MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
June 18, 2025

At 8:30 a.m., President McVicker called to order the Regular 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. Following a moment of silence, Vice President Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance and District Secretary Crespi called the roll.

MWDOC Directors
Al Nederhood
Larry Dick* (left at 11:09 a.m.)
Karl W. Seckel*
Bob McVicker
Randall Crane
Jeffrey F. Thomas
Megan Yoo Schneider (arrived at 9:46 a.m.)

*Also MWDOC MET Directors

Other MWDOC MET Directors
Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

Staff
Harvey De La Torre, General Manager
Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Manager
Angela Crespi, District Secretary
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management/ WEROC
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency
Jennifer Wicks, Public Affairs Communications Manager
Kathy Pham, Assistant Board Secretary
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Alex Heide, Senior MET Issues & Policy Analyst
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Control Programs Supervisor
Rachel Waite-Harvey, Water Use Efficiency Program Supervisor
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Katrina Wraight, Legal Counsel

Also Present

Dick Ackerman	Ackerman Consulting
Christine Carson	Aleshire & Wynder, LLP
Dennis Cafferty	El Toro Water District
Vu Chu	El Toro Water District
Kathryn Freshley	El Toro Water District
Mike Gaskins	El Toro Water District
Kay Havens	El Toro Water District
Mark Monin	El Toro Water District
Paul Jones	Irvine Ranch Water District
Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water District
James Fisler	Mesa Water District
Andie Jacobsen	Mesa Water District
Denise Khalifa	Mesa Water District
Paul Shoenberger	Mesa Water District
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water District
Donald Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Carol Moore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District

Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Charles Luas	Orchard Dale Water District
Betty Olson	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Jennifer Lopez	South Coast Water District
John Horst	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Michael Perea	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Tom Lindsey	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 PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENT

President McVicker 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. President McVicker asked whether any member of the public had any comments on items that were not on the agenda.

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 MEETING

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

District Secretary Crespi advised that the Member Agency Spotlight – Mesa Water District and SDCWA v. Metropolitan, et al. presentations were distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to meeting and made available to the public.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARD

General Manager Harvey De La Torre presented an award to Senior Metropolitan Issues & Policy Analyst Alex Heide in recognition of his five years of service with the District.

Assistant General Manager Baum-Haley announced the retirement of Director of Water Use Efficiency Joe Berg and expressed gratitude for his 33 years of dedicated service to the District.

CONSENT CALENDAR

President McVicker stated that all matters under the Consent Calendar would be approved by one MOTION unless a Director wished to consider an item separately.
Upon MOTION by Vice President Thomas, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (6-0), the Board approved Consent Calendar Items 1 – 7, by the following roll call vote:

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

1. MINUTES

The following minutes were approved.

a. May 7, 2025 Workshop Board Meeting
b. May 21, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

2. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

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

a. Combined Planning & Operations and Administration & Finance Committee Meeting: May 5, 2025
b. Executive Committee Meeting: May 22, 2025

3. TREASURER'S REPORTS

The following items were ratified and approved as presented.

a. MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of May 31, 2025
b. Disbursement Registers (May/June)

The following items were received and filed as presented.

c. Summary of Cash and Investment and Portfolio Master Summary Report (Cash and Investment report) as of April 30, 2025
d. PARS Monthly Statement (OPEB Trust)

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

The following item was received and filed as presented.

a. Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the Period Ending April 30, 2025

5. AWARD OF SOLE-SOURCE CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH WHITTINGHAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADVISORS

The Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a sole-source consulting contract with Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors in the amount of $60,000 for specialized services for Fiscal Year 2025-26, effective July 1, 2025.

6. AWARD OF SOLE-SOURCE CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH ACKERMAN CONSULTING

The Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a sole-source consulting contract with Ackerman Consulting in the amount of $42,000 for specialized services for Fiscal Year 2025-26, effective July 1, 2025.

7. SUPPORTING RESOLUTION – CAROL LEE GONZALES-BRADY – ACWA VICE PRESIDENT

The Board adopted a resolution of support for Director Carol Lee Gonzales-Brady from Rancho California Water District (RCWD) to be a candidate for Vice President of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA).

- END CONSENT CALENDAR –

DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. MEMBER AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – MESA WATER DISTRICT

Mesa Water District General Manager Paul Shoenberger provided a presentation that highlighted an overview of Mesa Water including: fiscal responsibility, a $70M Capital Improvement Project, the Pipeline Integrity Program, Mesa Water Reliability Facility, imported water use, the new Local Water Supply Feasibility Study: "Local SIP," and the newly constructed Mesa Water Education Center.

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

9. SDCWA V. METROPOLITAN, ET AL. SETTLEMENT TERMS

Director Yoo Schneider arrived at 9:46 a.m.

Assistant General Manager Baum-Haley provided a presentation that highlighted the settlement background, revised exchange agreement elements (price term, set price for calendar years 2025 – 2034, delivery schedule, and the framework for potential SDCWA transfers), an overview of other terms, along with MWDOC staff observations on the settlement's long-term benefits.

Following a brief discussion and question/answer period, the Board received and filed the presentation.

INFORMATION CALENDAR

10. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT, JUNE

General Manager Harvey 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.

11. MWDOC GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Board of Directors - Reports re: Conferences and Meetings

The Board members each reported on their attendance at the regular 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 was out of town for part of May but was able to attend two MWDOC meetings (Regular Board meeting and Executive Committee meeting), multiple MET meetings, the ACWA Spring Conference, and CalWEP Peer to Peer 2025 Conference.

Director Dick reported that he attended most of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Combined Administration & Finance and Planning & Operations meeting as well as the Regular Board meeting), several MET meetings (MET Executive Committee meeting, Board meeting, Ad Hoc meeting on Legal, Ad Hoc meeting on Agriculture and SDCWA v. Metropolitan et al. settlement meeting), Pure Water DEIR meeting, Orange County Tax Payers Association meeting, ISDOC Executive Committee meeting, WACO and WACO Planning meetings, WEROC Elected Officials NIMS/SEMS course, and meeting with General Manager Harvey De La Torre.

Director McVicker advised that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Combined Administration & Finance and Planning & Operations and Executive Committee meetings as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), MET Executive Committee meeting, MET Special Joint Meeting of the Board and OPE Committee, WACO and WACO Planning meetings, ISDOC Executive Committee meeting, and Orange County Business Council Infrastructure Committee meeting.

Director Seckel reported that he attended most of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Combined Administration & Finance and Planning & Operations meeting as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), the regularly scheduled MET Board and Committee meetings, MET Special Joint Meeting of the Board and OPE Committee, MET Inland Caucus meeting, Orange County Business Council Water Utility Roundtable, DCP Trailer Bill advocacy trip, Mesa Water District Board meeting, and Santa Margarita Water District Board meeting.

Director Crane advised that he missed the May Board meeting, so he provided an update on his April meeting attendance. During the month of April, 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). Since then, he attended a couple of IRWD Board Meetings, WACO, ISDOC Luncheon, ACWA Spring Conference, and MWDOC Girl Scouts event. In June, 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), ISDOC Executive meeting, South Orange County Watershed Management Group, and the ACC-OC Annual Leadership Summit and Golden Hub of Innovation Awards.

Director Thomas 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 Spring Conference, and the ACWA JPIA Spring Membership Summit.

Director Yoo Schneider advised that she attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Combined Administration & Finance and Planning & Operations and Executive Committee meetings

as well as the Workshop and Regular Board meetings), several South Coast Water District and Santa Margarita Water District Board and Committee meetings, the Laguna Beach County Water District 100-year celebration, meeting with Peter Whittingham, and attended CCEEB meeting.

b. Requests for Future Agenda Topics

No future agenda topics were requested.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

President McVicker announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 10:36 a.m.

12. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
Title: General Manager

13. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
Agency designated representatives: General Counsel
Unrepresented employee: General Manager

Director Dick left the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION

The Board meeting reconvened at 11:14 a.m.

14. ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Legal Counsel Byrne announced that the Board met in Closed Session with General Legal Counsel and did not take any action that was reportable pursuant to the Brown Act.

15. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL MANAGER CONTRACT

Upon MOTION by President McVicker, seconded by Vice President Thomas, to increase the General Manger's base salary by $25,000 and to contribute $22,000 per year in equal installments on a pay period basis into a qualified pension plan established pursuant to Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, which will not be reported to CalPERS as pensionable compensation and shall not be subject to any withholdings or taxes in accordance with Sections 3121(a)(5)(A) and 3401(a)(12)(A) on the Internal Revenue Code effective July 1, 2025.

Motion passed 6-0, by the following roll call vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President McVicker adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Angela Crespi
District Secretary