

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

February 7, 2024

At 8:30 a.m., President McVicker 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 Ackerman 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, General Manager  
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel  
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary  
Melissa Baum-Haley, Dir. of MET Issues/Policy  
Alex Heide, Sr. Water Resources Analyst  
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 Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.  
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency

\*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

**OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS**

Linda Ackerman  
Dennis Erdman

**OTHERS PRESENT**

George Nishikawa  
Nina Hawk  
Dee Bradshaw  
Janet Harms  
Jennifer Nevills  
Sara Tucker (absent)  
Garrett Durst  
Syrus Devers  
Dick Ackerman  
Paul Jones  
Peter Whittingham  
Dave Youngblood  
Doug Davert  
Fred Adjarian  
Kathryn Freshley  
Mike Gaskins

Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.  
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.  
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Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.  
Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.  
NRR  
NRR  
Syrus Devers Advocacy  
Ackerman 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

Kay Havens	El Toro Water District
Mark Monin	El Toro Water District
Dennis Cafferty	El Toro Water District
Sherri Seitz	El Toro Water District
Vu Chu	El Toro Water District
Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Jim Fidler	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Don Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Kaden Young	Moulton Niguel Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Don Bunts	Santa Margarita Water District
Chip Monaco	Santa Margarita Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Gene Hernandez	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Richard Bell	
Brooke Jones	

**TELECONFERENCE SITE**

Director Yoo Schneider was participating via teleconference location (all agenda requirements pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act requirements were complied with).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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**

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

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

## **PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **PRESENTATION REGARDING PRESTRESSED CONCRETE CYLINDER PIPE (PCCP) REHABILITATION FOR PORTIONS OF THE ALLEN-MCCOLLOCH PIPELINE (AMP)**

Ms. Nina Hawk (MET's Chief of Bay-Delta Resources/Group Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives), provided an update and overview of the Delta Conveyance Project, which included information on the final Environmental Impact Report (certified December 2023), State Water Project reliability projections beyond 2040, and the next steps for the Project, including the proposed Project schedule.

The audience and Board members engaged in discussion with the MET staff, with specific emphasis on the importance of the Project (as evidenced by the recent storms) as well as more comparative modeling for the future, the potential for bond issuance for financing the Project (as well as a cost benefit analysis), the current status of litigation involving the Project, as well as potential future litigation (and how this litigation may effect water supplies), MET's two-year budget planning process, MET's engagement in the "Delta County Coalitions," the potential for gaining partnerships to fund the Project, and the future of the Delta and how this Project would enhance its future. Ms. Hawk advised that MET staff will take a more objective look at the Delta regarding the best approach in moving forward with changing conditions.

The Board thanked Ms. Hawk for the presentation and received and filed the report as presented.

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**

General Manager De La Torre advised that because NRR would be providing the Federal Legislative Report at the February 21, 2024 Board meeting, the report was not included in this packet.

### **a. State Legislative Report**

Mr. Syrus Devers, of SDA, reviewed his report, highlighting the potential to secure funding in the proposed Drought and Climate Adaptation Bond measures. He noted that the Department of Finance has indicated they have roughly \$20 billion in bonding capacity, which will be affected if the Governor's mental health bond is approved by voters in March. Mr. Devers discussed the need for and importance of "pushing back" at the State Board's proposed conservation framework. A discussion was held regarding CARB's Advanced Clean Fleet standards for medium and heavy duty vehicles, and the Mental Health Bond on the March 2024 ballot.

The Board received and filed the report.

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

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, highlighting the Snowflake Science by the University of Utah.

The Board received and filed the report.

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

Mr. Whittingham referenced his report, highlighting the rainfall amounts in Orange County.

The Board received and filed his report.

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

Director Ackerman reported on MET's Delta Ad Hoc Committee activities which included hosting an inspection trip with the Delta Counties' Boards of Supervisors to San Diego's Pure Water Project, the FlorAbunda nursery in Escondido, Diamond Valley Lake, Pure Water So Cal, and the City of Compton. She noted that the trip concluded with a Special Board meeting and roundtable discussion.

Director Seckel reported on MET's upcoming two-year Budget discussions and projected rate increases, the importance of finding ways to fund future improvements (noting that MET's projections do not include all of the capital improvements). He advised the next budget workshop was scheduled for February 12, 2024.

Director Erdman highlighted his recent trip to Washington, DC with MET senior level staff and other MET Directors, as well as the subject matter for these meetings which included MET's Pure Water recycled water (large scale) project, tax parity for WUE rebates, PFAS liability protection, low income rate assistance, and Colorado River supplies).

Director Dick provided an overview of an inspection trip he hosted (which included the Hoover Dam), as well as topics covered during the trip (budget, financing, phasing projects, et al.).

**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 January MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for the upcoming MET Board and Committee Agendas

The report was received and filed. General Manager De La Torre advised that Katano Kasaine would be attending the March 6, 2024 Workshop Board meeting regarding MET's two-year budget.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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Maribeth Goldsby  
Board Secretary