

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

March 5, 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 Nederhood led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

MWDOC DIRECTORS

Al Nederhood
Larry Dick*
Karl W. Seckel* (absent)
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.
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 Waite, WUE Program Supervisor
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
Bill Hasencamp
Doug Davert
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Dennis Cafferty
Sherri Seitz
Vu Chu
Doug Reinhart
Peer Swan

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

Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Keith Van Der Maaten	Laguna Beach County Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Jim Fislser	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Andrew Wiesner	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Don Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Marina Lindsay	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County 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
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Richard Bell	
Chuck Gibson	

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

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 less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**PRESENTATION/UPDATE BY BILL HASENCAMP REGARDING COLORADO RIVER ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Bill Hasencamp (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Manager, Colorado River Resources) presented information on the status of negotiations between the basin states regarding the new Colorado River Guidelines. His presentation included an overview of the guideline terms (as well as territory interim shortage guidelines), reasons for Lake Mead's drop in water levels, the background on the 1922 Compact, 1944 Treaty Allocations, and 1968 River Basin Project Act. He also reviewed Colorado River apportionments, the Supreme Court decree that influenced the structural deficit (1 million acre feet), lower basin usage/needs, as well as the Lower Basin Proposal (of which the lower basin proposes annual cuts of 1.5 million acre feet).

Mr. Hasencamp advised that MET created a new Imported Water subcommittee which will focus on the Colorado River issues.

The Board and audience then discussed various topics, including tribal impacts, where the Colorado River stands in priority at MET (with the many projects such as Pure Water underway), and the value of the Colorado River water for California.

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the information.

METROPOLITAN BUSINESS MODEL UPDATE

General Manager De La Torre provided an update on MET's Business Model refinement efforts, noting that the General Managers' Ad Hoc Group is considering categorizing the recommendations into three tiers (structural or policy refinements with broadly agreed-upon recommendations, items with parameters for policy refinement with a conceptual agreement, and items to be continued with a commitment to follow through due to a comprehensive analysis). He advised that the General Managers (GM) and MET staff would be holding additional sub-working group meetings in March (including an additional ad hoc working group meeting on March 12) to present the GM recommendations (by the GM ad hoc to the LTRPP subcommittee) on March 26.

Discussion ensued regarding conservation (and when MET's conservation goal will be achieved), the Local Resources Program, MET's revenue sources, and the importance of MET's primary mission (and incorporating this mission into the Business Model discussions).

Following discussion, the Board received and filed the report.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)**

Ms. Heather Baez (Director of Governmental Affairs) advised that although NRR representatives were not present due to a conflict, she was available to answer questions from the written report. She highlighted that Congress is set to approve a budget continuing resolution to avert a shut-down, and that the Tax Parity for Water Rebates legislation was re-introduced via a bi-partisan, bi-cameral effort.

Director Crane then provided an overview of the recent ACWA DC Legislative trip (including meetings he attended with staff). The Board discussed the value of the ACWA DC conference, versus the District going at a different time (solo) and which would have the greatest impact; it was noted the Board would discuss this issue in the near future.

The Board received and filed the report.

b. State Legislative Report (SDA)

Mr. Syrus Devers of SDA reviewed his report, highlighting upcoming potential legislative activity including a brief overview of SB 31 (McNerney) updating various sections of the Water Code dealing with recycled water, AB 532 (Ransom), and SB 350 (Durazo) dealing with low-income rate assistance programs for water, Sites Reservoir, and updated Table A allocations for the State Water Project.

The Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman reviewed his report, highlighting the status of the Nutria issue, and SGMA. The Board received and filed the report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Peter Whittingham reviewed his report with the Board and 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 advised that MET General Manager Upadhyay provided a video update addressing his top areas of focus in his capacity as General Manager; she provided an overview of the video's contents.

Director Erdman reported on MET's Engineering, Operations & Technology Committee activities.

Director Dick highlighted the following: (1) Delta Islands; (2) carbon sequestration (and underlying geology, and 3) MET reinstatement of the Agricultural Committee.

Director Nederhood thanked Director Ackerman for her report on Mr. Upadhyay's video and encouraged the MET Directors to review (with Mr. Upadhyay) MET's HR/Legal/DEI/Ethics issues, including the complaint and investigation process.

ACTION ITEMS

AB 259 (RUBIO) – OPEN MEETINGS: LOCAL AGENCIES: TELECONFERENCES

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Thomas, and carried (6-0), the Board adopted a support position on Assembly Bill 259 (Rubio) and authorized joining the

California Special Districts Association's (CSDA) coalition and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, McVicker, Crane, Thomas & Yoo Schneider
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Director Seckel
 ABSTAIN: None

SB 394 (ALLEN) – WATER THEFT: FIRE HYDRANTS

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Thomas, and carried (6-0), the Board adopted a support position on Senate Bill 394 (Allen) and authorized joining the Association of California Water Agencies' (ACWA) coalition and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, McVicker, Crane, Thomas & Yoo Schneider
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Director Seckel
 ABSTAIN: None

AB 580 (WALLIS) – SURFACE MINING: METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider and seconded by Director Thomas, the Board adopted a support position on AB 580 (Wallis) and authorized sending a letter of support to the author and the Orange County delegation, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Nederhood, Dick, McVicker, Crane, Thomas & Yoo Schneider
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: Director Seckel
 ABSTAIN: None

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 report regarding the February 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 10:59 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
District Secretary