

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY (MWDOC)**

April 6, 2023

At 5:00 p.m. President Yoo Schneider called to order the Special Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County in Conference Room 101 at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, California. Director Dick 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 (via phone)
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary
Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs

OTHERS PRESENT

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman
Peter Whittingham
Dick Ackerman
Paul Weghorst
Sherry Wanninger
Mike Markus
Alicia Dunkin
Chuck Gibson
Saundra Jacobs
Frank Ury
Jim Leach
Chip Monaco
Kristy Khachigian

MWDOC/MET Director
MWDOC/MET Director
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Ackerman Consulting
Irvine Ranch Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Orange County Water District
Orange County Water District
Santa Margarita Water District
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Santa Margarita Water District
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.

DISCUSS OCWD REQUEST FOR LAFCO TO ANALYZE CONSOLIDATION IN MSR

Interim General Manager, Harvey De La Torre provided an overview of OCWD's Board meeting wherein the OCWD Board approved the appropriation of funds (approximately \$300,000) for the LAFCO MSR Focused Study (Study), and invited MWDOC to be a co-applicant in the Study. He noted that OC LAFCO will select a consultant for the Study on April 12, 2023.

Each Board member weighed in and discussion/opinions included: not participating in the study; how the study could effectively evaluate the benefits of a potential consolidation between the two agencies without providing South County access to the groundwater basin and not merging the cities of Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Fullerton into the proposed consolidated agency; the need/importance of evaluating all options for the best form of effective and efficient government; OCWD not providing flexibility or options; the lack of substance of the Grand Jury Report (where this discussion originated); the many reviews of the same issue over the years and the general conclusion that savings and/or efficiencies are not warranted (thereby stalling further evaluation); sending a letter to OC LAFCO asking for a delay (to allow time for the two Boards to meet and discuss); supporting OCWD with their efforts to pursue the study and participating/cooperating when called upon; and OCWD's desire to have a seat on the MET Board.

Following this discussion, President Yoo Schneider suggested the Board send a letter to OC LAFCO asking for a delay in process (until after the May 5, 2023 Joint Board meeting between the two agencies). Directors Nederhood and Thomas expressed concern with this approach noting their opposition to the study and further discussions on this issue (as it has been reviewed and studied many times in the past).

SMWD Director Sandra Jacobs suggested that rather than delay the process, MWDOC should ask for expanding the proposed consultant's scope (which would include the three cities and basin issues).

Upon MOTION by Director Crane, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (5-2), the Board authorized a letter be sent to OC LAFCO asking for a delay in the consultant approval process to allow time for the MWDOC and OCWD Boards to meet, as well as asking to expand the proposed consultant's scope of work. Said action was taken by the following roll call vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
District Secretary