MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH METROPOLITAN DIRECTORS
June 3, 2026

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 in Conference Room 101 at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Irvine Ranch Water District Director of Strategic Communications and Advocacy Christine Compton 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 (arrived at 8:40 a.m.)
Megan Yoo Schneider

*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
Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Jennifer Wicks, Communications Manager
Tiffany Baca, Education & Workforce Manager
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Control 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

Also Present

Dick Ackerman	Ackerman Consulting
Jessica Neuwerth	Colorado River Board of California
Doug Davert	East Orange County Water District
David Youngblood	East Orange County Water District
Vu Chu	El Toro Water District
Mike Gaskins	El Toro Water District
Kay Havens	El Toro Water District
Wyatt McClean	El Toro Water District
Mark Monin	El Toro Water District
Christine Compton	Irvine Ranch Water District
Steve LaMar	Irvine Ranch Water District
Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Keith Van Der Maaten	Laguna Beach County Water District
Jim Fisler	Mesa Water District
Jonathan Cruz	Moulton Niguel Water District
Donald Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District

Sara Tucker	Natural Resource Results
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Charles Luas	Orchard Dale Water District
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Michael Perea	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Karen Warner	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Michael Boccadoro	West Coast Advisors
Beth Olhasso	West Coast Advisors
Peter Whittingham	Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Mark Toy	Yorba Linda Water District
Chuck Gibson	

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Dick 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 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.

NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2177

PRESENTATION ITEM

1. COLORADO RIVER UPDATE (PRESENTATION BY JESSICA NEUWERTH)

Colorado River Board of California Executive Director Jessica Neuwerth provided a presentation on current conditions and developments on the Colorado River. She reported that the Basin States continue to negotiate new operational rules that are scheduled to take effect on October 1. A primary challenge in reaching an agreement has been determining how the required reductions in water use will be allocated between the Upper and Lower Basins. She noted that Winter 2026 hydrology was historically poor, with the worst snowpack

on record, resulting in Lake Powell falling below minimum power pool levels and similar stress on Lake Mead. These conditions have required additional releases from upstream facilities, including Flaming Gorge Reservoir, to support system operations. She also included an overview of the Lower Basin proposal, the proposed federal framework, and the next steps in the process.

Director Thomas arrived at 8:40 a.m.

The Board engaged in discussion regarding several aspects of Colorado River operations, including federal funding opportunities and limitations associated with Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS). The Board also reviewed elements of the Lower Basin proposal submitted to the federal government, considerations related to evaporation and system losses, tribal water rights, and the condition and use of the river outlet works.

The Board thanked Ms. Neuwerth for her presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report (Natural Resource Results)

In addition to the report provided in the agenda packet, Natural Resource Results (NRR) Partner Sara Tucker noted that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is likely to hold an oversight hearing on Colorado River issues on June 10. She noted that MWDOC recently signed onto a letter requesting $2 billion in federal funding for the Colorado River Basin. She also highlighted recent federal support for $1 billion for the Great Salt Lake and ongoing discussions about broader basin funding. A new draft proposal is being developed related to work on the Sites Reservoir project. Additionally, $80 million has been advocated for WaterSMART programs, with half designated for Title XVI projects.

The Board discussed the status of the desalter and reviewed how a temporary draft permit for the Sites Reservoir project could affect State Water Project delivery capability. The Board directed staff to distribute the letters and to post them on the District's website.

The Board thanked Ms. Tucker for her report.

b. State Legislative Report (West Coast Advisors)

In addition to the report provided in the agenda packet, West Coast Advisors Vice President Beth Olhasso presented updates on statewide water supplies. She also highlighted key elements of the Governor's proposed balanced budget, including staffing and the allocation of $25 million for the Heavy Rivers and Landscape Program. Ms. Olhasso additionally briefed the Board on upcoming legislative timelines, including the House of Origin deadline, and summarized the status and potential impacts of key bills.

The Board thanked Ms. Olhasso for her report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman of Ackerman Consulting provided information on statewide dam-removal projects. He discussed the potential implications these projects may have on regional water availability, noting that changes in storage capacity, flow management, and regulatory constraints could influence both short-term operations and long-term supply planning. Mr. Ackerman emphasized the importance of continued monitoring and interagency coordination as these projects progress.

The Board thanked Mr. Ackerman for his report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Peter Whittingham of Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors highlighted the upcoming November election and provided an overview of the various District candidates.

The Board thanked Mr. Whittingham for his report.

e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix
f. Metropolitan Legislative Matrix

There were no questions or comments on the Legislative Matrices.

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

The Board discussed Metropolitan's volumetric charges, received an overview of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee, and discussed the subsidence issue affecting the California Aqueduct. No additional questions or input were raised at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

4. ASSEMBLY BILL 2739 (SORIA) – CALIFORNIA WATER AFFORDABILITY AND SYSTEM STABILIZATION ACT OF 2026

Irvine Ranch Water District Director of Strategic Communications and Advocacy Christine Compton presented the core components of the Assembly Bill.

The Board discussed the funding required for the bill, anticipated cost implications, and financial considerations that may affect its implementation.

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director McVicker, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted a support position on Assembly Bill 2739 (Soria) and join the sponsors' coalition letter.

Director Yoo Schneider left the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

5. SENATE BILL 1125 (MENJIVAR) – WATER RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Nederhood, and carried (6-0) with Director Yoo Schneider absent, the Board adopted a support position on Senate Bill 1125 (Menjivar).

6. SENATE BILL 952 (LAIRD) – STATE WATER PROJECT CLEAN ENERGY GOALS

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director Thomas, and carried (6-0) with Director Yoo Schneider absent, the Board adopted a support position on Senate Bill 952 (Laird).

7. SENATE BILL 1048 (BECKER) – THE SEAL OF CLIMATE LITERACY ACT

Director Yoo Schneider returned to the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Education and Workforce Manager Tiffany Baca provided an overview of the item and explained how students can obtain a seal of climate literacy act.

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director McVicker, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted a support position on Senate Bill 1048 (Becker).

INFORMATION ITEMS

8. METROPOLITAN ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

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

9. METROPOLITAN BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Dick adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m

Angela Crespi
District Secretary