MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH METROPOLITAN DIRECTORS March 4, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

At 8:30 a.m., President Dick called to order the Joint Workshop Board Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan or MET) Directors Conference in Room 101 at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Trabuco Canyon Water District General Manager Larry McKenney led the Pledge of Allegiance and District Secretary Crespi called the roll.

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

*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
Charles Busslinger, Director of Engineering/ District Engineer
Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Jennifer Wicks, Communications Manager
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Programs Manager
Kathy Pham, Assistant Board Secretary
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Kevin Hostert, Senior Water Resources Analyst
Jared Dawson, Water Resources Analyst
Rachel Waite-Harvey, Water Use Efficiency Programs Supervisor
Joseph Byrne, Legal Counsel
Katrina Wraight, Legal Counsel

Also Present

Dick Ackerman	Ackerman Consulting
Doug Davert	East Orange County Water District
Dennis Cafferty	El Toro Water District
Vu Chu	El Toro Water District
Mike Gaskins	El Toro Water District
Kathryn Freshley	El Toro Water District
Kay Havens	El Toro Water District
Mark Monin	El Toro Water District
Steve LaMar	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	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
Jim Fisler	Mesa Water District
Jang Bae	Metropolitan
John Bednarski	Metropolitan
Adam Benson	Metropolitan

Shane Chapman	Metropolitan
Mai Hattar	Metropolitan
Katano Kasaine	Metropolitan
Albert Napoli	Metropolitan
Keith Nobriga	Metropolitan
JR Rhoads	Metropolitan
Arnout Van den Berg	Metropolitan
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Donald Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sara Tucker	Natural Resource Results
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Emily Novak	Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Rick Shintaku	South Coast Water District
Larry McKenney	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Peter Dorsch	Venture Strategic
Beth Olhasso	West Coast Advisors
Peter Whittingham	Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Christine McIlrevey	Yorba Linda Water District
Ken Vecchiarelli	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 Dick asked whether any members of the public wished to comment on agenda items.

Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OC LAFCO) Special District Representative and Mesa Water District Director Jim Fisler conveyed his ongoing commitment to collaboration, offered himself as a resource to MWDOC, and expressed his willingness to provide support as needed.

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 Dick inquired as to whether there were any items distributed to the Board of Directors

(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. She noted that the Board received the Special District's Dialogue from Director Fisler as well as a copy of the Metropolitan Biennial Budget presentation.

NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2169

PRESENTATION ITEM

1. METROPOLITAN BIENNIAL BUDGET OVERVIEW (PRESENTATION BY METROPOLITAN STAFF)

Metropolitan Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer Katano Kasaine provided a brief overview of the topic and introduced Revenue and Budget Manager Arnout Van den Berg, who proceeded with a presentation outlining Metropolitan's Baseline Budget, Key and Incremental Drivers, Proposed Rate Increases and Financial Metrics, Historical Water Transactions and Forecast, Proposed Biennial Budget Expenditures, Staffing Plan, 10-Year Forecast Capital Expenditure, Treatment Fixed Capacity Charge and Surcharge, Proposed Rates and Charges, Property Taxes, Biennial Rate Increases and Next Steps in the budget process.

The Board discussed Metropolitan's staffing plan including the need for additional staff compared to contractors and consultants, Metropolitan's projections and their accuracy, the reverse cyclic program, the fact that the Metropolitan budget does not impact MWDOC rate increases, there being no issues with stranded asset concerns related to the Pure Water project, confirmation that the reverse cyclic program did not impact Metropolitan's rates for this biennium, and funding for the Delta Conveyance Project.

President Dick left the meeting at 9:50 a.m., and Director Thomas presided over the remainder of the meeting.

The Board thanked Metropolitan staff for their presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report (Natural Resource Results)

In addition to the report provided in the agenda packet, Director of Government Affairs Heather Baez noted she will be sending the Board a letter from the Colorado River Board of California regarding comments on the draft environmental impact statement for post-2026 operational guidelines and strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

The Board thanked Ms. Baez for the information.

b. State Legislative Report (West Coast Advisors)

In addition to the report in the agenda packet, West Coast Advisors Beth Olhasso provided an overview of water supply conditions, Central Valley Project allocations, recent bill introductions, and an update on the state budget.

The Board thanked Ms. Olhasso for her report.

Director Nederhood left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman of Ackerman Consulting provided an update on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reporting requirements related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other related elements in products. He also informed the Board that the Governor issued a press release outlining a comprehensive water plan for 2028.

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 the filing deadline for the primary election is Friday, March 6, at which point we will know the candidates running for the seats up for election.

The Board thanked Mr. Whittingham for his report.

e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix
f. Metropolitan Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the reports.

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

Director Ackerman emphasized that the Metropolitan budget remains the primary focus. She noted the State Water Project Statement of Charges and its Audit found that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) owes Metropolitan a refund. Based on these findings, Metropolitan plans to start settlement discussions with DWR this summer.

ACTION ITEM

4. SENATE BILL 872 (McNERNEY) – CLIMATE CHANGE: FUNDING PRIORITIES

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director Crane, and carried (4-0), the Board adopted a support position on Senate Bill 872 (McNerney) by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors Seckel, McVicker, Crane, and Thomas
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

ABSENT: Nederhood, Dick, and Yoo Schneider

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. METROPOLITAN ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

a. Metropolitan's Finances
b. Metropolitan Water Supply Condition Update
c. Metropolitan Water Quality Update
d. Colorado River Issues
e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

6. METROPOLITAN BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Summary regarding December Metropolitan Board Meeting
b. Review items of significance for Metropolitan Board Agenda

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Thomas adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Angela Crespi
District Secretary