

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
March 19, 2025**

At 8:30 a.m., Vice President Thomas called to order the Regular Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County, in the Board Room at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as via the Zoom Webinar application. Following a moment of silence, Director Dick led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

MWDOC DIRECTORS

Al Nederhood
Larry Dick
Bob McVicker
Karl Seckel
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 Manager
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Tiffany Baca, Public Affairs Manager
Hilary Chumpitazi, Director of Finance/IT
Cathy Harris, Director of Administration/HR
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Engineer

ALSO PRESENT

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman
Doug Davert
Kathryn Freshley
Mike Gaskins
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Dennis Cafferty
Sherri Seitz
Vu Chu
Doug Reinhart
Peer Swan
Jim Fisler
Stacy Taylor
Don Froelich
Sherry Wanninger
Len Barton
Chris Olsen
Margaret Novak
Frank Ury
Robb Grantham
Kristine Day
Nicole Stanfield
Brad Reese
Rick Shintaku
Jennifer Lopez

MWDOC/MET Director
MWDOC/MET Director
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
El Toro Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Mesa Water
Mesa Water
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Orange County Water District
Santa Margarita Water District
Santa Margarita Water District
Santa Margarita Water District
Santa Margarita Water District
Santa Margarita Water District
Serrano Water District
South Coast Water District
South Coast Water District

John Horst	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Dick Ackerman	Ackerman Consulting
Peter Whittingham	Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Charles Luas	Orchard Dale Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
John Lewis	Lewis Consulting
Grant Herbert	FLO Analytics
Megan Chery	Environmental Incentives
Akemi Hidalgo	OC Public Works
Michael Mori	OC Public Works
Grant Sharp	OC Public Works
Paul Mesner	Surfside Colony District
Angela Crespi	
Chuck Gibson	
Mike Markus	
Stan Sprague	

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 COMMENT

Vice President Thomas announced that members of the public wishing to comment on agenda items could do so after the item has been discussed by the Board and requested members of the public identify themselves when called on. Vice President Thomas asked whether any member of the public had any comments on items that were not on the agenda.

Mr. Paul Mesner from Surfside Colony District provided an update on ISDOC activities and encouraged all to attend the ISDOC meetings.

On behalf of OC LAFCO, Mr. Jim Fisler (LAFCO Commissioner) provided an annual update on OC LAFCO activities.

Mr. Stan Sprague, prior MWDOC General Manager, introduced himself to the Board.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

No items were received.

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 received.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice President Thomas stated that all matters under the Consent Calendar would be approved by one MOTION unless a Director wished to consider an item separately.

Director Nederhood asked for further discussion on Items 3b (Disbursement Registers) and 4a (Financial Report), and Director Seckel had a question on Item 3c (Summary of Cash & Investments).

Director Seckel questioned why the water conservation funding was in the negative by \$1.43 million, with General Manager De La Torre explaining that there is a delay in payment through grant funding and the MET incentive reimbursement, but that the amount will even out over time.

With respect to the Disbursement Register, Director Nederhood asked that a presentation on the Flume Study be made at a future Board/Committee meeting; it was noted staff would schedule the presentation in May.

Discussion was then held regarding Water Use Efficiency activities and the status of efforts to replace fixtures with water savings devices. Director Nederhood asked whether there were diminishing returns on investments with these devices. It was noted that the Flume Study presentation will shed more light on water savings potential with outdoor or landscape irrigation.

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0), the Board approved the following Consent Calendar items by the following roll call vote:

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

MINUTES

The following minutes were approved.

- February 5, 2025 Workshop Board Meeting
- February 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

The following Committee Meeting reports were received and filed as presented.

- Planning & Operations Committee Meeting: February 3, 2025
- Administration & Finance Committee Meeting: February 12, 2025
- Executive Committee Meeting: February 20, 2025

TREASURER'S REPORTS

The following items were ratified and approved as presented.

MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of February 28, 2025
Disbursement Registers (February/March)

The following items were received and filed as presented.

Summary of Cash and Investment and Portfolio Master Summary Report (Cash and Investment Report) as of January 31, 2025

PARS Monthly Statement (OPEB Trust)

FINANCIAL REPORT

The following items were received and filed as presented.

Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the Period Ending January 31, 2025

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE RAINSMART PILOT PROGRAM

The Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a contract with the County of Orange for MWDOC’s administration of the County’s RainSmart Rebates Pilot Program through MWDOC’s existing Turf Replacement Program rebate processing infrastructure, with an administrative fee of up to \$265 for each RainSmart application processed.

APPROVE CHANGES TO RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE

The Board approved the changes to the Records Retention Schedule and authorized staff to incorporate these changes into the Administrative Code.

AWARD CONTRACT FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with FLO Analytics to conduct a Geographic Information System (GIS) Needs Assessment in an amount not to exceed \$35,435 plus a 15% contingency (\$5,315) for a total cost not to exceed \$40,750.

- END CONSENT CALENDAR -

ACTION ITEMS

RECOMMENDATION ON WHETHER TO LEAVE AN INCREASE IN DIRECTOR COMPENSATION AS A PLACEHOLDER IN THE DRAFT FY 2025-26 BUDGET

Legal Counsel Byrne advised that the purpose of this item was not to take action on receiving a compensation increase, but to take a definitive action on whether to (1) leave the 5% compensation increase in the draft FY 2025-26 budget and initiate the process to hold a public hearing on a compensation increase at a cost of approximately \$3000; or (2) remove the 5% compensation increase from the draft FY 2025-26 budget document.

Considerable discussion ensued with several members of the Board expressing support for holding the public hearing and several preferring to remove the 5% from the budget. Those in support of a compensation increase or initiating the public hearing process referenced the number of years since the last increase.

Director Nederhood made a MOTION, which was seconded by Director Thomas to leave the 5% Director compensation increase as a placeholder in the draft FY 2025-26 budget which would initiate the required Public Hearing notifications, etc. at a cost of approximately \$3,000.

Director Seckel then made a SUBSTITUTE MOTION, which was seconded by Director Crane, to remove the placeholder in the FY 2025-26 budget and not proceed with a compensation increase. The SUBSTITUTE MOTION failed by a vote of 3-3 through the following roll call vote:

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

The Board then approved the original MOTION (by a vote of 4-2), to leave the 5% Director compensation increase as a placeholder in the draft FY 2025-26 budget which would initiate the required Public Hearing notifications, etc. at a cost of approximately \$3,000. Said MOTION was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

ADOPTION OF THE 2025 ORANGE COUNTY WATER AND WASTEWATER MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director Crane, and carried (6-0), the Board adopted RESOLUTION NO. 2155 adopting the 2025 Orange County Water and Wastewater Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, by the following roll call vote:

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

MEMBER AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – SANTA MARGARITA WATER DISTRICT

Mr. Robb Grantham, General Manager of Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) presented information on MWDOC and SMWD’s regional partnership. The information he presented included an overview of SMWD’s history and operations, annual water supply sources, SMWD’s core values, the Ranch Filtration Plant phases, the San Juan Capistrano consolidation, emergency supplies and operations, and the core partnership opportunities with MWDOC (WEROC, School Program, Water Loss Control, and coordination of MET outages).

Following a brief discussion and question/answer period, the Board thanked Mr. Grantham and received and filed the report.

INFORMATION CALENDAR

UPDATE TO OC LAFCO FOCUSED MSR AND CONSOLIDATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

General Manager De La Torre advised that on March 5, 2025, the OC LAFCO released the final report for the Update to the Focused MSR and Sphere of Influence Update for OCWD and the Feasibility Analysis of the Potential Consolidation of OCWD and MWDOC. He stated that the process has concluded, both agencies generally believe that the current governance structure works well and still holds merit, and that the two General Managers are working cooperatively for the best interests of the region.

Following a brief discussion, the Board received and filed the report.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, MARCH 2025

General Manager De La Torre advised that the full General Manager's report was included in the Board packet.

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

MWDOC GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

a. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board members each reported on their attendance at the regular (and special) MWDOC Board and Committee meetings. In addition to these meetings, the following reports were made on conferences and meetings attended on behalf of the District.

Director Nederhood advised that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), several MET Committee meetings, the WACO and WACO planning meetings, the Urban Water Institute (UWI) Conference, and the OC Water Summit planning meeting.

Director Dick stated that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, the ISDOC Executive Committee meeting, a meeting with Harvey De La Torre, the MWDOC MET Director meetings, the MET Caucus, the WACO meeting, the special MET meetings (including an ad hoc committee meeting), the OC LAFCO meeting, and the carbon sequestration meeting.

Director McVicker reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop meeting and Regular Board meetings), the MET Executive Committee meeting, the MET Board and Committee meetings, the MET subcommittee on Long Term Planning, the ISDOC

Executive Committee meeting, the WACO and WACO planning meetings, and ACWA committee meetings.

Director Seckel advised that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Regular Board meeting), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, the WACO and WACO planning meetings, a meeting with Garry Brown and Harvey De La Torre, MET's Water Quality Lab dedication, and a meeting with representatives from EMWD, WMWD, SDCWA exploring opportunities to work together. He noted he would be hosting a State Water Project inspection trip on April 25-26 (and has been attending planning meetings for this trip), and he provided an overview of MET activities.

Director Crane reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the ACWA DC conference, the South Orange County Watershed Management meeting, a meeting with General Manager De La Torre, the MET One Water meeting, the MET Board meeting, the IRWD Board meeting, and the WACO meeting.

Director Thomas stated that he attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop Board meeting), as well as the UWI conference, and the OC Water Summit planning meeting.

Director Yoo Schneider advised that she attended the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the SMWD Committee meeting, several CCEEB meetings, and the WACO meeting.

Vice President Thomas highlighted MWDOC's upcoming Water Policy dinner (March 20, 2025) and encouraged all to attend; he commended Tiffany Baca for her participation at the UWI conference (on a panel); and he announced he would be out of the country April 6-16.

b. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

No future agenda topics were requested.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice President Thomas adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m., in memory of former IRWD Director Mary Aileen Matheis.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Goldsby, Secretary