

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

November 6, 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 Nederhood 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 (absent)  
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel  
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 Heidi, 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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sara Tucker (absent)  
Garrett Durst  
Syrus Devers  
Dick Ackerman  
Peter Whittingham  
Paul Jones  
Nina Hawk  
Doug Davert  
Kathryn Freshley  
Mike Gaskins  
Kay Havens  
Mark Monin  
Sherri Seitz  
Vu Chu  
Doug Reinhart  
Peer Swan  
Paul Weghorst

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

Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Jim Fisler	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	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
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Mehul Patel	Orange County Water District
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano 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
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Mike Markus	

**TELECONFERENCE SITES**

Directors McVicker and Yoo Schneider participated via teleconference locations (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**

**PRESENTATION ON THE STATE WATER PROJECT**

Ms. Nina Hawk, Metropolitan's Chief of Bay-Delta Resources, provided information on the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). Her presentation included information regarding how the State Water Project (SWP) is a core component of MET's supply portfolio, an overview of SWP charges from 1963 through 2023, and how the SWP system hydrologic patterns are shifting with climate change. Ms. Hawk then provided an update on the DCP, including operational flexibility, high flow events amidst drought conditions, benefits for long term water supply, and continued planning efforts (funding, permitting, etc.), as well as key takeaways and next step efforts.

The Board and audience then discussed various topics with Ms. Hawk, including energy costs, continued anticipated participation in the DCP, potential permitting issues (under the new presidential administration), SWP charges and affordability, the Pure Water Southern California project, and whether the DCP should continue to be MET's priority project.

Following discussion, the Board thanked Ms. Hawk and received and filed the information.

### **ELECTION RESULTS SUMMARY**

Director of Governmental Affairs Heather Baez provided an overview of Orange County's election results summary, highlighting that Directors Seckel and Thomas were both re-elected.

### **LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**

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

Mr. Garrett Durst of NRR reviewed his written report, and he highlighted the election results for the Senate, the House of Representatives, and President, as well as the appropriations process. He also provided information on how a new presidential administration would affect water-related legislation.

The Board received and filed the report.

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

Mr. Syrus Devers of SDA reviewed his report, highlighting the statewide election results, and any impacts to MWDOC. He noted the Chair seat is vacant for the Senate National Resources & Water Committee.

The Board received and filed the report.

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

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report and commented on a recent Politico article titled "Why the election might not matter for California water," noting that President-elect Trump and Gavin Newsom have similar views on California's water supplies. The Board received and filed the report.

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

Mr. Whittingham reviewed his written report with the Board and the Board received and filed the report.

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

Director Ackerman highlighted several MET activities including desert housing issues, water storage, Proposition 1 funding, water transfers, and Colorado River negotiations. She also reported that the Board extended General Manager Hagekhalil's leave of absence (as an investigation is ongoing).

Director Erdman advised that MET hosted an event at the Anaheim Marriott, titled "MET Works," which was held to introduce contractors on how to do business with MET.

Director Seckel highlighted MET's Finance and Asset Management Committee activities (specifically MET's low water sales and its effect on the budget).

**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 October 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 10:33 a.m.

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Maribeth Goldsby  
District Secretary