

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

December 6, 2023

At 8:30 a.m., President Yoo Schneider called to order the Workshop Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County in Conference Room 101 at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Director Dick led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Goldsby called the roll. Legal Counsel Byrne announced that Directors Yoo Schneider and McVicker would participate via Zoom under the “just cause” exception of AB 2449.

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, Dir. of MET Issues/Policy
Alex Heide, Water Resources Analyst (absent)
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Hilary Chumpitazi, Director of Finance/IT
Kevin Hostert, Sr. Water Resource Analyst
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Charles Buslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.

*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Adam Benson
Katano Kasaine
Arnout van den Berg
Sara Tucker (absent)
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Ed Means (absent)
Paul Jones
Peter Whittingham
Doug Davert
Dave Youngblood
Fred Adjarian
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin

Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
NRR
NRR
Syrus Devers Advocacy
Ackerman Consulting
Means Consulting
Dopudja & Wells Consulting
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
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

Dennis Cafferty	El Toro Water District
Steve LaMar	Irvine Ranch Water District
Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Mike Markus	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Adam Hutchinson	Orange County Water District
Keith Van Der Maaten	Laguna Beach County Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Don Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kaden Young	Moulton Niguel Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Frank Ury	Santa Margarita Water District
Jim Leach	Santa Margarita Water District
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Glen Acosta	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Richard Bell	

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.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED - Determine need and take action to agendize item(s), which arose subsequent to the posting of the Agenda. (ROLL CALL VOTE: Adoption of this recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the Board members present or, if less than two-thirds of the Board members are present, a unanimous vote.)

No items were presented.

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

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

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

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**PRESENTATION BY METROPOLITAN STAFF ON THE PURE WATER SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COST RECOVERY ALTERNATIVES**

MET Staff, Katano Kasaine, Arnout van den Berg, and Adam Benson, presented information on initial cost recovery alternatives for the Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) program. PWSC is a partnership between MET and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts which could create a new water supply to help meet the region's needs by providing up to 150 mgd of water (or 155,000 acre-feet annually).

The presentations included the following: PWSC program overview, as well as an outline of the conceptual cost alternatives, objectives, and principles pursuant to a Raftelis Study focused on cost recovery.

The audience and Board members engaged in a robust discussion with the MET staff, with specific emphasis on tax issues (and potential voting requirements), how the cost recovery alternatives may be implemented and distributed among the agencies (adding costs to the overall rate, bond expenses, etc.), the potential for litigation, whether producing direct potable reuse was financially feasible, and which alternatives appeared to be best for the region (and the importance of evaluating the alternatives by viewing them from a regional approach standpoint).

President Yoo Schneider suggested an additional presentation be provided in the near future which would address various issues such as treatment costs, operations, and a more in-depth look at the cost alternatives which are narrowed down by the MET Board (as well as whether additional alternatives are explored).

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

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

Mr. Garrett Durst of NRR reviewed NRR's written report in the packet, highlighting the appropriations process, the Central Valley Project biological opinion, and Sites Reservoir. He also highlighted the fact that former Speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy will be stepping down from Congress.

The Board received and filed the report.

b. State Legislative Report

Mr. Syrus Devers, of SDA, reviewed his report, noting that due to recess, there was nothing new to report.

The Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, noting that he recently sent the Board an article by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) regarding water rights.

Responding to an inquiry by Director Nederhood, it was noted that the law recently adopted by the State of California regarding LAFCO, does not impact MWDOC, but more specifically impacts the SDCWA.

The Board received and filed the report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Whittingham referenced his report, highlighting that EMWD is considering a cost-share agreement with SCWD regarding the Doheny Desalination Project.

The Board received and filed his report.

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

Director Dick highlighted Brock Reservoir and provided an overview of how that water is held and delivered to the MET service area.

Director Seckel commented on the CAMP4W process, noting that the Task Force was scheduled to meet on December 19, 2023.

Director Erdman reviewed various contracts which were authorized by the MET Board, and he reported that a portion of the MET Board toured Gene Camp.

Director Ackerman reported that the MET Board voted on an exchange agreement between IID, SDCWA, MET and the Bureau of Reclamation to increase the levels at Lake Mead.

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

Interim General Manager De La Torre reported on the upcoming AMP shutdown due to a number of wire breaks; more information will be presented to the Board in the near future.

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary reports regarding the October MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for the upcoming MET Board and Committee Agendas

The report was received and filed.

CLOSED SESSION

Legal Counsel Byrne announced that although a closed session was agendized, it was not necessary; the Board continued in open session.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF GENERAL MANAGER CONTRACT

Director Seckel made a MOTION to authorize a five-year contract with Harvey De La Torre as General Manager, with a salary of \$325,000 per year, and to include a six-month severance provision, effective December 4, 2023; all other terms and conditions will be consistent with his contract as Interim General Manager. Said MOTION was seconded by Director Thomas, and carried (7-0), via the following roll call vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m., in memory of OCWD Director Kelly Rowe.

Maribeth Goldsby
Board Secretary