

**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	Orange County Sanitation District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Frank Ury	Santa Margarita Water District
Dan Ferons	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Chip Monaco	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Kristy Khachigian	KK Consulting
Richard Bell	
Brooke Jones	

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

No public comments were received.

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.

Maribeth Goldsby
Board Secretary