

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH MET DIRECTORS
October 1, 2025, 8:30 a.m.**

At 8:30 a.m., President McVicker called to order the Joint Workshop Board 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 Crane led the Pledge of Allegiance and District Secretary Crespi called the roll.

MWDOC Directors

Al Nederhood
Larry Dick*
Karl W. Seckel*
Bob McVicker
Randall Crane
Jeffery M. Thomas (absent)
Megan Yoo Schneider

*Also MWDOC MET Directors

Other MWDOC MET Directors

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

Staff

Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Manager
Angela Crespi, District Secretary
Charles Busslinger, Director of Engineering/
District Engineer
Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Jennifer Wicks, Public Affairs Communications
Manager
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Programs Manager
Kathy Pham, Assistant Board Secretary
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Kevin Hostert, Senior Water Resources Analyst
Rachel Waite-Harvey, Water Use Efficiency
Programs Supervisor
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel

Also Present

Dick Ackerman
Jessica Neuwerth
Doug Davert
David Youngblood
Dennis Cafferty
Vu Chu
Mike Gaskins
Kathryn Freshley
Kay Havens
Mark Monin
Sherri Seitz
Doug Reinhart
Paul Weghorst
Jim Atkinson
James Fisler
Paul Shoenberger
Stacy Taylor
Albert Napoli
Dick Fiore
Marina Lindsay
Laura Rocha

Ackerman Consulting
Colorado River Board of 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
Mesa Water District
Mesa Water District
Mesa Water District
Mesa Water District
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District
Moulton Niguel Water District

Garrett Durst	National Resources Results
Sara Tucker	National Resources Results
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Emily Novak	Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Dennis Davis	San Diego County Water Authority
Alexi Schnell	San Diego County Water Authority
Darren Simon	San Diego County Water Authority
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Syrus Devers	Syrus Devers Advocacy
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Peter Whittingham	Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Gene Hernandez	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Ken Vecchiarelli	Yorba Linda Water District
Chuck Gibson	

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 COMMENTS

President McVicker asked whether any members of the public wished to comment on agenda items.

There were no public comments.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

No items were received.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING

President McVicker inquired as to whether there were any items distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

District Secretary Crespi reported there were no items distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

PRESENTATION ITEM**1. COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA (PRESENTATION BY JESSICA NEUWERTH)**

Director of Government Affairs Heather Baez and National Resource Results Sara Tucker introduced Colorado River Board of California Executive Director Jessica Neuwerth, who provided a presentation regarding the Colorado River Board of California, post-2026 guidelines, challenges facing the basin states deal, baseline transfers and 2023-2026 contributions, and next steps for the Colorado River Basin agreement.

The Board discussed whether Mexico is a part of the Lower Basin negotiations, the appointment of the next Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, potential opportunities both within California and outside California for agriculture market investments Post 2026 Guidelines, groundwater challenges in Arizona, the adequacy of federal staffing and support, the possibility of litigation after Basin States agreement, unauthorized pumping in the lower basin, the 1988 Lower Colorado River project, conservation programs from upper basin and whether one or two states are more resistant to reaching an agreement.

The Board thanked Ms. Neuwerth for her presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS**2. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES****a. Federal Legislative Report (NRR)**

In addition to the report provided in the agenda packet, National Resource Results (NRR) Partner Garret Durst provided an overview of the Federal Legislative Report, highlighting the government shutdown, and the Bureau of Reclamation will continue working with limited resources and approval.

The Board thanked Mr. Durst for his report.

b. State Legislative Report (SDA)

Mr. Syrus Devers of Syrus Devers Advocacy provided an overview of the State Legislative Report, highlighting SB601 (Allen), how bills are being expedited, and that it takes about 10 days to get to the Governor's desk. He also reported that in the end, there was no vote on the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) trailer bill, which was expected, as it was not clear in the end that it was unlikely to pass this year. The Board discussed leadership and engagement as it pertains to the SB 496 (Hurtado) regarding a clearer exemption process for advanced cleaned fleets.

The Board thanked Mr. Devers for his report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman of Ackerman Consulting provided an overview of the Legal and Regulatory Report, highlighting AB1146 (Papan).

The Board discussed the City of San Diego versus San Diego LAFCO and the sunken ships in the Delta.

The Board thanked Mr. Ackerman for his report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

In addition to the report provided in the agenda packet, Mr. Peter Whittingham of Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors informed the Board that Dana Point's City Manager, Mike Killebrew, recently announced his retirement. He also reported that there are currently 10 charter cities in Orange County, many of which are member agencies. At this time, several other cities, including the cities of Fullerton and Fountain Valley, are considering becoming a charter city due to the increase in local control that it provides in policy areas such as housing law.

The Board thanked Mr. Whittingham for his report.

- e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix
- f. MET Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the reports.

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

Director Ackerman provided an update on the California Department of Water Resources operations and maintenance report, infrastructure, Southern California Pure Water, and Colorado River negotiations.

Director Erdman informed the Board that the upcoming Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee will include an amendment to the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) for fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26 to include invasive mussel mitigation and control at MET facilities, a contract to rehabilitate and improve a chemical feed facility at the Diemer Water Treatment Plant, appropriating an additional \$30 million for projects identified in the CIP, Pure Water Southern California Quarterly Update, and treatment plant utilization and CIP strategy.

Director Seckel reported that the OC Grand Jury Trip went well and thanked staff for their efforts. He also provided an update on CAMP4W, Metropolitan's staffing gap assessment, and SDCWA availability and conservation savings.

Director Dick concurred with Director Seckel on the success of the OC Grand Jury Trip. He also expressed the importance of efficiency and the use of technology when assessing staffing levels.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. MET ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

- a. MET's Finance and Rate Issue
- b. MET's Water Supply Condition Update
- c. MET's Water Quality Update
- d. Colorado River Issues

- e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

5. MET BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary regarding September MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for MET Board Agenda

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President McVicker adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.



Angela Crespi
District Secretary