

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

January 2, 2025

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 Seckel led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

**MWDOC DIRECTORS**

Al Nederhood (absent)  
Larry Dick\*  
Karl W. Seckel\*  
Bob McVicker  
Randall Crane  
Jeffery M. Thomas (absent)  
Megan Yoo Schneider

**STAFF**

Harvey De La Torre, General Manager  
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel (via Zoom)  
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary  
Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Mgr.  
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.  
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs  
Joe Berg, Director of WUE  
Alex Heide, Sr. Water Resource Analyst  
Kevin Hostert, Sr. Water Resource Analyst  
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer  
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Control Prog. Supervisor  
Rachel Waite, WUE Program Supervisor

\*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

**OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS**

Linda Ackerman  
Dennis Erdman (absent)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sara Tucker (absent)  
Garrett Durst  
Syrus Devers  
Dick Ackerman  
Peter Whittingham (absent)  
Paul Jones  
Christine Carson  
Kathryn Freshley  
Mike Gaskins  
Kay Havens  
Mark Monin  
Vu Chu  
Peer Swan  
Jim Fisler  
Stacy Taylor  
Don Froelich  
Sherry Wanninger  
Chris Olsen

NRR  
NRR  
Syrus Devers Advocacy  
Ackerman Consulting  
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors  
Dopudja & Wells Consulting  
Aleshire & Wynder  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
El Toro Water District  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
Mesa Water  
Mesa Water  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Moulton Niguel Water District  
Orange County Water District

Laura Freese	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Bill Green	South Coast Water District
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Gene Hernandez	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority

### **TELECONFERENCE SITE**

Director McVicker participated via teleconference locations (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**

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**

#### **PRESENTATION REGARDING METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT WATER PROGRAMS**

Senior Water Resources Analysts Kevin Hostert and Alex Heide presented information on MET's current water conditions (accumulated precipitation/snowpack, water storage, etc.) as well as MET programs (Reverse Cyclic/Cyclic, conceptual framework of interagency local exchange opportunities, conceptual supplemental water management program, and the terming-out Conjunctive Use Program).

The Board and audience then discussed various topics, including clarifications on ILSEP, as well as MET's use of incentivized programs. Mr. De La Torre then outlined MET's next steps with these programs, which will be (1) assessing the program effectiveness as part of the water

surplus and drought management process, (2) including these programs in the business model process, and (3) continued collaboration with MET's member agencies.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the information.

### **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**

#### **a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)**

Mr. Garrett Durst of NRR reviewed his written report, and he highlighted that efforts to pass legislation that would clarify that special districts are eligible for federal grant funding are currently on hold. He also reviewed each of the items outlined in the report.

The Board received and filed the report.

#### **b. State Legislative Report (SDA)**

Mr. Syrus Devers of SDA reviewed his report, highlighting new legislation that was introduced, precipitation levels and outlook, and a recent report regarding the 2022 Merced River incident (dried up due to low flow and drought conditions).

The Board received and filed the report.

#### **c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)**

Mr. Dick Ackerman reviewed his report, highlighting the Golden Mussel Threat. The Board received and filed the report.

#### **d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)**

It was noted that Mr. Whittingham was currently on vacation. The Board received and filed the written report.

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

Director Ackerman noted that although there was nothing of significance to report, she highlighted several MET activities for the upcoming year, including State Water Project management decisions, the Colorado River Aqueduct, potential closure to the CAMP4W process, and a decision on General Manager Hagekhalil's investigation.

Director Seckel reported that he anticipates MET staff's report on the first year of CAMP4W.

Director Dick highlighted upcoming discussions for MET's Finance and Asset Management Committee (budget), as well as business model discussion challenges.

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

The report was received and filed.

**CLOSED SESSION ITEMS**

At 9:42 a.m., Legal Counsel Byrne announced that the Board would adjourn to closed session to discuss the following matters with Legal Counsel Carson:

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9. One Case: San Diego County Water Authority v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; all persons interested in the validity of the rates adopted by the Metropolitan Water of Southern California on April 8, 2014, et al., former Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC547139, transferred on December 2, 2014, to San Francisco Superior Court, now Case No. CPF-14-514004.

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9. One Case: San Diego County Water Authority v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; all persons interested in the validity of the rates adopted by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California on April 12, 2016, effective January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2018, et al., former Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS161729, transferred to San Francisco Superior Court, now Case CPF-16-515282.

**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9. One Case: San Diego County Water Authority v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; all persons interested in the validity of the rates adopted by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California on April 10, 2018 to be effective January 1, 2019, and Jan. 1, 2020, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS 173868, Transferred to San Francisco Superior Court, now Case CPF-18-516389.

**RECONVENE**

The Board reconvened at 10:26 a.m., and Legal Counsel Carson announced that no reportable action was taken in closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

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Maribeth Goldsby  
District Secretary