

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

October 2, 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* (absent)
Karl W. Seckel*
Bob McVicker
Randall Crane
Jeffery M. Thomas
Megan Yoo Schneider

STAFF

Harvey De La Torre, General Manager
Katrina Wright, 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
Rachel Waite, WUE Program Supervisor
Alex Heidi, Sr. Water Resource Analyst
Kevin Hostert, Sr. Water Resource Analyst
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel (via Zoom)

*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Sara Tucker
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Peter Whittingham
Paul Jones
Dave Youngblood
Doug Davert
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Sherri Seitz
Vu Chu
Ken Vecchiarelli

NRR
NRR
Syrus Devers Advocacy
Ackerman Consulting
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Dopudja & Wells Consulting
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
Golden State Water Company

Steve LaMar	Irvine Ranch Water District
Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Keith Van Der Maaten	Laguna Beach County 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
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Jennifer Lopez	South Coast Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Gene Hernandez	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Sofia Almeida	San Diego County Water Authority
Paul Mesmer	Surfside Colony CSD
Carol Moore	

TELECONFERENCE SITE

Director McVicker participated 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 BY NATURAL RESOURCES RESULTS (NRR)**

Ms. Sara Tucker and Mr. Garrett Durst of Natural Resources Results (NRR) each provided an overview of their written report. The information presented included an in-depth view/analysis of the appropriations process, and bills under consideration/watch (including Colorado River issues, Omnibus bills, Public Lands Act, Salinity Control/Farm bill, and the tax parity for water conservation rebates).

The Board and audience then discussed various topics with Ms. Tucker and Mr. Durst, including the Colorado River Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) account, the Farm Bill and what caused its expiration, the status of discussions between the upper and lower basins (Colorado River), and why excess flows are going to Mexico.

(Director Yoo Schneider left the meeting at 9:21 a.m.)

Following discussion, the Board thanked Ms. Tucker and Mr. Durst and received and filed the information.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**a. State Legislative Report**

Mr. Syrus Devers of SDA reviewed his report, highlighting the opinion on the Delta Smelt, SB 366 (Caballero re the California Water Plan, Long-Term Supply Targets), the Administrative Report by DWR regarding the State Water Project Capability Report for 2024, SB 1390 (Caballero re Groundwater Recharge, Flow Diversions), and AB 2257 (Wilson re Local Government).

The Board received and filed the report.

b. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, noting that the project to expand the Los Vaqueros Reservoir is no longer being pursued (cost was a factor in the decision), and he provided an update on PFAS issues. The Board received and filed the report.

c. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

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

d. MWDOC Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the report.

e. 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

Director Ackerman referenced various issues facing MET, including the Pure Water Southern California project, MET's focus on finding additional storage through its expanded Cyclic Storage Program, and water transfers (opportunities to purchase water from two Northern California entities).

Director Seckel highlighted the following issues discussed at MET: (1) the phasing approach of the Pure Water Southern California project; (2) the CAMP4W process; (3) election of Adan Ortega for another term as MET Chair; (4) MET's investigation into the allegations regarding MET General Manager Hagehkalil, noting all discussions have been in closed session; and (5) MET's continued planning for the Delta Conveyance Project.

Director Erdman highlighted his participation in the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee's activities.

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 September 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 10:35 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
District Secretary