWD secured rights to the Kern water basin for water storage. This storage reduces its reliance on Metropolitan Water District and provides access to a potential supply of water in an emergency. Through conservation and water efficiency programs, IRWD has reduced overall water consumption year over year allowing development to continue to move forward unabated within the jurisdiction it serves. However, growth in community development exposes IRWD to shortages as its allocation of imported water is determined by Municipal Water District of Orange County.

The **Moulton Niguel Water District** serves 170,000 residents in South Orange County, and is highly dependent on imported water from the Municipal Water District of Orange County (in excess of 90% of its potable water). Therefore, the District has made a major effort to drive efficiency and conservation efforts, which have been successful in reducing water utilization and continue to allow local development. Negotiations are underway with local sanitation districts to attempt to initiate recycling programs for the betterment of the community. The collaboration with South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) has been less than cooperative thereby impeding recycling efforts. Should the Municipal Water District of Orange County fail to deliver the required water, Moulton Niguel Water District is highly vulnerable to supply disruption.

The **Rancho Santa Margarita Water District** (RSMWD) imports 100% of its potable water from the Municipal Water District of Orange County and services over 200,000 residents in south Orange County, primarily the eastern portion of Orange County from Mission Viejo to San Clemente. As a result, the District has committed to developing local reliable drinking water supplies. RSMWD constantly monitors opportunities to enhance its water portfolio. The current major effort is the San Juan Watershed project that will capture local stormwater runoff as well as directing recycled water to recharge the local underground aquifer.

Conservation water efficiency efforts have also played a major role to minimize water usage. Within RSMWD's service area, there are major communities being planned. The planned communities under development, Los Flores and the Ranch, will add 15,000 homes or approximately 60,000 additional residents to the District's customer base. With this development the water demand will increase and therefore will increase the need to import water. Should Municipal Water District of Orange County fail to deliver required water, RSMWD is highly vulnerable to supply disruption.

The **South Coast Water District** (SCWD), like other south Orange County water districts, is highly dependent on imported water from the MWDOC. SCWD serves 35,000 residents and 2 million visitors a year. SCWD relies on 90% of its potable water being supplied by the MWDOC. SCWD is to be applauded in its attempt to expand its efforts to decrease its dependence on imported water. Recently, SCWD was granted approval to proceed with an ocean desalination plant of 5 million gallons of water a day. The plant is to be built within the next five years. SCWD is working to maximize recycling efforts to minimize reliance on imported water. Major conservation and water efficiency programs have been implemented locally. Until the desalination plant comes online, and should MWDOC fail to deliver required water, SCWD is highly vulnerable to supply disruption.

*Until the desalination plant comes online, and should MWDOC fail to deliver required water, SCWD is highly vulnerable to supply disruption.*

**Other Orange County Water Suppliers.** Water wholesalers in Orange County work with local water retailers to provide water to their residents. The Orange County local retailers include 29 cities and local water districts.

Most of the cities and water agencies have implemented programs to minimize water utilization to become more efficient. They are to be applauded for their efforts.

South Orange County retailers Moulton Niguel Water District, Rancho Santa Margarita Water District, and South Coast Water District are highly dependent on the importation of water, in excess of 90% of total local demand.

Irvine Ranch Water District is included because of the unique characteristics that were identified during the course of this investigation. Specifically, the Grand Jury noted its creativity in securing potential sources of water coupled with the continued development of the Irvine Ranch and water required to serve new residents.

South Orange County retailers are highly dependent on the importation of water for more than 90% of local demand. The Grand Jury's investigatory efforts have included a focus on this dependency.

## State of California Managed Supplies

The State of California is responsible for operating the State Water Project, planning and implementation of statewide projects for water supply, State bond financing for projects, and management of federal and State funding programs. These have been insufficient to address the threats to Orange County water supply.

Water management in California is very complex. There are numerous constituents placing a huge demand on water resources: agriculture, urban centers, industry, business, developers, tourism, and residents. This pressure coupled with an antiquated water structure with hundreds of water wholesalers and retailers makes a challenging dynamic.

Environmental pressure exacerbates the challenge. The State's lack of long-term solutions to California's water needs is not new. No new reservoirs have been built since the 1970's when the population was 20 million people. 50 years later, California's population has almost doubled to 39 million. For years, the State has studied proposals to secure additional supplies of water by moving water from the Sacramento delta to Southern California through the California Water Project, with no discernable results. The project is needed to protect the existing water supply and secure additional water but has been bogged down by debate about approach and environmental review.

*No new reservoirs have been built since 1970 when the population was approximately 20 million, yet California's population has almost doubled to 39 million.*

In 2014, a bond initiative was passed to provide \$7.3 billion in funding for 10 new reservoirs and other water related projects, yet the reservoirs have not been completed. The recent rains that swept California this winter resulted in billions of gallons of water flowing out to sea.<sup>5</sup> The California Natural Resources Agency maintains a web page that shows the progress of the bond issue.<sup>6</sup> The web page shows most of the funds have been committed but lacks information regarding what has been accomplished.

In terms of planning, in August 2022, the California Environmental Protection Agency issued a major report entitled “California Water Supply Strategy – Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future, California Agencies.”<sup>7</sup> But the strategy does not detail schedules or actions or assign resources or funding. In the report, the Newsom administration points out that in order to deliver the pace and scale of projects necessary to meet California’s water crisis, the State’s regulatory structures must be modernized so that “State agencies can assess, permit, fund and implement projects at the pace this climate emergency warrants.” The report does not describe how Newsom’s directive is to be understood or executed. Other relevant State reports touching upon State water resources include those on climate change, water supply assessment, and an analysis of recent droughts. While all these reports help identify problems, they provide few and limited actionable recommendations.

The California State Water Control Board is the State’s key water agency, yet its focus on water supply is not clear. Other State agencies that have water oversight include: the Department of California Water Resources, the California Water Commission, and the National Resources Agency, and State Conservancies, such as the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy that are involved in water grants and planning. The State environmental and river basin authorities also complicate planning and actions. There seems to be no coordinated focus on water supply.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin levees are very important to the State Water Project. They protect the integrity of the system. For decades, the levees have been identified as needing bolstering, yet this has not been done. If the levees fail or are breached there will be an influx of brackish water from the San Joaquin Delta that will contaminate the fresh water in the Project, making it unusable. The recent rains have focused the need for action, yet nothing is likely to be done anytime soon. As an example, the need to capture and store rainwater in aquifers has been recognized for decades, yet the recent rainfalls show little has been done.

Recently, the State initiated the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). This is a joint powers authority formed to help ensure water supply reliability for the State Water Project and to adapt to forecasts of future changes in precipitation and seasonal flow patterns due



to climate change. An important part of the DCP is a proposed tunnel under the Delta. The concept for the project originated in the 1970s and subsequent versions included the Trans-Delta System, Peripheral Canal, Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the California Water Fix (a dual tunnel). The Delta Conveyance Project faces strong opposition from environmentalists. The prospect of the project being completed in a timely manner, if at all, is doubtful.

Governor Newsom himself noted the difficulty of getting water projects going in his statement at an August 2022 news conference: “The time to get these damn projects is ridiculous,” Newsom said. “It’s absurd. It’s reasonably comedic. In so many ways, the world we invented from an environmental perspective is now getting in the way of moving these projects forward.”<sup>8</sup> Projects take decades to accomplish, if they are completed at all. The State cannot be relied upon for consistent water delivery in wet or dry years.

Water management in California can best be summed up as always studied but never resolved. The impacts of this paralysis mean that Orange County cannot currently rely on the State to identify or secure a new source or supplies of water.

## **Federal Intervention**

California may have to reduce its reliance on Colorado river water under a proposal by the U.S. Department of the Interior, unveiled on April 11, 2023, that upends the longstanding system of water rights. The Department proposed two methods for reducing water usage by as much as 25% in 2024. The seven states utilizing the Colorado river have been negotiating with each other since August 2022 to make voluntary cuts. To date no agreement has been reached.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, warned that it would impose large cuts if the states relying on the river did not come up with a plan by January 31, 2023. The states failed to do so. Although California has experienced an unusually wet winter, this has not changed the Colorado River’s longstanding challenges amid a much drier climate.

The rationing of water from the Colorado River basin appears inevitable at the time of this report, disrupting the long-tenured stability of Southern California’s imported water supply. It reinforces the idea that the time to act for securing a new source of water for Orange County is now.

## **Water Justice**

As the demand for water increases, not only to sustain the status quo but also for development, equal access to water must also be addressed. What regions will be entitled to preserve their way of life and what regions will have to compromise?

The cost of obtaining and distributing water is equally important to water justice. The projects required to ensure a reliable water supply are costly and, if delegated to the ratepayers, may have a significant impact on lower income households. Traditionally,

major water projects have been financed through state and federal governments or through special tax assessments. This is an easier burden on lower income groups than strictly through rate structures. Orange County should develop a funding strategy for water projects that is acceptable to rate-payers and does not overly burden lower income groups.

*Orange County should develop a funding strategy for water projects that is acceptable to rate-payers and does not overly burden lower income groups.*

### **Actions to Secure and Strengthen Supply**

Numerous initiatives and projects have been planned to improve and strengthen the existing supply systems:

- 1) water banking,
- 2) purchasing water rights,
- 3) recycling water,
- 4) reuse of water for potable purposes,
- 5) aquifer management,
- 6) utilization of other supplies, and
- 7) water efficiency.

However, these projects are years behind schedule and taking an extraordinarily long time to complete. These initiatives are important to point out as efforts, but it must be noted that by themselves, they are not solutions to Orange County's water reliability. The Grand Jury's evaluation of these efforts is included in Appendix A "Local Agency Action to Secure Water Supply."

The efforts to diversify the water portfolio and make the existing supply more resilient are commendable, but a new source is also needed.

### **Effective Management of Initiatives**

Orange County needs an entity to champion and lead the efforts to develop a water source that will enhance the reliability of existing water supplies. Orange County water suppliers have completed and are engaged in several projects to improve the resilience of our water supply, but efforts for the whole County have been limited. A countywide effort to develop a drought-resistant source of water is necessary due to climate change.

Effective countywide management of water resources would alleviate the jurisdictional issues that have hampered the development of recycled water in South County including shared use of the aquifer for all of Orange County. A Climate Resiliency District could serve this purpose.



A Climate Resiliency District is authorized by the Climate Resilience District Act, codified in California Government Code Sections 62300-62312. Section 62301 describes the legislative intent of the Act:

*It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this division to provide the ability for local governments to create districts for the purpose of addressing climate change effects and impacts through activities and actions that include mitigation and adaptation, as necessary and appropriate, to achieve all of the following:*

*(a) Providing a sustained and certain level and source of funding at the local level.*

*(b) Allowing activities and actions on an appropriate geographic basis.*

*(c) Facilitating the receipt and use of federal, state, local, and private funds.*

The purpose of the Climate Resiliency District would be to promote a project that addresses drought, including multiuse land repurposing, groundwater replenishment, groundwater storage, or conjunctive use.<sup>9</sup> It is envisioned that a Climate Resiliency District would be capable of planning and financing water source projects such as desalination that are beyond the means of existing Orange County water agencies.

There were concerns about a Climate Resiliency District expressed by some water district leaders interviewed by the Grand Jury. They stated that a Climate Resiliency District might be another level of bureaucracy that could impede the pursuit and development of their own projects. However, these concerns would carry more weight if planned projects were actually being implemented.

Alternative structural entities could be a joint powers authority (JPA) created for this purpose, either spearheaded by Orange County Water District (OCWD) or Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), or a collaborative effort between both.

The Joint Exercise of Powers Act, codified in California Government Code Section 6500 et seq., authorizes two or more public agencies, by agreement, to exercise any power common to the agencies to provide more effective or efficient government services or to solve a service delivery problem. A JPA could plan, finance, and implement water source and water supply projects. Similarly, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) was created in 1991 to fund, plan, and implement transit and capital projects. OCTA has been successful in solving some of Orange County's transportation needs. A JPA focused on Orange County's water needs could similarly succeed.

Forming a JPA to comprehensively address all of Orange County's water needs would ultimately require the cooperation of 29 entities including special water districts and cities that supply water. The political effort required for this cooperation would be significant and would require a new approach towards such collaboration.

Either separately or cooperatively, OCWD or MWDOC could take the lead for the planning, financing, and implementing of water source and supply projects to the benefit

for all of Orange County. Unifying the water districts is also a possibility, as previously reported by the 2021-2022 Grand Jury.<sup>10</sup>

Through its member agencies, MWDOC covers all of Orange County except the Cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana. MWDOC has completed a comprehensive study of Orange County's water reliability needs that could serve as means to achieve a climate resilient water supply.<sup>11</sup> The study covers MET system reliability and Orange County projects including desalination projects, watershed projects, and water banking projects. The study clearly identifies that Orange County is facing a water crisis, and forewarns that by the year 2030, eight out of every ten years can be expected to be dry. Based upon this study and MWDOC's countywide charter, MWDOC could accept responsibility to lead Orange County's efforts to plan, finance, and implement water source and supply projects. However, the study would need to be updated, as it is totally devoid of financing and implementation data, and it relies too much on MET efforts that are decades behind where they should be.

Orange County needs a champion to lead the efforts to develop a water source and to enhance the reliability of existing water supplies. OCWD and MWDOC have planned but failed to implement a solution, and a joint powers authority requires a level of political cooperation that may not be possible with 29 separate water agencies. Therefore, the County of Orange should initiate the Climate Resiliency District to plan, finance, and implement water supply projects to meet future conditions and needs.

*Orange County needs a champion to lead the efforts to develop a water source and to enhance the reliability of existing water supplies*

## Public Awareness of the Need for Action



Public awareness of the consequences of current and future climate change is important as a catalyst for adapting to the change. In the past several months, there have been numerous newspaper and magazine articles on water concerns in California and the Western United States. There have also been at least two television documentaries. Many local water agencies have included fact sheets and other information on their web pages and in monthly statements warning of the water “crisis”. These messages have resulted in increased public awareness but more needs to be done. Public education to promote projects to address the crisis is a must.

As a result of increased public awareness, water agencies have noticed a decrease in per-capita water usage. The public is using water more efficiently. However, several Grand Jury interviewees noted that we cannot conserve our way out of the drought. Solving Orange County’s future water shortfall through conservation alone would require drastic changes in water usage and would likely meet strong public resistance. Additional efforts are needed to inform the public of potential lifestyle changes if additional water sources and supplies are not developed.





Some water agencies in Orange County have conducted public campaigns to make the public aware of the need to increase rates. The rate increases are for projects to increase the water supply and source resiliency of the agency. South Coast Water District's outreach to its customers has been most notable and enabled the District to proceed with community support for the Doheny Desalination Project.

The public needs to be galvanized to move forward. The Grand Jury recommends that the County Board of Supervisors lead a countywide campaign to mobilize the public in support of new water sources that will make the supply systems more efficient and resilient.

### **Effect on Local Economy**

If no new sustainable source of potable water is developed there will be an adverse impact on Orange County. While North Orange County has an underground aquifer with a substantial amount of water, South County is almost entirely dependent upon external supplies. Major strides have been made in recycling water for industrial and landscaping purposes, but there is still a shortage of potable water with the only current source of "new" water being the Doheny Desalination plant, which will take years to complete and probably not begin operations until 2028. Capital costs of building a desalination plant are generally beyond the capability of a single water district.

Water supplies collected through precipitation are the most economical but the most unreliable. There are insufficient storage facilities in Orange County for capturing precipitation and there are no aquifers in South County.

The State of California has mandated that municipalities create new housing opportunities, particularly low-income housing. Developers are required to install water saving features such as low-flow toilets and showers, water-saving washing machines and drought-resistant landscaping, all of which increase the cost of building. These features do not offset the effects of the drought, and experts predict an eventual shortage of water would result in a moratorium on development.

Businesses and industries such as retailers, manufacturers, and theme parks rely on clean and dependable water. If they cannot depend on the local suppliers their enterprises are at risk. Homeowners, as ratepayers, are likely to see increases in their water bills due to increased costs of purchased water by the wholesalers and retailers.

Severe drought, causing major reductions in river flow, has an adverse effect on hydroelectric plants resulting in shortages of power to the grid. Developing an alternative source of water (desalination) reduces the reliance on this supply for consumption, thus making more available for power generation.

*... experts predict an eventual shortage of water would result in a moratorium on development.*

## Drinking Water Obtained from the Sea

South Orange County imports 90% of its drinking water, with most of it currently coming from the Colorado River. The allotment of water from the river is at serious risk and will likely be significantly reduced. In recent years, not enough precipitation has fallen to meet Orange County's drinkable water needs, and there is no way to make it rain or snow.

Seawater can be made into fresh potable water in a process called desalination, one of the solutions being considered to resolve this looming crisis. However, the Grand Jury determined that desalination is not being implemented fast enough. Although ocean desalination currently requires an initial capital investment and high operating costs and raises environmental challenges, critics acknowledge it would make a significant contribution to Orange County's water portfolio.<sup>12</sup>

Desalination is being used increasingly around the world to provide people with needed freshwater.<sup>13</sup> According to the International Desalination Association, more than 300 million people around the globe receive their water from desalination plants.<sup>14</sup>

Multiple desalination plants are under consideration in California, with only a few in operation. The Carlsbad Desalination Plant, near San Diego, provides approximately ten percent of the freshwater used in the region, and Santa Barbara is currently

upgrading an older plant. Recently, two new seawater plants have received approval to begin construction: one on the Monterey Peninsula, and the Doheny Plant in Dana Point. Orange County must consider the benefits of a high-capacity facility as a means towards self-sufficiency.

Current challenges to desalination include planning, construction costs, impact on marine life from saltwater intake, high energy demands, operating complexities, difficulty of cycling plants on and off, and disposal of concentrated salt brine.

Desalination challenges are mitigated by creating economies of scale with high volume production and careful planning, selecting suitable locations, and technological improvements. For example, the Carlsbad plant produces 50 million gallons per day or more than 56,000 acre feet (AF) per year. The plant started operation in 2015 and reports that it produces water for ½ cent per gallon, or \$1600 per AF, in large part due to its high volume.<sup>15</sup> For comparison, the MWDOC published rate as of January 1, 2023, is \$1,209 per acre foot.<sup>16</sup> If Orange County were to establish a similar facility, it would offset the need for imported water and allow imported water to be redirected to other Southern California communities relying on importation, such as Inland Empire.

The length of time to plan, obtain permits, and construct a desalination plant can take decades. A proposed plant at Huntington Beach was in planning and permitting for over twenty years and ultimately was not approved. South Coast Water District began the initial steps for the Doheny Plant at Dana Point in 2016 and it is expected to be in operation by 2028.

Unless the State of California initiates methods for expediting the planning and approval processes, it can take at least as long as these two projects for any new ocean desalination plants. The State has shown it can accelerate the approval process as evidenced by the approval of SoFi Stadium<sup>17</sup> in record time by enacting legislation that expedited the permit and environmental requirements without compromise.

It is well known that desalination has an impact on the environment, and we are fortunate to live in a state where protecting the environment is important. Engineers and water experts are researching how to integrate more renewable energy into the next generation of plants. The environmental impacts and costs of desalination should be compared against the full environmental impacts and costs of importing water from 700 miles away, not just wholesale rate costs as is usually done.

Orange County cannot continue to rely on imported water, nor can it ignore the fact that there is an immediate need to take advantage of the ocean as a drought-resistant source of water. According to the Grand Jury's research and interviews, the environmental concerns, surrounding intake and outflow of saltwater, and high electricity demand are being met as evidenced by the Doheny approval, therefore allowing desalination plants to operate. Orange County should embrace desalination as a major part of an overall local plan, not just a last resort.



# COMMENDATIONS

South Coast Water District is to be commended for its strategic foresight. The District has recently gained approval for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project for which they initiated feasibility studies in 2008. The plant is now anticipated to be operational in 2028. The Doheny Ocean Desalination Project is a new, reliable, local, and drought-proof water supply. The Doheny Ocean Desalination Project is the first desalination project in the State of California to be fully compliant with the California Ocean Plan.<sup>18</sup>

Orange County Water District successfully manages the aquifer under Central and North Orange County for the benefit of multiple water suppliers. It has also built the Groundwater Recovery System (GWRS) to treat wastewater to potable levels for supplementing the aquifer. Recently, it expanded and commissioned the GWRS. The Orange County Grand Jury commends OCWD for its work.

The water suppliers for Orange County have undertaken numerous initiatives to increase the resiliency of their water supplies. The Orange County Grand Jury commends these suppliers for their efforts and encourages them to continue pursuing expanded opportunities.

The Orange County public has significantly reduced the per-capita water usage through conservation efforts. This is important to maximizing the water supply. The Orange County Grand Jury commends the public for these efforts.

The Orange County Grand Jury commends the leadership of MWDOC and OCWD for their continued negotiations regarding merger.

The Orange County Grand Jury commends the Southern California news media for their continued efforts in reporting on the critical nature of our water supply.

# FINDINGS

In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the 2022-2023 Grand Jury requires (or, as noted, requests) responses from each agency affected by the findings presented in this section. The responses are to be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Based on its investigation titled “**Historic Rain, Yet Drought Remains**,” the 2022-2023 Orange County Grand Jury has arrived at the 12 principal findings, as follows:

- F1** Future water supplies are impacted by climate change and current supplies will not meet future demands.
- F2** Climatologists predict future extended periods of low moisture with occasional wet years.
- F3** Climate change is inevitable and is exacerbated by human behavior.



- F4 South Orange County relies primarily on the importation of water.
- F5 Local water suppliers recognize that enhanced stormwater capture and storage, wastewater recycling, and infrastructure improvements will not be sufficient to address the long-term forecast of drought and its effects on supply.
- F6 There is significant water infrastructure planning, but inadequate implementation.
- F7 The review and approval process for major water capital projects is cumbersome and overly restrictive.
- F8 Failing to find solutions to water shortages will have a significant impact on the Orange County economy.
- F9 Continued development in Orange County creates additional water supply needs.
- F10 Conservation and efficient use of water is essential.
- F11 Increased outreach and public education are necessary.
- F12 Desalination has proven to be technologically and environmentally feasible and is slowly being embraced as a drought-resistant source of water.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In accordance with California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the 2022-2023 Grand Jury requires (or as noted, requests) responses from each agency affected by recommendations presented in this section. The responses are to be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Based on its investigation titled “**Historic Rain, Yet Drought Remains**,” makes the following four recommendations:

- R1 The County of Orange Board of Supervisors should take a leadership role by the end of calendar year 2023 to explore the establishment of a “Climate Resiliency District” or Joint Powers Authority to fund and expedite implementation of a drought-resistant source of water. F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F12
- R2 Orange County water agencies should expedite the planning, development, and construction of desalination plants over the next five years to insure a sustainable and reliable drought-resistant source of water. F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F11, F12
- R3 The County of Orange and all Orange County cities should formulate an emergency development moratorium plan in anticipation of the Colorado River water supply being constrained. The emergency moratorium plan should be developed by the end of calendar year 2023. F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12

- R4** Orange County water agencies should update their public communication strategies, by calendar year end 2023, to inform the public of lifestyle changes if additional water sources are not developed. F10, F11, F12

## REQUIRED RESPONSES

### Findings – 90 Day Response Required

County of Orange Board of Supervisors	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Municipal Water District of Orange County	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Orange County Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Irvine Ranch Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Moulton Niguel Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Santa Margarita Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
South Coast Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12

### Recommendations – 90 Day Response Required

County of Orange Board of Supervisors	R1, R3
Municipal Water District of Orange County	R2, R4
Orange County Water District	R2, R4
Irvine Ranch Water District	R2, R4
Moulton Niguel Water District	R2, R4
Santa Margarita Water District	R2, R4

## Recommendations – 90 Day Response Required

South Coast Water District

R2, R4

# REQUESTED RESPONSES

## Findings – 90 Day Response Requested

East Orange County Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
El Toro Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of Anaheim	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of Santa Ana	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of Fullerton	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Emerald Bay Service District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Golden State Water Company	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Laguna Beach County Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Mesa Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Serrano Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Trabuco Canyon Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Yorba Linda Water District	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of San Juan Capistrano	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of San Clemente	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of Tustin	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of Fountain Valley	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12

## Findings – 90 Day Response Requested

City of Westminster	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of La Habra	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of Brea	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of Buena Park	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of La Palma	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of Seal Beach	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of Huntington Beach	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of Garden Grove	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
City of Newport Beach	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Santa Ana Water Shed Project Authority	F1, F2, F3, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12

## Recommendations – 90 Day Response Requested

East Orange County Water District	R2, R3, R4
El Toro Water District	R2, R3, R4
City of Anaheim	R2, R3, R4
City of Santa Ana	R2, R3, R4
City of Fullerton	R2, R3, R4

## Recommendations – 90 Day Response Requested

Emerald Bay Service District	R2, R3, R4
Golden State Water Company	R2, R4
Laguna Beach County Water District	R2, R3, R4
Mesa Water District	R2, R3, R4
Serrano Water District	R2, R3, R4
Trabuco Canyon Water District	R2, R3, R4
Yorba Linda Water District	R2, R3, R4
City of San Juan Capistrano	R2, R3, R4
City of San Clemente	R2, R3, R4
City of Tustin	R2, R3, R4
City of Fountain Valley	R2, R3, R4
City of Westminster	R2, R3, R4
City of La Habra	R2, R3, R4
City of Brea	R2, R3, R4
City of Buena Park	R2, R3, R4
City of La Palma	R2, R3, R4
City of Seal Beach	R2, R3, R4
City of Huntington Beach	R2, R3, R4
City of Garden Grove	R2, R3, R4
City of Newport Beach	R2, R3, R4
Santa Ana Water Shed Project Authority	R2, R3

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## Recommendations – 90 Day Response Requested

Metropolitan Water District of  
Southern California

R2, R3, R4

# GLOSSARY

## **Acre-feet**

The unit of volume typically used to describe the quantity of water stored in large reservoirs and aquifers and delivered through large conveyance systems for irrigation use and for treating for public use. An acre-foot is one surface acre that is one foot deep and is equal to 325,851 gallons.

## **Aquifer**

An underground layer or body of permeable rock, sediment, or soil that can store and yields water. Orange County has a large aquifer underlying North and Central County.

## **California State Water Project (CSWP)**

A multi-purpose water storage and delivery system that extends more than 705 miles and includes a collection of canals, pipelines, and reservoirs to deliver water to 27 million Californians, 750,000 acres of farmland, and businesses throughout the state.

## **Conjunctive Use**

Using surface water in wet years and storing as groundwater for use in dry years. Surface water is injected directly into aquifers and wells to be used as needed as part of groundwater banking or is stocked in ponds or basins and then allowed to percolate naturally into aquifers.

## **Desalination**

The process of removing salt from brackish water or seawater. For the purposes of this report, desalination is used primarily in terms of sea or ocean water.

## **Direct Potable Water Reuse**

The process by which recycled wastewater is treated to a high degree suitable for potable use and placed directly into potable distribution systems. California has recently created regulations for direct potable water reuse.

## **Drought**

A prolonged period of low or no rainfall that causes water scarcity and affects ecosystems, agriculture, and human health.



### **Gray Water**

Wastewater from bathtubs, shower drains, sinks, washing machines and dishwashers; however, some plumbing codes exclude water from sink and dishwasher as being classified as gray water.

### **Ground Water Recovery System (GWRS)**

Operated by Orange County Water District, the system takes highly treated wastewater that would have previously been discharged into the Pacific Ocean and purifies it to potable standards.

### **Potable Water Reuse Indirect**

Treatment of water such as recycled wastewater, to a high degree suitable for potable purposes and uses an environmental buffer, such as a lake, river, or a groundwater aquifer, before the water is treated again and utilized as potable water. This process is used by Orange County Water District at GWRS to treat water and replenish the aquifer under North and Central Orange County.

### **Recycled Water**

Water reuse (also commonly known as water recycling or water reclamation) reclaims water from a variety of sources then treats and reuses it for beneficial purposes such as agriculture and irrigation, potable water supplies, groundwater replenishment, industrial processes, and environmental restoration. For the purposes of this report, recycled water comes primarily from highly treated wastewater.

### **Reverse Osmosis**

A process of producing pure water by forcing it through a semipermeable membrane that only allows water to pass. It is the primary method for large scale desalination and is also used as one of the final treatment steps for producing potable water from wastewater.

### **Sustainability**

The long-term viability of a community or practice.

### **Urban Runoff**

As commonly referred to in Orange County, surface runoff during dry weather of landscape irrigation, and car washing created by urbanization. It can also refer to the stormwater runoff over impervious surfaces (roads, parking lots and sidewalks). The concern with urban runoff is possible contamination of surface and groundwater.

## **Water Banking**

The practice of forgoing water deliveries during certain periods, and “banking” either the right to use the water in the future or saving it for someone else to use in exchange for a fee or delivery in kind. Typically, in Southern California, it is stored in aquifers.

## **Water Source**

As used in this report, a water source is defined as the ocean or precipitation.

## **Water Suppliers**

As used in this report, water suppliers include water districts and cities that provide water to the public.

## **Water Supply**

As used in this report, water supply includes water derived from a water source and that is stored, conveyed, and utilized by the public.

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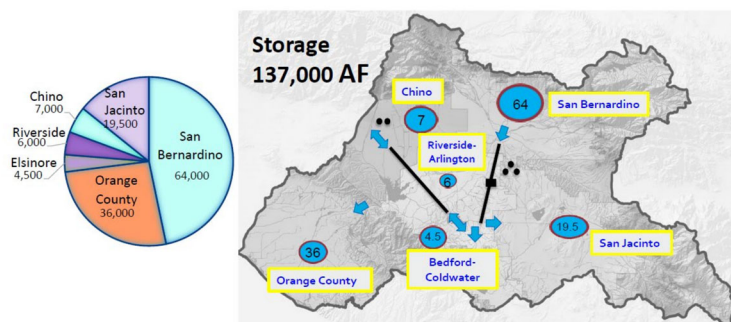
# APPENDIX A: ACTIONS BY LOCAL AGENCIES TO SECURE SUPPLY

## Water Banking:

Water banking may help with droughts but is only a part of the solution and it has yet to prove itself.

Water banking is being pursued Metropolitan Water District and various water suppliers. Simply put, water banking is a voluntary, market-based tool that could facilitate water transactions between willing sellers and buyers. Water right owners, who are willing to free up some of their water in a particularly dry year or years, would temporarily lease it to those who simply cannot afford to be without water. Water banking also takes water during periods when it is available and stores it. Banking water during wet years provides water districts with a cushion of protection during droughts. It also conserves any unused water, rather than letting it run out to the sea or be lost to evaporation. The storage is usually done in aquifers and generally not within the individual agencies area. The water banking agreements can be complex and depend upon broad cooperation among various agencies for delivery and storage.

### SARCCUP Water Bank Storage

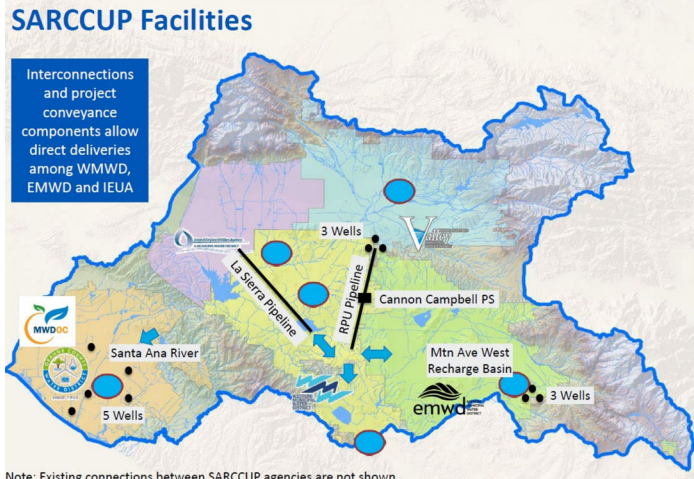


Conjunctive use is a catchphrase for coordinated use of surface water and groundwater. The state considers water banking a “conjunctive use” and encourages such uses.<sup>19</sup>

On a statewide level, California has 517 groundwater basins.

Stanford’s Water in the West institute estimates that the capacity of underground water storage in California is at least 20 times greater than that of the state’s reservoirs and lakes. However, the means to store surplus water and return it in dry years is lacking. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 has created the opportunity to expand recharge basins and banking particularly in agricultural areas but to date, action is lagging.





The largest water banking project underway that affects Orange County is the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP). It is a regional program that involves several agencies in Orange County, Riverside County, and San Bernardino County. While a logical program to undertake, there are technical and distribution issues that must be worked out and these items may

take several years.

A more controversial banking program is the Cadiz project. The Cadiz Water Project is a water supply project to manage the groundwater basin underlying a portion of the Cadiz and Fenner Valleys in California's Mojave Desert. At least one water agency in Orange County has considered this program as a potential source of water to meet their needs. The program has been promoted since 1997 and has yet to move forward. There are several environmental concerns with the program and concerns about transferring water between basins, particularly one under a desert. The Cadiz project currently is not viable supply of water.



There are criticisms of water banking and its effect on local communities. A Georgetown Environmental Law Review article in March 2022 stated, "While advocates of water banking believe its market-based approach will efficiently allow a reduction of use of water, especially during droughts, opponents may cite some examples of how letting the market take over may be detrimental to local communities." Such concerns are valid and need to be considered prior to relying on water banking as the only solution to ensure water supply during times of drought.

## Purchase of water rights

Temporary transfers of water from one water user to another have been used increasingly as a way of meeting statewide water demands, particularly in drought years. This has been done through the purchase of water rights. There are numerous articles concerning the possible negative effects of this practice, including the effects on less wealthy communities and agricultural. Due to these concerns, this practice should be limited. Farms in western Arizona are growing alfalfa – one of the most water-

intensive crops – in an area where there's a shortage of water. Some farms are foreign-owned and are shipping the crop to Saudi Arabia, where it's illegal to grow because it takes too much water.<sup>20</sup>

Water sources cannot be bought or sold but the water taken from a lake, river, stream, or creek, or from underground supplies for a beneficial use, requires you have a water right.<sup>21</sup> The right to use that water can be conveyed on a temporary basis. Temporary transfers of water from one water user to another have been used increasingly as a way of meeting water demands, particularly in drought years.

During interviews, the Grand Jury found the purchase of water rights to be widespread. Agencies stated the cost of acquiring water rights is significantly less than developing new sources. The practice includes asking agricultural users to allow their land to lay fallow.

There are numerous articles about making the agriculture industry more efficient. These effects, if they occur, will take time and be costly. Taking water from a major industry to satisfy urban demands is inherently wrong and will not solve the problem of extended drought.

## Recycling Water

Recycled water offers Orange County a way to reduce water requirements but is limited by the amount of wastewater that can be recycled which in turn is dependent upon available water supply. It is an important piece of Orange County water resiliency but not a solution itself.

Recycled water is wastewater that has been treated to a level acceptable for landscaping and certain other industrial uses. The regulations regarding the use and stand for treatment of recycled water are referred to as Title 22.<sup>22</sup> Orange County has been a leader in recycling of water through Orange County Water District and Irvine Ranch Water District.<sup>23</sup> Irvine Ranch Water District reports that 25% of the water it supplies is recycled. Recycled water replaces the need for using potable water.

Currently, various water districts are expanding their recycling systems by constructing additional reservoirs and distribution systems. The cities and water districts in Orange County have also been active in sponsoring legislation that supports recycling of water.

South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) treats and distributes for reuse roughly six billion gallons of water every year.<sup>24</sup> However, not all SOCWA treatment plants are recycling as much as feasible, most notably the JB Latham Treatment Plant does not recycle any treated wastewater. During the interviews, different agencies noted there are jurisdictional friction that is being worked on to increase recycling and potentially water reuse in South Orange County. The Grand Jury strongly encourages cooperation or mergers that would increase recycling in South Orange County.

In summary, water recycling is an important part of Orange County's water supply and needs to be utilized to the maximum extent. However, it will not resolve water resiliency issues by itself and it relies on existing sources of water.

## Reuse of Water for Potable Purposes

Reusing wastewater for potable purposes is an important part of North Orange County's water portfolio. Orange County Water District produces 130 million gallons of indirect reuse water per day. However, the amount reused water is dependent upon the diminishing supplies within Orange County.

Water reuse is used to enhance water security, sustainability, and resilience. The process of using treated wastewater for drinking water is called potable water reuse. Potable water reuse provides another option for expanding a region's water supply portfolio.

There are two types of potable water reuse:

- Indirect potable reuse: Uses an environmental buffer, such as a lake, river, or a groundwater aquifer, before the water is treated at a drinking water treatment plant.
- Direct potable reuse: Involves the treatment and distribution of water without an environmental buffer.<sup>25</sup>

Orange County Water District has been providing indirect potable reuse. In the mid-1990s, OCWD began the planning and construction that created the Groundwater Replenishment System to produce indirect potable water. The process built upon an earlier process to produce water to prevent groundwater intrusion. The process took over ten years to implement and the system is working well. However, it should be noted as being limited because it relies upon a declining supply and it is a lengthy process.

Interviewees have noted that OCWD is considering direct potable reuse. The State of California is currently enacting regulations to enable direct potable reuse. One of the advantages of direct potable reuse is the elimination of the loss due to evaporation at the percolation ponds and the efficiency of direct use.

In summary, water reuse is a vital part of the portfolio of water for Orange County to insure water resiliency. Water reuse should also be expanded to the practical extent possible. The time to complete such projects is lengthy and needs to be started immediately. However, reuse is only part of the water needed by Orange County and the source problem needs to be addressed.

## Aquifer Management

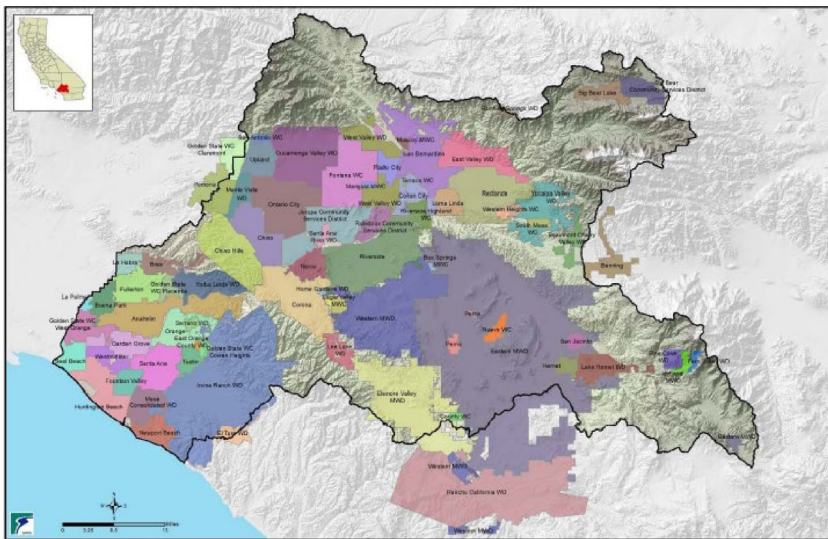
Managing the aquifer underneath North Orange County created a highly resilient source of water, but it is challenged by the climate change. The main and supplemental supplies of water are diminishing with less precipitation. The use of the aquifer for wet

weather storage has not met its potential due to challenges in trapping rainwater and runoff. The aquifer has not been made a regular source of water for all of Orange County which could ease South Orange County's supply problems.

The aquifer supplies approximately 72% of the water for North and Central Orange County. The aquifer is primarily supplied by runoff in the Santa Ana River and supplemented with water from the OCWD's Groundwater replenishment project and water purchased through MWD and MET.

OCWD has done well managing the aquifer for North and Central Orange County with existing flows. It has also taken steps to increase the supply of water by working with the Corps of Engineers to better manage the flow of water in the Prado Reservoir, expanding the groundwater replenishment system, and participating in the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program.<sup>26</sup> All of these steps reinforce the ability of the basin to supply water but do not in themselves assure an increased supply of water.

South Orange County can only receive water during times of emergencies but does not have regular access to the water. Interviewees noted there was a lack of ability to move water to South Orange County. Because South Orange County is almost 100% dependent upon water imported from MET, this is highly problematic during drought.



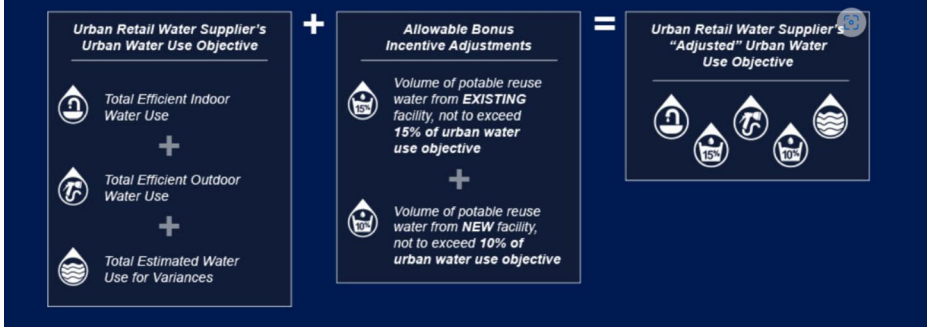
The Santa Ana River water basin covers San Bernardino and Riverside Counties as well as Orange County. The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) works to maintain the water quality in the Santa Ana River and is actively working on drought responses. According to its web site, "SAWPA's work in the Santa Ana River

Figure 4.3-1. Water Retail Service Areas in the Santa Ana River Watershed

Watershed advances projects and programs that build water resiliency and promote collaborative, innovative responses to water planning, all of which help address drought conditions.<sup>27</sup> SAWPA also prepared a watershed management plan.<sup>28</sup>



## Urban Water Use Objective Formula (Simplified)



Weather modification and promoting water efficiency are the primary drought responses of SAWP. Through weather modification (cloud seeding) it hopes to achieve 5% more precipitation in specific types of storms.

The water efficiency approach is to help implement water use efficiency programs and conservation-based rate structures.<sup>29</sup> We were provided with no specifics regarding what percentage can be saved, but through interviews the Grand Jury learned that the savings are between 15% to 30%.

None of the initiatives by SAWPA are likely to have an impact on water supplies during prolonged California drought. Interviewees consistently stated that we cannot conserve our way out of a drought.

Adding to the concern about the Santa Ana River ground water supply basin is the Inland Empire's future demands on the water. Development is rapidly taking place and surface water sources and water agencies are recycling water to greater degrees rather than discharging treated wastewater to the Santa Ana River.<sup>30</sup> The Inland Empire communities are largely dependent upon Metropolitan Water District supplies which are subject to drought.

Orange County Water District only has rights to withdrawing an adjudicated amount of 34,000-acre feet of water from the Santa Ana River. This is approximately half of the 70,000-acre feet typically used to manage the aquifer levels. OCWD typically purchases 30% of the water added to the aquifer from MWDOC. The water MWDOC supplies comes from Metropolitan Water District (MET). During late 2022, MET reduced the water from Northern California Sources to 5% of previous amounts. The water MET receives from the Colorado River is endangered as discussed elsewhere.

In summary, the Central and North Orange County aquifer has limits on its ability to supply water to Orange County. These include dependencies on water from Metropolitan Water District, which has had problems supplying water, and a potentially dwindling supply of water from the Santa Ana River. The aquifer is not a supply of water for South Orange County. The aquifer limitations reinforce the need for Orange County to provide for a more drought-resistant supply of water.

## Utilization of other supplies

Besides the North/Central Orange County aquifer and those obtained from Metropolitan Water District, there are other insignificant supplies of water. These include surface water captured in Irvine Lake and the San Juan Creek Groundwater Basin in South Orange County. Neither of these are significant supplies of water.

## Water Efficiency to Increase Supply

Orange County Water Districts have found they can reduce the immediate need for increasing water supplies by more efficient use of water. This certainly stretches the water supplies, but it is limited in its ability. Future water needs will require more than just efficient water use.

During the recent drought from 2011 to late 2022, Orange County Water Suppliers reduced the per-capita water use significantly by more efficient water use and conservation. This has allowed development to continue to occur even as the water supply was reduced.

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) customers reduced their water use from 89 gallons per capita in 2007 to 67 gallons per capita in 2021.<sup>31</sup> The area served by IRWD is a newer area where much of the landscaping is irrigated by recycled water and is drought tolerant. The IRWD also has extensive use of water saving plumbing in homes. Older areas of Orange County have also reduced per-capita water use. North and Central Orange County reduced water use from 330 acre-feet in water year 1999-2000 to 230 acre-feet in water year 2022-2023<sup>32</sup> while the population grew slightly.<sup>33</sup>

Water efficiency savings have been achieved by adopting water saving devices, changes in landscape practices, greater recycling of water, tiered water rates (higher users, higher rates) and the public's participation. Water suppliers have worked with users to identify the need for greater efficiency by promoting these changes. The State of California also mandated a 20 percent reduction in urban per-capita water use by 2020 in the Water Conservation Act of 2009.

The change to efficient use of water will need to become the future standard as water supplies diminish and as housing development increases. However, it is not reasonable to expect greater efficiency to make up for the reduction in supply caused by climate change. Several of the interviewees and many of the reference documents the Grand Jury reviewed stated Orange County cannot conserve its way out of a drought.

Besides the significant reduction in per-capita water use, greater savings may be made by more drastic changes in lifestyle. None of the information supplied by water suppliers and reviewed by the Grand Jury addressed these changes. As an example of lifestyle changes, areas such as Phoenix and Las Vegas have either adopted or are in the process of adopting drastic restrictions on landscape water use as a long-term

climate mitigation. Among these restrictions is a moratorium on development by restricting new water connections.<sup>34</sup>

Continue efficient water use is needed for the future. Orange County has made significant changes in per-capita water use by being efficient, but any additional savings will only come through changes to lifestyle. This needs to be made clear to residents if additional efficiency is to be achieved, but even additional efficiency will not mitigate the effects of climate on Orange County's current water supply. Ocean desalination is recommended as the ultimate answer to an untapped source of water and can secure Orange County's future.

## APPENDIX B: graphics of interest

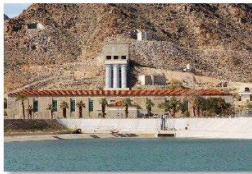
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Municipal Water District Orange County and Orange County Water District Information Sheets

### COLORADO RIVER AQUEDUCT (CRA)

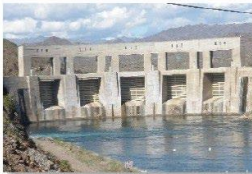


**242 MILES LONG**

The Colorado River is an essential water supply for Orange County.



The CRA transports water 242 miles west from Lake Havasu on the California/Arizona border to Lake Mathews in Riverside County.



Owned and operated by MWD, the CRA began delivering water to southern California in 1941 and was the largest public works project in southern California during the Great Depression.

Five pumping plants push water through the aqueduct and up over 1,617 feet of mountainous terrain.

### DIAMOND VALLEY LAKE (DVL)

**6 MONTHS OF EMERGENCY SUPPLY**

Located in Riverside County, near Hemet, DVL is Southern California's largest drinking water reservoir. DVL nearly doubles Southern California's surface storage and provides six months of emergency water supplies for the region, protecting it against water shortages caused by drought and earthquakes.

DVL measures 4.5 miles long and over 2 miles wide, with a maximum depth of 285 feet. The lake holds up to 264 billion gallons of water and is home to one of 16 hydroelectric plants along the MWD distribution system.



### STATE WATER PROJECT (SWP)

**700+ MILES LONG**

The State Water Project (SWP) is a water storage and delivery system that facilitates the transfer of water from the lakes and rivers of Northern California to residential communities, agricultural districts, and businesses in the San Francisco Bay area, Central Valley, and Southern California.

The SWP is the largest state built water delivery and power generation system in the nation, consisting of more than 30 lakes and reservoirs, over 20 water pumping plants, 5 hydroelectric power plants, several dams, and over 700 hundred miles of canals and pipelines.

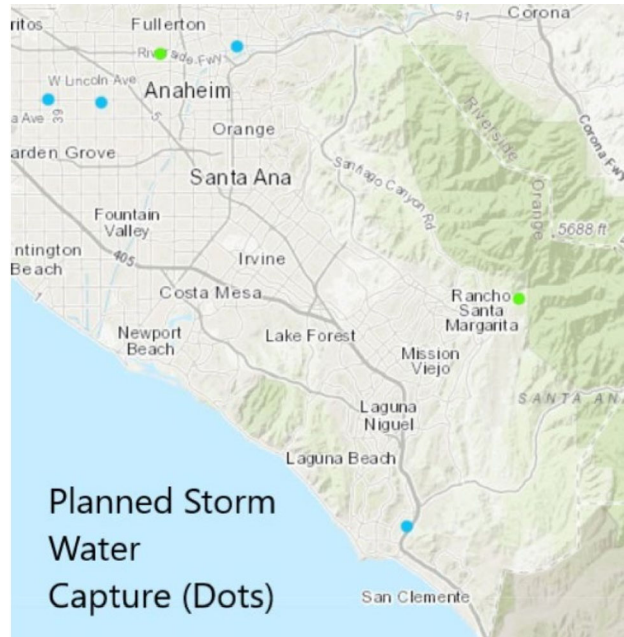
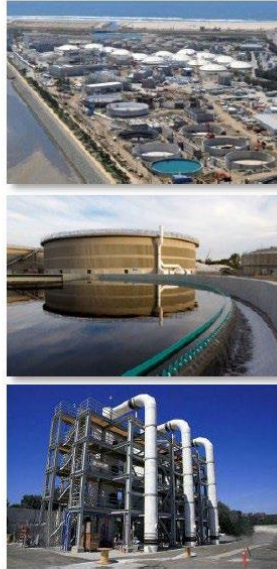




## WATER RECLAMATION

Wastewater has become an important source of water for California. Wastewater is processed at a water reclamation facility to remove solids and impurities, increasing the quality of water. The water, now clean, can be used for a variety of applications.

Reclaimed water is used for irrigation, toilet flushing, industrial purposes, and groundwater replenishment.



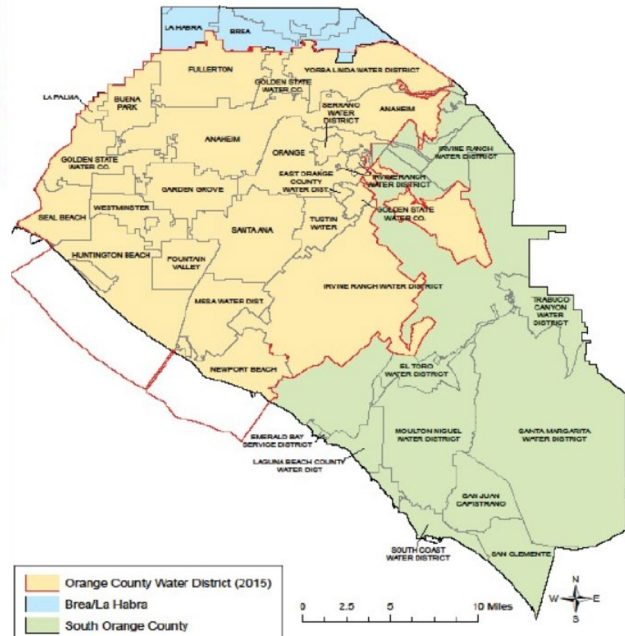
## DIEMER WATER TREATMENT PLANT

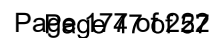


The Robert B. Diemer Treatment Plant (Diemer) is located in Yorba Linda. The plant's hilltop location is well suited for gravity-flow distribution of water to homes and businesses throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties. Most water brought to Diemer for treatment comes from the Colorado River via the 242-mile long Colorado River Aqueduct. To a lesser degree, the plant also receives water from Northern California through the State Water Project.

Diemer delivers up to **520 MILLION GALLONS** of clean drinking water a day to Orange and Los Angeles counties.

Three Study Regions in Orange County  
Based on Mix of Local and Imported Water Sources





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## NOTICE

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.

## ENDNOTES

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<sup>4</sup> California Department of Water Resources State Water Project Web Page State Water Project (ca.gov)

<sup>5</sup> Washington Examiner Article “\$2.7 billion bond fund to build water reservoirs sits idle in California” dated August 16, 2021

<sup>6</sup> Natural Resources Bond Accountability Web Page Proposition One (ca.gov)

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- <sup>8</sup> Newsom calls for funding for water – Bay Area News Group Article dated August 11, 2022
- <sup>9</sup> California Government Code (Beginning with Section 62300) to Title 6 of the Government Code
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- <sup>11</sup> 018 OC Study Report Final Report\_02-01-2019 td with apendices.pdf (mwdoc.com)
- <sup>12</sup> See Treehugger Sustainability for All article dated April 15, 2021
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- <sup>19</sup> Conjunctive Use - Water Education Foundation
- <sup>20</sup> Ben Tracy, Saudi company draws unlimited Arizona ground water amid drought, CBS News
- <sup>21</sup> California State Water Control Boards Web Site – Water Rights Page
- <sup>22</sup> Water Recycling and Title 22 - Water Education Foundation
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- <sup>24</sup> Recycled Water | SOCWA
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- <sup>28</sup> Wic07Aone-one-watershed-plan-update.pdf (OCWD.com)
- <sup>29</sup> Water Conservation Portal - California Statutes | California State Water Resources Control Board
- <sup>30</sup> Recycled Water Service - Eastern Municipal Water District (emwd.org)
- <sup>31</sup> See Irvine Range Water District web site IRWDIs
- <sup>32</sup> See Water Advisory Committee of Orange County Water Supply Report Dated March 3, 2023
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**ACTION ITEM**

June 21, 2023

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** **Administration & Finance Committee**  
(Directors Dick, Thomas, Crane)

**Harvey De La Torre, Interim General Manager**

**SUBJECT: SPONSORSHIP OF URBAN WATER INSTITUTE (UWI) ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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It is recommended that the Board of Directors consider sponsoring the UWI Annual Conference (and determine the sponsorship amount).

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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By a vote of 2-1, the Committee recommended the Board approve sponsoring the UWI Annual Conference (in August 2023) at the Platinum Level of \$5000.

**SUMMARY**

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The District has been a long-time supporter of the Urban Water Institute (UWI), and regularly attends the conferences. This year, UWI reached out to see if MWDOC would be willing to be a sponsor at the upcoming Annual UWI Conference (this year's Annual Conference is a 30-year celebration for UWI).

UWI has two conferences every year; a fall Conference in August (Annual Conference) and a spring conference in February. The upcoming conference theme is "Every drop, not everywhere, and not all at once" and will take place at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay in San Diego from August 23-25, 2023.

There are various levels of sponsorship (from \$2,000 to \$10,000); attached for your review is the sponsorship registration form and the sponsorship opportunities form.

A MWDOC Board member asked that this opportunity to be a sponsor be brought to the Administration & Finance Committee for consideration.

<b>Budgeted (Y/N):</b>	Budgeted amount:	Core _	Choice _
<b>Action item amount:</b>			
<b>Fiscal Impact (explain if unbudgeted):</b>			



URBAN WATER INSTITUTE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
AUGUST 23-25, 2023 – Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, San Diego

SPONSORSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Premium Sponsorships Available

- ☐ 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sponsor - \$10,000
- ☐ Platinum Sponsorship - \$5,000
- ☐ Gold Sponsorship - \$4,000
- ☐ Silver Sponsorship - \$3,000
- ☐ Bronze Sponsorship - \$2,000

Single Sponsorships Available

- ☐ Afternoon Networking Break Sponsor: August 23<sup>rd</sup> - \$2,000 **SECURED!**
- ☐ Welcome Reception Sponsor: August 23<sup>rd</sup> - \$3,500
- ☐ Continental Breakfast Sponsor: August 24<sup>th</sup> - \$3,500
- ☐ Luncheon Sponsor: August 24<sup>th</sup> - \$5,000
- ☐ Afternoon Networking Break Sponsor: August 24<sup>th</sup> - \$2,000 **SECURED!**
- ☐ Chairwoman's Reception Sponsor: August 24<sup>th</sup> - \$4,000 **SECURED!**
- ☐ Buffet Breakfast Sponsor: August 25<sup>th</sup> - \$4,000
- ☐ Poster Signs for Conference Sponsor: \$1,250 **SECURED!**
- ☐ Audio Visual Sponsor \$2,000 (Several Needed)
- ☐ Program Printing Sponsor: \$2,000 **SECURED!**
- ☐ Social Media Sponsor - \$1,250 **SECURED!**
- ☐ Wi-Fi Sponsor: \$2,500 **SECURED!**
- ☐ Lanyard Sponsor: \$1,250 **SECURED!**
- ☐ Folder Sponsor: \$1,500 **SECURED!**

- ☐ **Pay By Mail:** Please make checks payable to Urban Water Institute & mail to:  
Urban Water Institute  
24651 Evereve Circle, Suite 1 • Lake Forest, CA 92630

- ☐ **Pay By Credit Card:** ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Please Fax This Form To: (949) 305-9919

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, contact the Urban Water Institute at (949) 679-9676 or stacy@urbanwater.com





URBAN WATER INSTITUTE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
AUGUST 23-25, 2023 – Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, San Diego

**PREMIUM SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPONSOR: \$10,000**

- Company logo listed in all promotional materials
- Company logo on cover of program
- Company logo projected on presentation screens
- Company logo displayed during all conference events
- Company logo displayed in registration area
- Company banner on display
- Exhibitor table; can be used at Spring and Annual Conference
- Speaking opportunity (Lunch or Reception)
- Verbal recognition at all conference events (Lunch and Receptions)
- A commemorative gift will be given out on your company's behalf
- 1 Complimentary hotel room for 2 nights
- 4 conference registrations
- Sponsor acknowledgment in the UWI Newsletter
- Recognition on representative's name badges
- Company logo on 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sponsor individual poster board
- UWI website to link sponsors website
- Receive pre/post conference attendee list

**PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$5,000**

- Company logo listed in all promotional materials
- Company logo on cover of program
- Company logo projected on presentation screens
- Company logo displayed during all conference events
- Company logo displayed in registration area
- Sponsor Acknowledgement in the UWI Newsletter
- Company logo on Platinum Sponsor poster board
- UWI Website to link sponsors website
- Receive pre/post conference attendee list
- Exhibitor table
- 3 conference registrations

**GOLD SPONSOR: \$4,000**

- Company logo listed in promotional materials
- Company logo on cover of program
- Company logo projected on presentation screens
- Company logo displayed during all conference events
- Company logo displayed in registration area
- Company logo on Gold Sponsor poster board
- UWI Website to link sponsors website
- Receive pre/post conference attendee list
- 2 conference registrations

## **SILVER SPONSOR: \$3,000**

- Company logo listed in promotional materials
- Company logo on cover of program
- Company logo projected on presentation screens
- Company logo displayed during all conference events
- Company logo displayed in registration area
- Company logo on Silver Sponsor poster board
- 1 conference registration

## **BRONZE SPONSOR: \$2,000**

- Company logo listed in promotional materials
- Company logo on cover of program
- Company logo projected on presentation screens
- Company logo displayed in registration area

## **ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

- ~~Afternoon Networking Break Sponsor~~ – August 23<sup>rd</sup> **\$2,000 SECURED!**
- Welcome Reception Sponsor – August 23<sup>rd</sup> **\$3,500** (Bring Own Marketing Materials)
- Continental Breakfast Sponsor – August 24<sup>th</sup> **\$3,500**
- Luncheon Sponsor – August 24<sup>th</sup> **\$5,000**
- ~~Afternoon Networking Break Sponsor~~ – August 24<sup>th</sup> **\$2,000 SECURED!**
- ~~Chairwoman's Reception Sponsor~~ – August 24<sup>th</sup> **\$4,000 SECURED!**
- Buffet Breakfast Sponsor – August 25<sup>th</sup> **\$4,000**
- ~~Poster Signs for Conference Sponsor~~ **\$1,250 SECURED!**
- Audio Visual Sponsor **\$2,000 (Several Needed)**
- ~~Program Printing Sponsor~~ **\$2,000 SECURED!**
- ~~Social Media Sponsor~~ **\$1,250 SECURED!**
- ~~Wi-Fi Sponsor~~ **\$2,500 SECURED!**
- ~~Lanyard Sponsor~~ **\$1,250 SECURED!**
- ~~Folder Sponsor~~ **\$1,500 SECURED!**

## **ALL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS**

- Company logo will be included in conference program agenda
- Company logo will be projected on our presentation screens
- Customized company poster will be displayed during the sponsored event
- Company logo will be displayed in the registration area
- Company logo will appear on the Urban Water Institute website

To sponsor the Urban Water Institute conference, please see the attached registration form or contact the Urban Water Institute at (949) 679-9676 or [stacy@urbanwater.com](mailto:stacy@urbanwater.com)



# **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT OF STAFF ACTIVITIES**

**June 2023**

## **MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY AGENCIES MANAGERS MEETING**

MWDOC held its Member Agency Managers' meeting at its office in Fountain Valley on Thursday, April 20, 2023.

**In attendance:** Rudy Correa – Brea, Mike McGee - Buena Park, Cel Pasillas - Garden Grove, Jake Chavira - La Palma, Mark Vukojevic - Newport Beach, Scott Miller – Westminster, Mark Sprague - Fountain Valley, Ken Vecchiarelli - Golden State Water Company, Ken Pfister & Paul Weghorst - Irvine Ranch WD, Paul Shoenberger & Tracy Manning - Mesa WD, Kaden Young - Moulton Niguel WD, John Kennedy & Mike Markus, Dustin Burnside - San Clemente, Jim Leach - Santa Margarita WD, Jerry Vilander – Serrano WD, Taryn Kjolsing - South Coast WD, Fernando Paludi & Michael Perea - Trabuco Canyon WD

**Staff in attendance:** Alex Heide, Charles Busslinger, Harvey De La Torre, Joseph Berg, Kevin Hostert, Melissa Baum-Haley

### **Announcements & Reminders:**

- MWDOC Water Policy Dinner - Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Water Supply and Demand Assessment Survey - Due May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Climate Adaptation Master Plan Survey (remains open)
- Water Loss Control Exhibits - Return ASAP
- O.C. Reliability Study Review - Due May 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 22, 2023

## ENGINEERING & PLANNING

### RELIABILITY STUDY UPDATE

Staff has been working with consultant CDM Smith and Metropolitan Water District (MET) staff on an update to the 2018 OC Water Reliability Study (2023 OC Study). Updating the planning assumptions and understanding the implications will be useful to our staff, Directors, MET Directors, and member agencies for future water reliability decision considerations. This update was launched because of significant changes in conditions since the publication of the 2018 OC Study.

A review draft of the final report was sent to the MWDOC Agency Managers for comments on May 2, 2023. The agencies have asked for a meeting to discuss the report further. The meeting is scheduled for early June 2023.

Questions, comments, and responses on the review draft will be included in an appendix of the report.

Presentations on the OC Study have included:

Agency Managers Meeting	Initial results	05/19/2022
P&O Committee Meeting	Initial results	06/06/2022
P&O Committee	Revisions based on comments	09/06/2022
Agency Managers Meeting	Added Revisions-Final Results	01/12/2023
A&F Committee	Added Revisions-Final Results	02/08/2023

Staff wants to include the final report as a Receive and File information item in the July 3, 2023, P&O Committee meeting packet.

### LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS – LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY CHOICE PROGRAM

In mid-March 2023, multiple agencies requested MWDOC's assistance in complying with US EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) - Service Line Inventories which all water systems are required to complete and submit to the primacy agency (for California, that is, the State Water Boards) by October 16, 2024.

On May 24, 2023, MWDOC hosted an initial meeting with (18) OC agencies and the State Division of Drinking Water staff regarding the LCRR – Lead Service Line Inventory compliance requirements. A workgroup of interested agencies has been set up to develop the Request for Proposals (RFP) and to score proposals for selecting a consultant(s) for this Choice Program.

## **MNWD PUMP-IN TO EOCF #2 TECHNICAL STUDY**

MWDOC hosted a meeting on May 24, 2023, concerning MNWD's technical study of a potential pump-in project to East OC Feeder #2 from the City of Santa Ana's East Street Station. The meeting included staff from; Metropolitan's Water Quality Group, Moulton Niguel Water District, City of Santa Ana, OCWD, and consultant Brown & Caldwell. Further discussions with this group and meetings with other Metropolitan technical groups are being scheduled at MNWD's request.

## **DOHENY OCEAN DESALINATION PROJECT**

South Coast Water District (SCWD) continues to develop the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project. SCWD estimates an online date of 2026 if approved by the SCWD Board.

SCWD held a Special Board Meeting on September 2, 2021, to discuss the financial implications of the project. Clean Energy Capital (CEC) presented a water cost analysis for the project where CEC presented cost projections for a 2 MGD project with an estimated 1st-year water cost of \$1,928/AF in 2021\$ and a 5 MGD project with an estimated 1st-year water cost of \$1,479/AF in 2021\$ (later updated to \$1,807/AF in 2027\$ vs. \$1,545/AF MET Rate in 2027\$).

On December 9, 2022, the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) approved an Addendum to the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the certified Final EIR. The EIR Addendum addresses a proposed CSLC lease for slant wells at Doheny State Beach (DSB). The new lease allows for the construction and long-term operation of up to five slant wells at DSB.

SCWD is working with State Parks on a lease agreement, a study with Regional Water Quality Control Board staff as a condition of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, and Design Build Operate Maintain (DBOM) Contract Development.

## **SHUTDOWNS**

### **Orange County Feeder**

The purpose of the shutdown is to remove and dispose of the existing lining, reline the pipeline with cement mortar, install and weld buttstraps (for connecting two butting pipe ends), replace valves, and install an on this 85+-year-old pipeline from the Willits Street Pressure Control Structure (north of South Coast Plaza) to the Irvine Cross Feeder (south of UC Irvine).

The Orange County Feeder shutdown began on September 18, 2022, and will continue through July 15, 2023.

### Current Status:

- All sites – Completed excavation, shoring, and pipe access cutout
- 16 of 17 sites – Completed removal of the existing lining
- 1 of 17 sites – Ongoing removal of the existing lining
- 14 of 17 sites – Completed buttstrap installation
- 2 of 17 sites – Ongoing buttstrap installation
- 12 of 17 sites – Completed mortar lining
- 2 of 17 sites – Ongoing mortar lining
- Ongoing forming & pouring of concrete encasements and access structures



OC Feeder Shutdown – Concrete formwork for access way encasement

## **R6 RESERVOIR REHABILITATION**

El Toro WD has shut down the 275 Million Gallon R6 Reservoir to replace the aging reservoir liner and cover. The reservoir will be offline from November 2022 through July 2023.

## **DIEMER WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

MET has rescheduled a 7-day shutdown of the Diemer WTP in order to repair a broken chlorine solution line to January 8-14, 2024. Finding a suitable window for this shutdown presented challenges due to numerous maintenance shutdowns by MET and retail agencies as well as fire danger concerns.

Coinciding with the 7-day Diemer shutdown, the following pipelines will also be down for repairs:

- Allen-McColloch Pipeline
- East Orange County Feeder No.1
- East Orange County Feeder No.2



- Lower Feeder (Treated)
- Lower Feeder (Untreated)
- Second Lower Feeder (portions)

### **OC-43 – EOCWD VAULT REHABILITATION PROJECT**

EOCWD is replacing the existing vault immediately downstream of OC-43 as the vault has reached the end of its lifecycle. MWDOC assisted with coordination between EOCWD and MET on this project. The new vault has been installed and EOCWD anticipates completing the project by the end of June 2023.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

### MAY INCIDENTS/EVENTS

- Nothing significant to report

### 2023 STORM PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATIONS

Orange County's eligibility for assistance remains as follows:

Identifier	Dates	Eligible Assistance
FEMA: EM-3591-CA	Jan 8, 2023 - Jan 31, 2023	Category B - Emergency protective measures only
FEMA: EM-3592-CA	Mar 9, 2023, and continuing	Category B - Emergency protective measures only
SBA: CA-00376	February 21, 2023, and continuing	Economic Injury as a contiguous County

### COORDINATION/PARTICIPATION WITH MEMBER AGENCIES AND OUTSIDE AGENCIES MEETINGS OUTSIDE OF PROGRAMS AREAS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- On 5/1-5/4, Dave, Janine, and Vicki attended the California Emergency Services Association Conference and Training.
- On 5/5, Vicki attended WACO and provided the WEROC monthly update.
- On 5/10, Dave attended the quarterly Operational Area Executive Board meeting with the County.
- On 5/11, Dave attended the Orange County Sanitation District Cyber Tabletop exercise in partnership with the Orange County Intelligence Center (OCIAC).
- On 5/16, Vicki attended the CalWARN Board Meeting.
- On 5/17, the Countywide Next Wave 2023 Exercise was conducted (see training and exercise section for more details).
- On 5/18, Vicki attended the OCEMO Leadership meeting.
- On 5/22, Vicki presented at the ISDOC General Manager's meeting with the OCIAC on regional coordination, and the OCIAC presented on the updated cyber threat here in Orange County.
- On 5/22, Vicki attended the CalOES Southern Region Mutual Aid Regional Advisory Council Board meeting. Vicki serves as the Region 1 representative for public utilities/special districts. Changes to the bylaws and voting on new board representative positions were the focus of the meeting.
- On 5/23, the in-person WEROC Quarterly Meeting was held. The agenda included the City of Orange bringing their water trailer in person for those who have not seen

one of the 13 water trailers procured by WEROC in 2017 for agencies to use as a regional asset, Water Trailer updated SOP, water distribution planning after action from the exercise, update of the Integrated Preparedness Plan.

- On 5/24, Vicki facilitated a tabletop exercise with SOCWA using a rain scenario and what initial actions and needs would be taken. The format allowed people, not usually in charge, to discuss processes and procedures.
- On 5/25, Vicki met with OCWD to finalize the scenario and events for their exercise on 6/15.
- On 5/25, Vicki attended the CalOES Cyber Grant briefing for the future funding being released to agencies. At this time, nothing is finalized for realization for the NOFO. The target date sounds like August/September.
- On 5/26, Vicki attended the CESA State Board Meeting.

## **PLANNING AND PROGRAM EFFORTS**

### **Dam Planning**

On behalf of SCWD, Vicki facilitated the outreach to stakeholders for the final review of their Palisades Dam Plan. Vicki also made the changes received and returned the plan to SCWD on 5.30 so it could be sent to CalOES Dam Division for final review and approval.

Vicki has been participating in the coordination call with IRWD in preparation for the August 10<sup>th</sup> tabletop Exercise on the Santiago Creek Reservoir.

### **EOC Readiness & EOC Project**

The WEROC team continued to work on the decommissioning plan for the WEROC EOC in South County. This will be a focus of the team during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the new fiscal year.

Vicki is working on getting the quotes and additional information from companies regarding the WEROC Mobile EOC Project. An update will be presented at the July P&O Committee Meeting.

As of the time of this report, there was no update regarding our application for Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee for the WEROC Mobile EOC funding.

### **IT & Cyber Security**

WEROC continues to send out important information to the Cyber Security Distribution Group as received from DHS or the OCIAC.

Dave continues to be temporarily loaned to support the IT Department because of his knowledge and expertise. Approximately 70 % of Dave's time is spent on IT projects, staff support, and onboarding of the new contractor (Accent). Dave is tracking his hours, and costs are being accounted for accordingly.

## **Resource Requests and Member Agency Inventory Lists**

Janine continues to obtain information from the WEROC member agencies to update the inventory lists. This project was last conducted in 2017. Agencies have been very responsive. The project is 84% complete.

## **Training and Exercises**

The next Wave Operational Area Exercise was conducted on May 17<sup>th</sup>, and the WEROC team captured good lessons learned for areas to improve. An after-action report is being developed.

Vicki will be conducting 5-G611 classes in the city of Fullerton in June. These have also been opened up to the OA to attend.

Vicki is finalizing documents for the OCWD tabletop/workshop being conducted on 6/15.

## **WEROC Plans and SOPs updated in April:**

Water Trailer Use and Deployment Standard Operating Procedure

The second Draft of the Water Distribution Plan has been completed.

## **County Plans Reviewed:**

County of Orange Recovery Plan – Final Review

## MET ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

### MET FINANCE AND RATE ISSUES

Water Transactions for March 2023 (for water delivered in January 2023) totaled 61.9 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 39.3 TAF lower than the budget of 101.2 TAF and translates to \$61.0 million in receipts for March 2023, which was \$35.3 million lower than the budget of \$96.3 million.

Year-to-date water transactions through March 2023 (for water delivered in May 2022 through January 2023) were 1,189.4 TAF, which was 91.4 TAF lower than the budget of 1,280.8 TAF. Year-to-date water receipts through March 2023 were \$1,128.3 million, which was \$80.0 million lower than the budget of \$1,208.3 million.

Metropolitan staff and the finance team are finalizing documentation for an estimated \$280 million revenue bond sale in May 2023, including Appendix A, Metropolitan's primary disclosure document. Metropolitan finance staff has also been developing a rating agency strategy and two presentations to Moody's and S&P for the upcoming bond sale. As of March 31, 2023, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.2 billion.

### MET'S SUPPLY CONDITION UPDATE

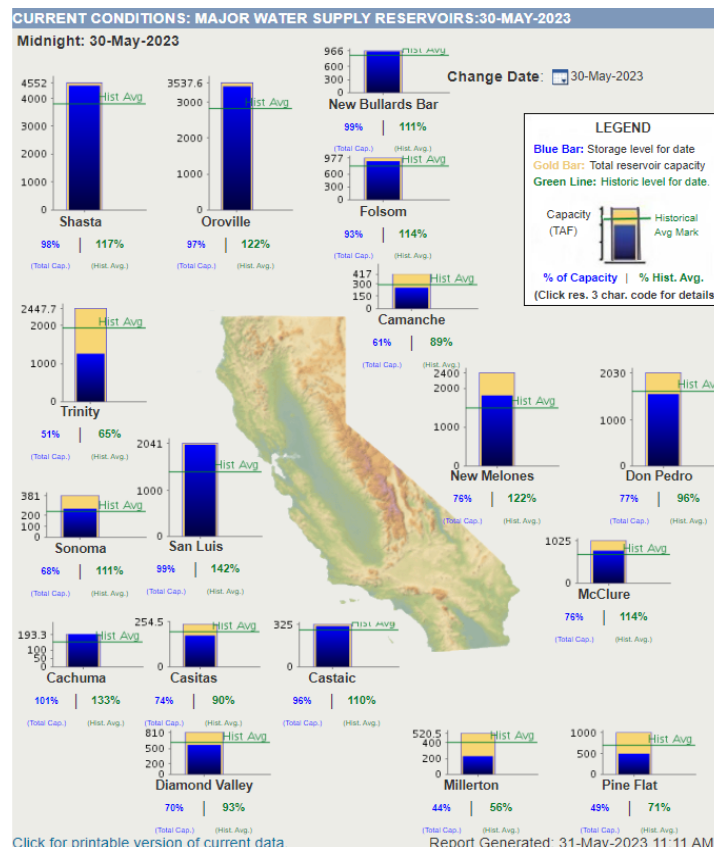
The 2022-23 Water Year (WY) officially started on October 1, 2022. Thus far, Northern California accumulated precipitation (8-Station Index) reported **62.8 inches or 131% of normal** as of May 31st. The Northern Sierra Snow Water Equivalent peaked at **59.1 inches on April 9<sup>th</sup>**, which is **215% of normal** for that day. Due to the barrage of atmospheric rivers in January and March, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has increased the State Water Project (SWP) **"Table A" allocation to 100%**. This allocation provides Metropolitan with approximately **1,911,500 AF in SWP deliveries this water year**. In Addition, Article 21 supplies (approximately 148,000 AF) were made to SWP contractors on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. DWR's SWP Allocation considers several factors, including existing storage in SWP, conservation reservoirs, SWP operational, regulatory constraints, and the 2023 contractor demands. Metropolitan also received **134,000 AF for Human Health and Safety Supply in Calendar Year (CY) 2022**.

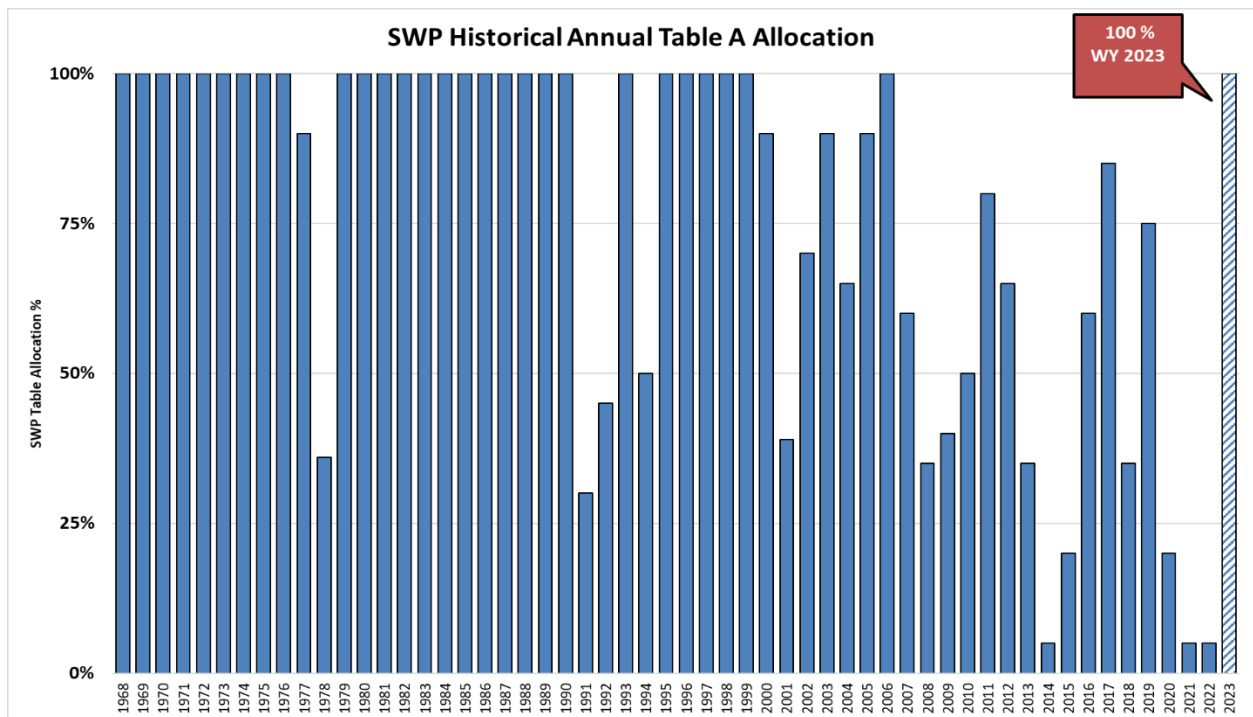
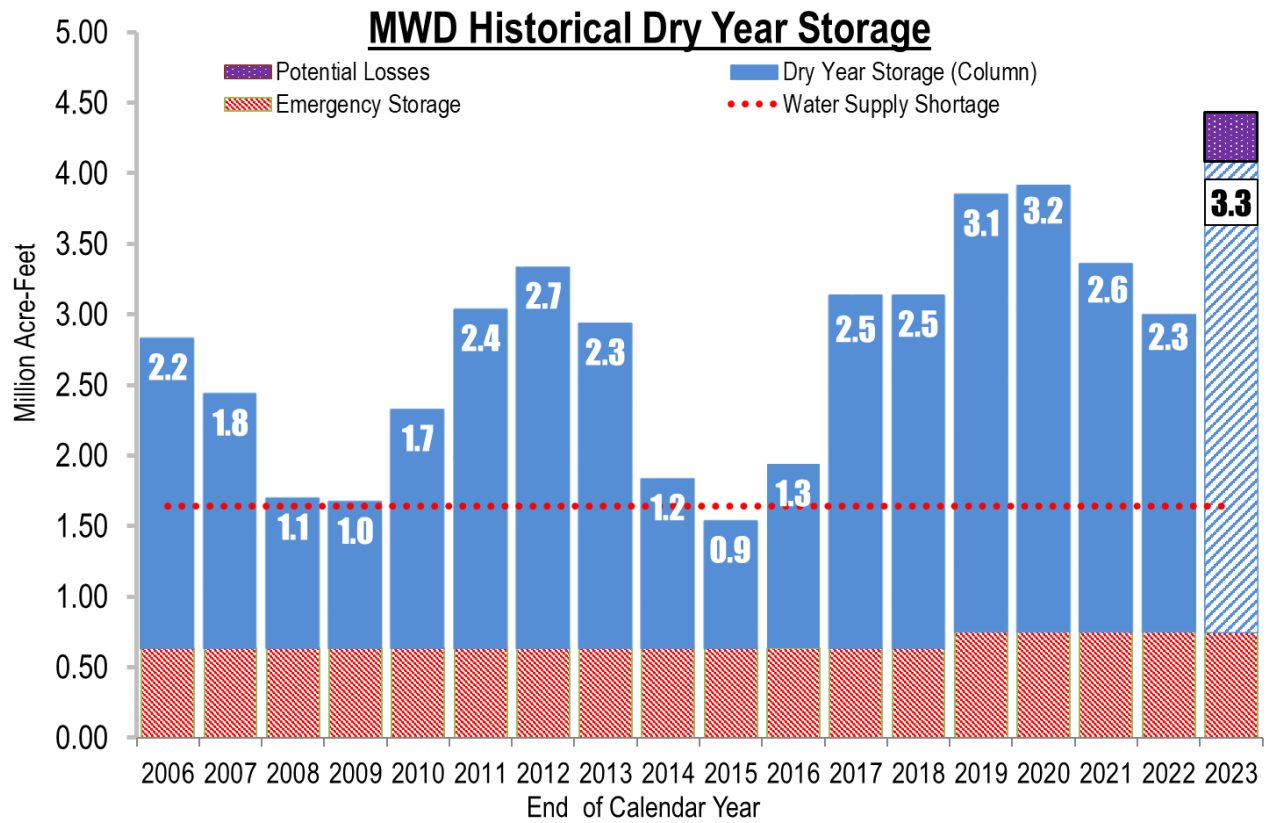
The Upper Colorado River Basin accumulated precipitation is reporting **26.5 inches or 119% of normal as of May 30<sup>th</sup>**. On the Colorado River system, snowpack is measured across four states in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The Upper Colorado River Basin Snow Water Equivalent peaked at **26.2 inches as of April 10<sup>th</sup>**, which is **131% of normal** for that day. Due to the below-average inflows into Lake Powell over the past several years, the United States Bureau of Reclamation **declared a shortage at Lake Mead that has been ongoing since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**. As of May, **there is a 93% chance of shortage continuing in CY 2024 and a 3% chance that Metropolitan will see a 180,000 AF reduction in Colorado River water supplies in CY 2025**.

As of May 30<sup>th</sup>, Lake Oroville storage is **97% of total capacity and 122% of normal**. As of May 30<sup>th</sup>, San Luis Reservoir has a current volume of **99% of the reservoir's total capacity and is 142% of normal**.

With CY 2023 estimated total demands and losses of 1.57 million acre-feet (MAF) and with a 100% SWP Table A Allocation, Metropolitan is projecting that supplies will exceed demand levels in CY 2023. Based on this, Metropolitan's estimated dry-year storage at the end of **CY 2023 will increase to approximately 3.3 MAF**.

A projected dry-year storage supply of **3.3 MAF would be the highest level in Metropolitan's history**. However, due to the **100% SWP Table A Allocation**, there is a potential that Metropolitan will not be able to store approximately 350 TAF. A large factor in maintaining a high-water storage level is lower than expected water demands. We are seeing regional water demands reaching a 38-year low. However, with a majority of Metropolitan's water supplies stored in Lake Mead and still a 5-year shortage projection at Lake Mead, there remains a lot of uncertainty about where supply balances will be in the future.







## 2023 WSDM Storage Detail

	1/1/2023 Estimated Storage Levels <sup>1</sup>	CY 2023 Put Capacity <sup>2</sup>	2023 Total Storage Capacity
<b>WSDM Storage</b>			
Colorado River Aqueduct Delivery System	1,139,000	400,000	1,657,000
Lake Mead ICS	1,139,000 <sup>3</sup>	400,000	1,657,000
State Water Project System	502,000	720,000	1,897,000
MWD SWP Carryover <sup>4</sup>			
DWCV SWP Carryover <sup>4</sup>	39,000	297,000	350,000
MWD Articles 14(b) and 12(e)	0	0	N/A
Castaic and Perris DWR Flex Storage	3,000	216,000	219,000
Arvin Edison Storage Program	119,000	0 <sup>5</sup>	350,000
Semitropic Storage Program	158,000	131,000	350,000
Kern Delta Storage Program	137,000	45,000	250,000
Mojave Storage Program	19,000	10,000	330,000
AVEK Storage Program	27,000	3,000	30,000
AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program	0	18,000 <sup>6</sup>	18,000 <sup>7</sup>
<b>In-Region Supplies and WSDM Actions</b>	<b>698,000</b>	<b>404,000</b>	<b>1,246,000</b>
Diamond Valley Lake	494,000	316,000	810,000
Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner	194,000	32,000	226,000
Conjunctive Use Programs (CUP) <sup>8</sup>	10,000	56,000	210,000
<b>Other Programs</b>	<b>662,000</b>	<b>189,000</b>	<b>1,181,000</b>
Other Emergency Storage	381,000	0	381,000
DWCV Advanced Delivery Account	281,000	189,000	800,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,001,000</b>	<b>1,713,000</b>	<b>5,981,000</b>
Emergency	750,000	0	750,000
<b>Total WSDM Storage (AF) <sup>9</sup></b>	<b>2,251,000</b>	<b>1,713,000</b>	<b>5,231,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary start of year balances, subject to DWR adjustments and USBR final accounting in May 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Put capacity assumed under a 75 percent SWP Table A Allocation. Storage program losses included where applicable.

<sup>3</sup> This amount is net of the water Metropolitan stored for IID in Lake Mead in an ICS sub-account.

<sup>4</sup> Total storage capacity varies year to year based on prior year remaining balance added to current year contractual limits.

<sup>5</sup> Puts are limited due to water quality considerations.

<sup>6</sup> Includes the early recharge in the High Desert Water Bank Program expected to commence in the summer.

<sup>7</sup> Represents a portion of the total storage capacity. Total storage capacity is 280,000 AF once the program is fully constructed. Anticipated to be fully operational by the end of 2025.

<sup>8</sup> Total of all CUP programs including IEUA/TVMWD (Chino Basin); Long Beach (Central Basin); Long Beach (Lakewood); Foothill (Raymond and Monk Hill); MWDOC (Orange County Basin); Three Valleys (Live Oak); Three Valleys (Upper Claremont); and Western.

<sup>9</sup> Total WSDM Storage level subject to change based on accounting adjustments.

## MET'S WATER QUALITY UPDATE

### Water System Operations

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 68,000 AF for April with an average of 2,300 AF per day, which was 300 AF per day higher than in March. Treated water deliveries increased by 5,600 AF from March for a total of 42,600 AF, or 63% of total

deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct pumped a total of 47,000 AF in April. SWP imports averaged 3,100 AF per day, totaling about 93,400 AF for the month. The target SWP blend is 100% for Weymouth and Diemer plants and as high as possible for the Skinner plant. System limitations and storage priorities allowed the blend leaving Lake Skinner to increase to about 10% by the end of the month.

### **Water Treatment and Distribution**

The SWP target blend entering the Weymouth plant stayed at 100% in April. The SWP blend at the Diemer plant was approximately 97% because of an operational need to maintain a small Colorado River water flow on the Lower Feeder. The SWP target entering Lake Skinner increased from zero to around 50% to maximize the delivery of Article 21 supplies.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from March 2022 through February 2023 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 605, 609, and 608 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

### **Future Legislation and Regulation**

On March 24, the Department of Toxic Substances Control released its revised Generator Improvements Rule for public comment. The Generator Improvements Rule applies to hazardous waste generators such as Metropolitan. Metropolitan staff is reviewing the revised rule before the May 8 comment deadline.

On March 29, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published draft maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFAS at 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for each compound—the detection limit of EPA's test method. The proposed rule also sets maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs) for PFOA and PFOS to 0 ppt. Last, the EPA proposed regulating PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX as a mixture. The EPA hopes to finalize the regulation by early 2024 with a three-year compliance timeline from the rule's effective date. Metropolitan staff will submit comments before the May 30 comment deadline.

On March 30, Cal/OSHA released a 45-day comment period package for the Proposed Indoor Heat Illness Prevention Standard. Cal/OSHA can adopt the standard as early as summer 2023. The proposed standard applies to all indoor work areas where the temperature exceeds or equals to 82° F with additional requirements when the temperature equals or exceeds 87°F. Key requirements include providing access to water at worksites and within cooling areas; establishing cool-down areas at all times; encouragement of breaks; and using control measures to minimize the risk of heat illness (i.e., PPE, engineering controls). Employees must also be trained in indoor heat Illness prevention. Metropolitan staff are currently reviewing the requirements and assessing impacts. Public comments are due on May 18.

On April 5, the EPA published proposed revisions to the Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) under the Safe Drinking Water Act. When finalized, the EPA's proposal would, among other things, require public water systems serving over 10,000 people to deliver CCRs twice a year, encourage modern electronic delivery options, clarify information regarding lead levels and efforts to reduce lead in drinking water and provide translation for customers with limited English proficiency. The EPA held two informational webinars about the proposed CCR Rule on April 12 and April 20, 2023. Metropolitan staff is reviewing the proposed CCR Rule for potential changes to Metropolitan's Annual Water Quality Report that informs the member agency CCRs.

On April 7, Metropolitan submitted a comment letter on the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) 15-day Proposed Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulation. Set for adoption on April 28, the ACF includes a 50% zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) purchase mandate for medium to heavy-duty vehicles weighing more than 8,500 pounds beginning in 2024 with 100% completion by 2027. The ACF will affect the comment letter requesting that CARB delay the 100% ZEV purchase requirement compliance date from 2027 to 2030 to allow both the ZEV marketplace and the state's charging infrastructure to mature. Metropolitan staff will continue to monitor the development of the ACF Regulation.

On April 13, the EPA requested public "input and data" regarding whether to designate the precursors to PFOA and PFOS, as well as seven additional PFAS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund). The seven additional PFAS are PFBS, PFHxS, PFNA, Gen X, PFBA, PFHxA, and PFDA. This proposal follows the EPA's September 6, 2022, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the CERCLA--which is not yet final. The April 1 Federal Register notice also requests input on regulating groups or categories of PFAS as hazardous substances.

Metropolitan staff is preparing comments by the June 12 comment deadline.

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No violations of State or Federal regulations were recorded during the current period.



WATER QUALITY INFORMATION LINE: (800) 354-4420  
VISIT MWD ON THE WEB AT <http://www.mwdh2o.com>

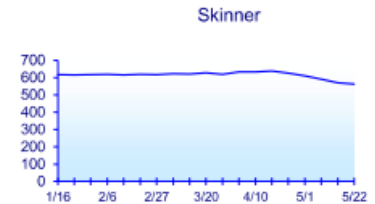
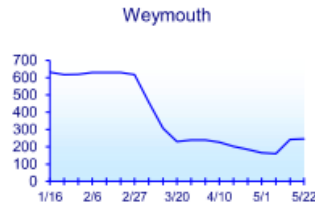
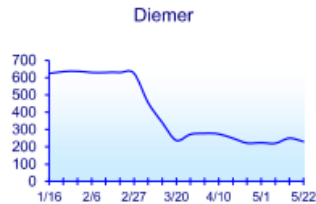
## Water Quality Section Weekly TDS Report

### For the week of 5/21/2023

Percent SPW Needed to Achieve TDS Goal of 500 mg/L				Estimated TDS for Reservoirs		
Source Water TDS		SPW Required		Reservoir (Effluent)	Date	mg/L
Plant	CRW	SPW	Percent			
Weymouth	602	102	20%	Lake Havasu (Table D)	2/1/23	639
Diemer	602	102	20%	Lake Mathews (DFPI-LWRFR)	5/22/23	602
Skinner-Silverwood	0	102	490%	Lake Skinner (Outlet Structure)	5/22/23	510
Skinner-Perris	0	285	175%	Castaic Lake (JFPI)	5/21/23	352
CRW for Diemer and Weymouth is Lake Mathews and San Jacinto - West Portal for Skinner.				Silverwood (Mills Inf)	5/22/23	102
				Lake Perris	5/22/23	285
				DVL Outlet (Table D)	2/13/23	281

### SUNDAY COMPOSITE ESTIMATED TDS FOR 01/15/23 - 05/21/23

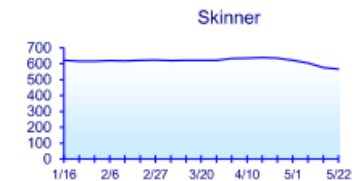
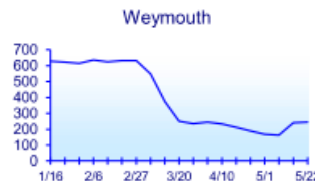
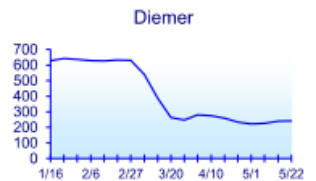
TDS For Week of 5/21	
Plant Eff.	mg/L
Diemer	231
Weymouth	246
Skinner	563
Jensen	371
*Mills	124



Sunday composite estimated TDS measured from plant effluent composite samples collected on Sunday and analyzed for hardness and electrical conductivity. \*Collected on Monday 5/22/2023

### WEEKLY COMPOSITE ESTIMATED TDS FOR 01/15/23 - 05/21/23

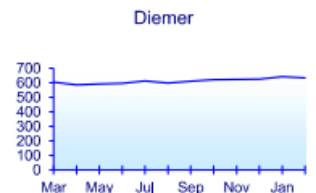
TDS For 5/15 - 5/21	
Plant Eff.	mg/L
Diemer	241
Weymouth	244
Skinner	566



Weekly composite estimated TDS measured from plant effluent composite samples collected Monday through Sunday and analyzed for hardness and electrical conductivity.

### MONTHLY COMPOSITE CALCULATED TDS FOR March 2022 - February 2023

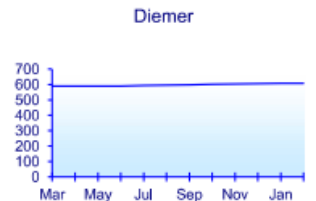
TDS For Feb 2023	
Plant Eff.	mg/L
Diemer	635
Weymouth	638
Skinner	636
Jensen	350
Mills	300



Monthly calculated TDS calculated from plant effluent monthly composite sample for total anions and cations. These results are also used for Table D.

### FLOW WEIGHTED RAA TDS FOR March 2022 - February 2023

Flow-Weighted RAA TDS Mar 2022 - Feb 2023	
Plant	mg/L
Diemer	609
Weymouth	605
Skinner	608
Jensen	328
Mills	297



Seasonal flow weighted RAA TDS calculated from plant effluent monthly composite sample for total anions and cations. Results are based on average monthly flows.

## COLORADO RIVER ISSUES

### **Lower Basin States Agreement on Colorado River Conservation Actions**

On May 22, 2023, The Colorado River Basin States Representatives of Arizona, California, and Nevada reached an agreement to conserve at least an additional 3 million acre-feet (MAF) of Colorado River Water in the Lower Basin by the end of the calendar year 2026, with at least 1.5 MAF of that total being conserved by the end of the calendar year 2024 (Lower Basin Plan). The three lower basin states requested the Lower Basin Plan be thoroughly analyzed as an action alternative in the Bureau of Reclamation's Near-Term Colorado River Operations Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

The terms of the Lower Basin Plan are as follows:

1. The Lower Basin Plan does not require the Secretary to exercise her authority to implement reductions unilaterally, and it does not contemplate any waiver of these authorities to protect the Colorado River system in the future if hydrological conditions require such action.
2. Under this alternative, tier-based reductions and contributions in the remaining interim period (2023 through 2026, inclusive) shall be limited to the existing 2007 Interim Guidelines, the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), and Minute 323.
3. At a minimum, System Conservation (in lieu of additional reductions) achieved in the remaining interim period (2023 through 2026, inclusive) shall be at least 3 MAF, of which at minimum 1.5 MAF shall be physically conserved by the end of the calendar year 2024.
4. In aggregate (understanding that each contract is different and will have user-level limitations), compensated System Conservation shall be mandatory, enforceable, measurable, verifiable, and non-retrievable.
5. System Conservation up to 2.3 MAF will be federally compensated under Pub. L. 117-169 Inflation Reduction Act Title V, Subtitle B, Part 3 "Drought Response and Preparedness" Section 50233 "Drought Mitigation in the Reclamation States" (IRA Funding).
6. The remaining required System Conservation may be in whole or in part compensated by state and/or local entities or be uncompensated. To the extent that System Conservation is federally funded with non-"Bucket 1" IRA Funding, such as under "Bucket 2" IRA Funding, or under Pub. L. 117-58 "The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" Title IX "Western Water Infrastructure," that System Conservation may offset up to 0.2 MAF of the remaining required System Conservation.
7. All or a portion of the remaining required System Conservation may be offset with Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) created in 2023-2026. For any such ICS, the creator cannot order delivery of, transfer, or assign the ICS any time before December 31, 2026. Because of the limitation on ICS storage space, some DCP ICS will become system water, which is an uncompensated addition of system water.
8. If the April 24-month Study "Minimum Probable" model in 2024, 2025, and 2026 indicates that the respective end-of-year elevation in Lake Mead will fall below 1,025 feet, the Lower Division



States will have 45 calendar days from the publication of the respective 24-month Study to propose, after consultation with the Upper Basin States, an implementable plan to Reclamation to protect Lake Mead from reaching an elevation of 1,000 feet. If such an acceptable plan, as determined by Reclamation, is not developed, Reclamation may independently take action(s) to protect 1,000 feet.

9. Glen Canyon Dam operations in the remaining interim period (2023 through 2026, inclusive) under this alternative shall be consistent with the existing 2007 Interim Guidelines and the DCPs except as modified in this term 9. Subject to the Secretary's authorities described in term 1, Lake Powell releases will occur as specified under the 2007 Interim Guidelines, except that when Lake Powell is in either the Middle Elevation Release Tier or Lower Elevation Balancing Tier, a mid-year adjustment can be made to reduce the release to an annual volume not less than 6.0 MAF if there is a possibility of the Minimum Probable scenario in any 24-month study of Lake Powell dropping below 3,500 feet in any of the upcoming 12 months that cannot be avoided by modifying monthly release volumes without changing the annual release volume.

The lower basin agreement was submitted concurrently with a letter from all Seven Basin States requesting a suspension of the current Draft SEIS comment period to thoroughly analyze this proposed action alternative.

## **DELTA CONVEYANCE ACTIVITIES AND STATE WATER PROJECT ISSUES**

### **Delta Conveyance**

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing efforts to organize and develop responses to the comments received on the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), as required under the California Environmental Quality Act CEQA. DWR received more than 700 unique comment letters with over 6,000 individual comments. The Final EIR is expected at the end of 2023, which will include responses to all substantive comments on the Draft EIR and, where appropriate, edits to the Draft EIR responsive to comments received.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) comment period closed on March 16, 2023. The DCP draft EIS is required under the National Environmental Protection Act. The USACE is also starting the initial organization of the comments received on the DCP draft EIS.

DWR's field activities under the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Soil Investigations in the Delta are planned to resume in early May 2023. These activities include data collection, soil samples, and surveys to understand better the region's geology to support the evaluation of potential activities, including the proposed DCP. DWR will update its public information website to provide information on soil investigations to interested members of the public.

(<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/Delta-Conveyance/Environmental-Planning>)



## **Sites Reservoir**

At the Sites Reservoir Authority Joint Authority Board and Reservoir Committee meeting on April 21, an update on the Final EIR/EIS schedule was presented. It is anticipated that certification of the Final EIR will be an action item for consideration at the July or August Authority Board Meeting. At that time, the Authority Board must adopt CEQA findings, a Statement of Overriding Considerations, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. Following these actions, the Authority Board will consider approving or denying the Sites Reservoir Project.

Sites Reservoir Authority staff also presented information on the Principles for the Storage, Delivery, and Sale of Sites Reservoir Project Water (Storage Principles). The Storage Principles describe a framework for Sites Reservoir Project water procedures, including system losses, available storage, and allocation. The available storage in Sites Reservoir is calculated to be 1.41 million acre-feet, which includes recent refinements and a 60 thousand acre-feet dead pool that is unavailable stored water in the wholesale electrical energy market, which has the potential to be more cost-effective than going through Pacific Gas & Electric.

## **Science Activities**

Metropolitan staff continued participating in collaborative science activities addressing native fish species in the Delta, their habitats, and the effects of stressors. In April, Metropolitan staff worked with university researchers to conduct field sampling work for an assessment of contaminant occurrence in the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel. Delta smelt use the ship channel as a habitat; the study will inform contaminant risk in the ship channel.

Metropolitan staff is also continuing to work on Phase 3 of the Reorienting to Salmonid Recovery project. Participants will develop an agreed-upon suite of priority actions for salmonid recovery in this phase. Metropolitan staff facilitated the first structured decision-making workshop for the Reorienting to Salmonid Recovery project in late March. The workshop participants included state and federal resource agencies, public water agencies, non-governmental organizations, commercial and recreational fishing interests, and tribes. At the workshop, the participants discussed potential management options and recovery scenarios to benefit salmon and provided input on bookend scenarios to evaluate.

## **Regulatory Activities**

In April, Metropolitan staff presented an update on the Voluntary Agreements to Metropolitan's One Water and Stewardship Committee. The presentation included information on the schedule and the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement in Support of Proposed Voluntary Agreements for the Sacramento River, Delta, and Tributaries Update to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan). The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will continue its public and peer review process for the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement through early 2024, and SWRCB consideration for adoption of a Bay-Delta Plan update and implementation plan is tentatively scheduled for the end of 2024.

## **Delta Island Activities**

Metropolitan staff prepared and submitted a \$19.7 million grant application to the Delta Conservancy's Nature Based Solutions: Wetland Restoration Grant Program. If awarded, the grant will fund the development of a multi-benefit mosaic of wetlands, rice, and other habitat projects on the Webb tract designed to stop and/or reverse subsidence, generate carbon credits from carbon sequestration opportunities, and create habitat. Metropolitan staff provided an oral presentation on the proposed project to the April 25 Metropolitan Subcommittee on Bay-Delta. Metropolitan staff is also developing outreach materials and met with Contra Costa County representatives and CDFW representatives to discuss the project. Contra Costa County's Board of Supervisors will consider a resolution of support for the project at its May meeting.

## **Ecosystem Restoration**

Metropolitan staff attended the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee Restoration Subcommittee meeting, where the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) gave a presentation on the Cutting the Green Tape Initiative designed to increase the pace and scale of environmental restoration projects and discussed the potential implications for Delta projects. Metropolitan staff also attended a Southern Yolo Bypass tour with representatives from Yolo County that included a visit to the Lookout Slough Project, a multi-benefit project to restore 3,400 acres of tidal wetland.

## **SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOARD MEETING - JUNE 13, 2023**

### **Consent Calendar Other Items – Action**

Approved Committee Assignments:

#### **Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance**

Michael Camacho – Chair

#### **Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee**

Brenda Dennstedt

#### **Ad Hoc Committee on Facilities Naming**

Michael Camacho - Chair

Gloria Cordero

Juan Garza

Tana McCoy

Anthony Fellow

## Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities

Marsha Ramos – Vice Chair (Appointed by Director Tracy Quinn) (Agenda Item 7B)

### **Consent Calendar Items – Action**

Authorize professional services agreements with AECOM Technical Services Inc. and CDM Smith Inc., each in an amount not to exceed \$800,000, to provide engineering services for water desalination studies in Metropolitan's service area. **(Agenda Item 7-1) (DEFERRED)**

(a) Amended the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 to include the Jensen Administration Building Column Panel Replacement, Skinner Chemical Storage Tank Replacement, and the upgrades to the Auld Valley and Red Mountain Control Structures; and (b) Awarded a \$281,900 contract to MMJ Contracting Inc. to replace the GFRC panels in the entrance columns of the Jensen Administration Building. **(Agenda Item 7-2)**

Approved up to \$1.894 million to purchase insurance coverage for Metropolitan's Property and Casualty Insurance Program to renew or replace all the expiring excess liability and specialty insurance policies and maintain the \$25 million self-insured retention for general liability coverage. **(Agenda Item 7-3)**

Approved the Statement of Investment Policy for fiscal year 2023/24; and delegated authority to the Treasurer to invest Metropolitan's funds for fiscal year 2023/24. **(Agenda Item 7-4)**

Authorized the General Manager to execute six lease/license amendments and two new license agreements for the installation and upgrade of telecommunication equipment and changes in the terms at existing telecommunication sites known as Edom Hill, Vidal Junction, Crossman Peak, Las Vegas Junction, Searchlight, Christmas Tree, and Black Peak, and to commence occupying a new site known as Super Nap, in Southern California, Southern Nevada, and Southern Arizona, as part of Metropolitan's Desert Microwave Project. **(Agenda Item 7-5)**

Authorized the General Manager to grant a permanent 40-foot easement to Eastern Municipal Water District for water pipeline purposes northeast of Diamond Valley Lake in the city of Hemet within Assessor Parcel Numbers 464-250-002, 464-250-003, 454-270-020 and 454-270-032. **(Agenda Item 7-6)**

By a two-thirds vote, authorized payment of up to \$932,800 for support of the Colorado River Board and Six Agency Committee for FY 2023/2024. **(Agenda Item 7-7)**

Adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project and take related CEQA actions. **(Agenda Item 7-8)**

Authorized adding a \$500,000 line item to the fiscal year 2023/2024 Equal Employment Opportunity Office budget to cover outside legal services; and authorized an agreement with Meyers Nave in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for ongoing legal advice in support of Equal Employment Opportunity Office activities and Equal Employment Opportunity related personnel and compliance matters. **(Agenda Item 7-9)**

### **Other Board Items - Action**

Authorized on-call agreements with Kennedy Jenks Consultants Inc., Lee & Ro Inc., and Stantec Consulting Services Inc., in amounts not to exceed \$10 million each, for a maximum period of five years for engineering services. **(Agenda Item 8-1)**

Deferred awarding a contract for furnishing and installation of pre-engineered storage buildings at the Hinds, Eagle Mountain, and Iron Mountain pumping plants and directed staff to present additional value engineering information for the project at the July EO&T meeting and bring an action item back to the Board in August. **(Agenda Item 8-2)**

Expressed support, if amended, on two legislative bond proposals, Assembly Bill 1567 (Garcia) and Senate Bill 867 (Allen), to provide funding for water projects to address climate change impacts. **(Agenda Item 8-3)**

Authorized the General Manager to exercise discretion under Administrative Code Section 6101(k) to enter into a successor Memorandum of Understanding with the Supervisors' Association. **(Agenda Item 8-4)**

### **This Information Should Not Be Considered The Official Minutes Of The Meeting.**

All current month materials, and materials after July 1, 2021 are available on the public website here:  
<https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

This database contains archives from the year 1928 to June 30, 2021:  
<https://bda.mwdh2o.com/Pages/Default.aspx>

## **PUBLIC/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

### **COMMUNITY AND MEMBER AGENCY RELATIONS**

#### **Public Affairs Staff:**

- Mailed prizes to top 15 Honorable Mention winners for Poster Contest 2023
- Prepped posters, certificates, and prizes for the 2023 Poster Contest Awards Ceremony at Shipley Nature Center
- Participated in a MWDOC Girl Scouts clinic planning meeting with the City of Seal Beach
- Attended the Trabuco Canyon Water District's Water Awareness Day; provided a booth and Ricky Raindrop<sup>SM</sup>
- Provided a Ricky Raindrop<sup>SM</sup> appearance for the City of Westminster's Open House
- Prepared and distributed summer bill inserts to MWDOC member agencies
- Worked with Hashtag Pinpoint and MWDOC WUE team to create three (3) 30-second videos on water-saving devices to play at the Department of Motor Vehicles
- Attended a City of Orange Rotary Speakers Bureau Presentation City of Orange Rotary with Director Dick.

#### **Government Affairs Staff:**

- Participated in the ACC-OC Legislative and Regulatory Committee meeting
- Distributed the Grants Tracking and Acquisition monthly report

### **EDUCATION**

#### **Public Affairs Staff**

- Met with Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors to discuss K-12 education opportunities
- Met with Orange County Business Council to discuss the Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA) and workforce development
- Met with Big Picture Learning on a teachers' training outline sponsored by WEEA
- Participated in a H RTP Grant Statewide Advisory Council meeting led by the California Municipal Utilities Association
- Met with Orange Coast College to discuss Orange County Children's Book Festival opportunities
- Provided information regarding MWDOC's K-12 Choice School Programs to the City of San Clemente

- Executed a one-year contract extension for the MWDOC K-12 Choice School Program contractors. Funds are budgeted, and authorization has been approved - see Exhibit J1 in the final FY 2023-24 board-approved budget.

## **MEDIA OUTREACH AND DISTRIBUTION**

### **Public Affairs Staff**

- Prepared and distributed content for social media
- Distributed weekly news digests to MWDOC managers and Board
- Updated MWDOC website as requested by several departments
- Prepared and distributed one Media Advisory:
  - Media Advisory: MWDOC ISSUES STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON INFRASTRUCTURE

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### **Public Affairs Staff:**

- Provided first round of headshots for the website to the MWDOC Board and staff
- Sent out the first invite for the June 22, 2023, MWDOC Water Policy Forum & Dinner featuring keynote speaker, Ed Ring
- Speakers Bureau – presented a session at the 2023 California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) conference
- Accepted a CAPIO EPIC Award – top honors in the category – for MWDOC's participation in the Streams of Hope campaign – a public art and community cleanup campaign in partnership with the Wyland Foundation, Orange County Conservation Corps, and the County of Orange's Adopt a Channel Program
- Met with project partners to discuss details for the Coronet Watersmart Conservation Garden ribbon-cutting celebration
- Designed and distributed invitations for the Coronet Watersmart Conservation Garden ribbon-cutting celebration to the MWDOC Board and staff on social media channels and in the surrounding Westminster neighborhoods
- Coordinated and attended the Colorado River Aqueduct Inspection Trip with Director Seckel

### **Governmental Affairs Staff:**

- Staffed the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting
- Met with staff from the Placentia Library District to discuss legislative priorities for ISDOC
- Invited and coordinated details with the speaker for the June WACO meeting
- Responded to questions related to the Grants Tracking & Acquisitions RFP and circulated the responses

- Coordinated with members of the ISDOC Bylaws Ad-Hoc Committee on potential updates for discussion
- Staffed the WACO Meeting featuring speaker Bill Hasencamp discussing the Colorado River negotiations
- Reached out to and worked with CSDA staff to obtain a voting member mailing list and other information needed for Director Nederhood's CSDA Board candidacy
- Emailed each office in MWDOC's Assembly, Senate, and Congressional delegation requesting certificates for the Poster Contest winners
- Edited the CSDA Board election letter to distribute to voting members in the upcoming election
- Reviewed and scored proposals received for the Grants Tracking & Acquisition RFPs
- Staffed the WACO Planning Committee meeting
- Drafted and distributed the ISDOC Quarterly Meeting invite
- Reviewed and scored admissions for all of CSDA's annual awards to be announced at their annual conference in August

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

### Governmental Affairs Staff:

- Participated in the CSDA Legislative Committee meeting
- Participated in the CMUA Regulatory and Legislative Committee meetings
- Attended the ACWA State Legislative Committee meeting
- Attended the ACWA Federal Affairs Committee meeting
- Attended the ACWA Spring Conference in Monterey and attended the following presentations/meetings:
  - Opening Breakfast
  - California Colorado River Board meeting
  - Federal Issues Forum on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Implementation
- Attended the 2023 Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment/Reporting webinar
- Attended the California Natural Resources Agency May Revise informational webinar
- Participated in the Southern California Water Coalition Legislative Taskforce meeting
- Attended the CSDA Legislative Days conference in Sacramento
- Met with Assemblywoman Laurie Davies to discuss CSDA legislative priorities
- Attended the California Natural Resources Agency webinar on "Weather Whiplash"



- Participated in the Metropolitan Legislative Coordinators' meeting
- Participated in the Cal-Desal Legislative Committee meeting
- Met with Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris's staff to review MWDOC's position on water-related legislation coming to the Assembly Floor
- Attended the ACWA Legislative Committee meeting
- Met with Jay Jefferson of Metropolitan to discuss water rights legislation

## OUTREACH METRICS

### Public Affairs Staff:

- Google Performance Analytics (April 2023)
  - 1,182 MWDOC business listing searches
  - 254 business profile interactions
  - 2,494 people viewed the business profile
- Website Analytics (GM report timeframe)
  - 13,773 pageviews
  - Top pages for this date range
    - Home page
    - Residential rebates
    - RFP/RFQ listings
    - Free landscape designs
    - Opportunities/Careers
- Social Media (GM report timeframe)

According to Hootsuite – the global leader in social media management – a good engagement rate is between 1% to 5%.

Currently, MWDOC's engagement rate is at 19.56%

- 59,666 Post reach (number of people)
- 11,696 Post engagement (actions taken – likes, shares, etc.)

## **WATER USE EFFICIENCY**

### **ORANGE COUNTY LANDSCAPE PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)**

On May 11, Joe Berg, Beth Fahl, Tina Fann, Rachel Waite, and Sam Fetter hosted the Orange County Landscape PAC meeting via Zoom. Staff from the City of San Clemente, El Toro Water District, Irvine Ranch Water District, Moulton Niguel Water District, and Santa Margarita Water District also participated in the meeting. Items on the agenda included:

- Update on Turf and Drip Program Guides
- Trees Discussion
  - Treebates
  - Stormwater Capture Alternative
- MWDOC Grants Discussion
- Master Valve and Flow Sensor Rebates Discussion
- Landscape Tune-up Program
- Focus for Future PACs

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13.

### **METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (METROPOLITAN) WATER USE EFFICIENCY (WUE) MEETING**

On May 18, Joe, Beth, Rachel W., Sam, and Tina F. participated in the Metropolitan WUE meeting via Zoom. Topics on the agenda included:

- Welcome
- Metropolitan Board Meetings Update
  - Previous: May
  - Upcoming: June
- Vallecitos Water District Video “Flametree Farms”
- Metropolitan Conservation Program Updates
  - Green Gardens Group G3 Landscape Classes
  - WELDCP/MWELO
  - Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP) – What is it, and How does it work?
- External Affairs Update
- Member Agency Roundtable

The next meeting is scheduled for June 15.

## **ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES (ACWA) WUE WORKING GROUP MEETING: VARIANCES AND NEW GUIDELINES AND METHODOLOGIES**

On May 18, Rachel W. attended the ACWA WUE Working Group Meeting, which focused on variances and new guidelines and methodologies related to the Conservation Framework. The discussion focused on ways that the urban water use objective calculation may be simplified, specifically the calculation of variances, with the goal of providing comments/recommendations to State staff. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled to continue working on the Conservation Framework.

## **METROPOLITAN ONE WATER AWARDS CEREMONY**

On May 22, Joe attended the One Water Awards Ceremony hosted by Metropolitan. The ceremony honored six organizations that participated in Metropolitan's Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP), having made major improvements to their water management, operations, or equipment. The City of Huntington Beach was recognized for its No-DES Truck, which recirculates water during system flushing operations and is estimated to save more than 182 million gallons over the project life. This project was made possible through funding received from Metropolitan through the WSIP Program and grant funding provided by MWDOC.

## **PROPOSITION 1 ROUND 1 REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE LANDSCAPE REBATE PROGRAM**

On May 23, Joe, Rachel W., and Sam met with San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) and SBVMWD member agency staff to discuss the Regional Comprehensive Landscape Rebate Program (Grant Program), funded through Proposition 1 Round 1. This Grant Program is a MWDOC-led partnership among Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power, Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, SBVMWD, and Western Municipal Water District. At this meeting, MWDOC staff shared information and fielded questions regarding the grant to assist SBVMWD and its retailers in meeting their Grant Program goals.

## **DEDICATED IRRIGATION METER (DIM) LANDSCAPE AREA MEASUREMENTS (LAM) PROGRAM**

On May 30, Rachel W. and Sam met with City of San Clemente staff and project consultant NV5 to discuss the DIM LAM program, which provides Orange County retail water agencies landscape area measurements for their dedicated irrigation meters, as set forth in the Conservation Framework. The meeting focused on the designation of Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), such as parks or sports fields. This designation is extremely important as these landscapes receive a higher efficiency factor of 1.0 than regularly designated landscapes. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled as necessary.

## **CALIFORNIA WATER EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP (CALWEP) PEER-TO-PEER CONFERENCE**

On May 31-June 1, Rachel W., Sam, Tina F., Cristal Castro, Letty Aguilar, Melissa Hurtado. and Claire Johnson participated in the CalWEP Peer-to-Peer Conference in Long Beach, with Beth participating remotely. The conference was attended by approximately 250 members and focused on water efficiency from various organizations across the state. Plenary and collaborative session topics included:

- Messaging Water Efficiency During Wet Years
- Controversial Statements – Turf Replacement
- The Conservation Framework
  - Refresher Course
  - Commercial, Industrial, Institutional Standard
  - Water Loss Compliance
  - Compliance Tools
- Effective Programs
  - Data Analysis and Reporting
  - Meeting People Where They Are
  - Smart Technology
  - Partnerships: Water Agencies + Stormwater/Energy

**INFORMATION CALENDAR**

**MWDOC GENERAL INFORMATION  
ITEMS**

**MWDOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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