MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
WITH THE MWDOC MET DIRECTORS
July 2, 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 District Secretary Angela Crespi called the roll.

MWDOC Directors
Al Nederhood
Larry Dick*
Karl W. Seckel*
Bob McVicker
Randall Crane (left at 9:20 a.m.)
Jeffery F. Thomas
Megan Yoo Schneider

*Also MWDOC MET Directors

Other MWDOC MET Directors
Linda Ackerman (absent)
Dennis Erdman (absent)

Staff
Harvey De La Torre, General Manager
Angela Crespi, District Secretary
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Jennifer Wicks, Communications Manager
Kathy Pham, Assistant Board Secretary
Alex Heide, Senior MET Issues & Policy Analyst
Kevin Hostert, Senior Water Resources Analyst/ Data Management
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Control Supervisor
Rachel Waite-Harvey, Water Use Efficiency Programs Supervisor
Katrina Wraight, Legal Counsel

Also Present

Christine Carson	Aleshire & Wynder, LLP
Paul D. Jones II	Dopudja and Wells Consulting
Doug Davert	East Orange County Water District
David Youngblood	East Orange County Water District
Dennis Cafferty	El Toro Water District
Kathryn Freshley	El Toro Water District
Kay Havens	El Toro Water District
Wyatt McClean	El Toro Water District
Mark Monin	El Toro Water District
Lou Bronstein	Irvine Ranch Water District
Steve LaMar	Irvine Ranch Water District
Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Keith Van Der Maaten	Laguna Beach County Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water District
James Fisler	Mesa Water District
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water District
Albert Napoli	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Donald Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Marina Lindsay	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Garret Durst	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
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Robbie Pitts	Serrano Water District
Bill Green	South Coast Water District
Jennifer Pierre	State Water Contractors
Syrus Devers	Syrus Devers Advocacy
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Peter Whittingham	Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Brett R. Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Gene Hernandez	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
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 COMMENTS

President McVicker inquired 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 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 meeting.

NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2160

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. UPDATE ON THE DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT BUDGET TRAILER BILL

Director of Governmental Affairs Heather Baez provided an overview of the topic and introduced State Water Contractors General Manager Jennifer Pierre, who proceeded with a presentation on the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) and Budget Trailer Bill. The presentation provided an overview of State Water Contractors, State Water Project supplies, the Delta Conveyance Project, its costs and potential value, and a summary of the DCP Budget Trailer Bill.

Director Seckel inquired about the potential involvement of Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors and the federal government in the DCP. Director Nederhood inquired about how many agencies are currently participating in the DCP and whether the program would remain secure under a new governor. Director Dick sought information on the number of permits required for the DCP and whether any are approaching expiration that may need to be renewed or revised. Ms. Pierre responded that DWR and the SWP contractors are ensuring all permits are up to date for the DCP.

Following a brief discussion, the Board thanked Ms. Pierre for her presentation.

Director Crane left the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

2. METROPOLITAN GENERAL MANAGER RECRUITMENT PROCESS

General Manager Harvey De La Torre provided an overview of the topic and introduced Senior MET Issues & Policy Analyst Alex Heide who proceeded with a presentation highlighting the Metropolitan General Manager Selection Process.

Director Seckel noted that Bob Murray and Associates was also given the flexibility to add additional candidates to the list.

Following a brief discussion, the Board thanked staff for the presentation.

3. 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 One Big Beautiful Bill to increase storage capacity at existing Bureau of Reclamation-owned surface storage facilities and to increase conveyance capacity at Bureau-owned canals and conveyance systems.

Director Seckel asked Mr. Durst to share his thoughts on the potential involvement of Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors in the DCP. Mr. Durst indicated that it would be hard to predict at this time.

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 the Delta Conveyance Project and DCP Budget Trailer Bill. He also provided status updates on SB 72 (Caballero) and SB 394 (Allen).

Director Nederhood asked Mr. Devers whether a new Governor could potentially stop the DCP from moving forward, even if the bill passes. Mr. Devers responded that the governor runs the state administration, and it would ultimately need the governor's support.

The Board thanked Mr. Devers for his report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)
d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Peter Whittingham of Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors provided an overview of the County Legislative Report included in the agenda packet.

Following a brief discussion, the Board thanked Mr. Whittingham for his report.

e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix
f. MET Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the Legislative Activities reports.

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

Director Seckel provided an update on Metropolitan's CAMP4Water initiative and its potential impact on future rate increases associated with various projects and rising costs. He also shared a hydrologic update on the Colorado River and noted that Metropolitan is currently behind schedule on its Capital Improvement Plan.

Director Dick reported on the importance of prioritizing MET storage and financial investment in the MET infrastructure.

A discussion followed regarding MET's succession planning and the process for selecting a new General Manager.

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. MET ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY (The following items are for informational purposes only – a write-up on each item is included in the packet. Discussion is not necessary unless requested by a Director).

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

The Board reviewed and discussed the information presented.

6. MET BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

The Board reviewed and discussed the information presented.

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

President McVicker announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 10:19 a.m.

7. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9. One Case: San Diego County Water Authority v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; all persons interested in the validity of the rates adopted by the Metropolitan Water of Southern California on April 8, 2014, et al., former Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC547139, transferred on December 2, 2014, to San Francisco Superior Court, now Case No. CPF-14-514004.

8. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9. One Case: San Diego County Water Authority v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; all persons interested in the validity of the rates adopted by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California on April 12, 2016, effective January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2018, et al., former Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS161729, transferred to San Francisco Superior Court, now Case CPF-16-515282.

9. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
Pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9. One Case: San Diego County Water Authority v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ("SDCWA v. Met"); all persons interested in the validity of the rates adopted by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California on April 10, 2018 to be effective January 1, 2019, and Jan. 1, 2020, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS 173868, Transferred to San Francisco Superior Court, now Case CPF-18-516389.

10. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION
SDCWA v. Met, California Court of Appeal Case No. A170156.

RECONVENE FROM CLOSED SESSION

The Board meeting reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

11. ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Aleshire & Wynder, LLP Partner Christine Carson announced that the Board met in Closed Session with Special Legal Counsel on Items 7 – 10. The Board received information and unanimously consented to dismissing the appeal that had been filed and the dismissal of the case.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President McVicker adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Angela Crespi
District Secretary