

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

May 7, 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

Karl W. Seckel*
Bob McVicker
Randall Crane
Megan Yoo Schneider,

STAFF

Harvey De La Torre, General Manager
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary
Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Manager
Angela Crespi, Board Secretary
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs
Alex Heide, Sr. Water Resource Analyst
Kevin Hostert, Sr. Water Resource Analyst
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Rachel Waite-Harvey, WUE Program Supervisor
Joe Berg, Director of WUE

*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Albert Napoli
Sara Tucker
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Peter Whittingham
Paul Jones
Doug Davert
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Vu Chu
Dennis Cafferty
Mike Gaskins
Sherri Seitz
Doug Reinhart
Peer Swan
Paul Weghorst
Stacy Taylor

Metropolitan Water District of So. California
NRR
NRR
Syrus Devers Advocacy
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
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Irvine Ranch Water District
Mesa Water

Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
James Fisler	Mesa Water
Marina Lindsay	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Gina Ayala	Orange County Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Betty Olsen	Santa Margarita Water District
Laura Freese	Santa Margarita Water District
Jerry Vilander	Serrano Water District
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Robbie Pitts	Serrano 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
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Chuck Gibson	

TELECONFERENCE SITE

Director McVicker and Director Yoo Schneider 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. There were none.

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.

Board Secretary Goldsby reported that the presentation for Item No. 1 was distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting and made available to the public.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

METROPOLITAN BUSINESS MODEL UPDATE

General Manager De La Torre introduced the item explaining that the Climate Adaptation Master Plan (CAMP4W) continues and that one of the issues raised was the need to review

Metropolitan's business model to determine whether there are refinements needed in the areas of finance, water resource management, or engineering. As part of the review, Metropolitan's leadership called upon the member agency's general managers to conduct a series of discussions to develop a set of recommendations that would help Metropolitan in assessing whether modifications to its business model are necessary. General Manager De La Torre explained that staff's presentation today will provide an overview of those recommendations recently presented to the CAMP4W taskforce.

Senior Water Resources & Policy Analyst, Alex Heide, presented in detail the set of recommendations Business Model Sub-Working Groups formulated pertaining to finance, water resources, and engineering. The final recommendations were presented to the Metropolitan Subcommittee on Long-Term Planning on April 22, 2025, with the final information and action items coming to the committees of jurisdiction for incorporation into the Fiscal Year 2026-27 and 2027-28 Metropolitan Biennial Budget. Any outstanding items will be finalized in advance of the Fiscal Year 2028-29 Metropolitan Biennial Budget.

Director Seckel and Director Crane asked questions regarding the basic level of service, local exchange framework, and recommendations for additional fixed rates and other funding mechanisms. Director Erdman highlighted the benefits of a local supply exchange framework.

Following discussion, the Board thanked staff and received and filed the information.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)

Mr. Garret Durst (NRR) reviewed his report, highlighting the federal Reduction in Force (RIF) plans and the continuing resolution for federal funding.

Following a question by Director Seckel regarding Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner influence in bringing unity among the Basin States as it pertains to the Colorado River post 2026 guidelines, Mr. Durst reported that there is an Acting Commissioner providing direction, but until a new Commissioner is sworn in there is not much to determine as of yet.

The Board received and filed the report.

b. State Legislative Report (SDA)

Mr. Syrus Devers of SDA reviewed his report, highlighting that legislation with an anticipated fiscal impact to the state over \$50,000 is placed in the suspense file. Fiscal bills must clear the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees by May 23rd. Mr. Devers also provided status updates on AB 580, SB 259, and AB 514.

The Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs reported that Mr. Dick Ackerman was unable to attend today but that she could field or pass along any questions. With no questions, the Board received and filed the report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Wittingham reported on the County budget reduction. The Board received and filed the report as presented.

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

Director Ackerman provided an update on the Colorado River and Lake Mead and AB 523. Director Erdman provided an update regarding the Engineering Committee topic of high voltage transformers, the surface water storage study, and cybersecurity updates.

ACTION ITEMS**SB 601 (ALLEN) - WATER: WASTEWATER DISCHARGE**

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director McVicker, and carried (4-0) the Board adopted an oppose position on Senate Bill 601 (Allen) by the following roll call vote:

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

ACR 36 (CARRILLO) – SPECIAL DISTRICTS WEEK

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (4-0), the Board adopted a support position on Assembly Concurrent Resolution 36 (Carrillo) and joined the California Special District's Association (CSDA) coalition and outreach efforts, by the following roll call vote:

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

CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAM AGREEMENT TERMINATION

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (4-0), to Authorize the General Manager to execute the Orange County Conjunctive Use Program Termination Agreement with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Orange County Water District, by the following roll call vote:

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

MET 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.

METROPOLITAIN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary regarding April MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for MET Board and Committee Agendas

The report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, President McVicker adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.



Angela Crespi
District Secretary