

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

August 7, 2024

At 8:30 a.m., As President McVicker was participating via a teleconference location, Vice President Thomas 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.

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, Assistant General Mgr.
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Joe Berg, Director of WUE
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Control Prog. Supervisor

*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Sara Tucker (absent)
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Peter Whittingham
Paul Jones
Doug Davert
Marilyn Thoms
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Dennis Cafferty
Vu Chu
Mike Dunbar
Ken Vecchiarelli
Steve LaMar
Doug Reinhart

NRR
NRR
Syrus Devers Advocacy
Ackerman Consulting
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Dopudja & Wells Consulting
East Orange County Water District
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
El Toro Water District
Emerald Bay Service District
Golden State Water Company
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District

Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
John Withers	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Jim Fisler	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Don Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Laura Freese	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Jerry Vilander	Serrano Water District
Bill Green	South Coast Water District
Joe Muller	South Coast Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Gene Hernandez	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Stephen Faessel	City of Anaheim MET Director
Brandon Goshi	Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Maureen Martin	Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Noosha Razavian	Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Liz Mendelson-Goossens	San Diego County Water Authority
Charles Luas	Orchard Dale Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Graham Bradner	Delta Conveyance Design Construction Authority
Claudia Rodriguez	Delta Conveyance Design Construction Authority
Janet Barbieri	JB Comm, Inc.
David Sunding	Berkeley Research Group
Heidi Chou	City of Santa Ana
Armando Fernandez	City of Santa Ana
Carrie Buckman	CA Department of Water Resources

REMOTE/TELECONFERENCE SITES

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice President Thomas 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 Thomas 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

UPDATE ON DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT – COSTS ESTIMATE AND BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS

Assistant General Manager Melissa Baum-Haley advised that the Board would hear presentations from Carrie Buckman (CA Department of Water Resources), Graham Bradner (Delta Conveyance Design & Construction Authority), and David Sunding (Berkeley Research Group) regarding the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) and the recent benefit-cost analysis.

Following introductions, Ms. Carrie Bucknam presented information regarding plans moving forward with the DCP (implementation) and how the DCP will modernize California's water infrastructure. Mr. Graham Bradner followed with information regarding cost estimate updates (including a comparison from 2020 estimates), methodology estimates, proposed DCP schedule for completion (2042), and innovation efforts (e.g., Bethany Reservoir Pumping Plant). Dr. David Sunding concluded the presentations by providing information on the benefit/cost analysis results, an overview of the SWP and how the DCP readily passes the benefit-cost test, water supply, water quality, and seismic benefits, a sensitivity analysis (across all climate scenarios), a cost comparison to alternative supplies, and the analyzed cost of "doing nothing."

The Board and audience held considerable discussion with the presenters on the information provided, specifically on inflation rates (and rate determination factors), the timeline for decision-making on whether to proceed (following completion of all permitting), how the region would cope with losing approximately one-quarter of its SWP deliveries without the DCP, the fact that other alternatives are more expensive, who pays which costs and who benefits from the project (historically the SWP is a beneficiary pays allocation), the effect a new Governor would have on the project and decision making, the impact of the Endangered Species Act on California's water, and the importance of a portfolio approach for MET.

Following discussion, the Board thanked the presenters and received and filed the information.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report

Mr. Garrett Durst of NRR reviewed his written report and he highlighted the appropriations process, the Water Resources Development Act, the Longfin Smelt as a newly listed endangered

species in the Delta, and the retirement of Chris Harris from the Colorado River Board of California.

The Board received and filed the report.

b. State Legislative Report

Mr. Syrus Devers of SDA reviewed his report, highlighting SB 1255 (Durazo) which would create a low income rate assistance program funded with “voluntary” donations, indicating he hoped it would be sent to the Assembly Appropriations suspense file, and not advance to the Assembly Floor for a vote.

The Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, highlighting a proposal to eliminate fossil fuel from the State of California.

Director Dick referenced the Air to Water Convertors referenced in Mr. Ackerman’s report and asked that the link to more information on this item be sent to the Board.

The Board received and filed the report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Peter Whittingham reviewed his written report, which was included in the Board packet.

The Board received and filed the report.

e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the report.

f. Metropolitan Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the report.

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

IRWD Director Steve La Mar referenced an item scheduled to be discussed at MET’s One Water and Stewardship Committee (update on proposed agreements to establish watershed partnerships and forest health pilot investigations in the Northern Sierra Nevada; each agreement will not exceed \$200,000 per year for a maximum of two years). It was noted that the MET Directors and staff would be monitoring this item.

Director Erdman highlighted a recent presentation on MET finances (Finances 101); he distributed copies of the presentation to the Board.

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 July MET Board Meeting
- b. 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 10:53 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
District Secretary