MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH METROPOLITAN DIRECTORS
September 2, 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. Paul Weghorst, Irvine Ranch Water District Executive Director of Water Policy, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and District Secretary Angela Crespi called the roll.

MWDOC Directors
Al Nederhood
Larry Dick
Bob McVicker
Karl W. Seckel*
Randall Crane*
Jeffery M. Thomas
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
Charles Busslinger, Director of Engineering/ District Engineer
Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Rachel Waite-Harvey, Water Use Efficiency Programs Manager
Kathy Pham, Assistant Board Secretary
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Kevin Hostert, Senior Water Resources Analyst
Jared Dawson, Water Resources Analyst
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel

Also Present

Dick Ackerman	Ackerman Consulting
Fernando Paludi	Dopudja & Wells
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
Wyatt McClean	El Toro Water District
Mark Monin	El Toro Water District
Sherri Seitz	El Toro Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water District
James Fisler	Mesa Water District
Albert Napoli	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Donald Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Garrett Durst	Natural Resource Results
Sara Tucker	Natural Resource Results
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Fred Jung	Orange County Water District

John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
David Youngblood	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Bill Green	South Coast Water District
Larry McKenney	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
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 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. 2180

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report (Natural Resource Results)

In addition to the report provided in the agenda packet, Natural Resource Results Partner Sara Tucker provided an update on the Colorado River.

The Board discussed the Colorado River Post-2026 Record of Decision and 2027-2028 Operating Guidelines.

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 President Michael Boccadoro and Vice President Beth Olhasso highlighted reservoir levels, wildfire reform, Proposition 4 and related allocations for projects and funding sources.

The Board discussed the California legislators' rejection of the wildfire reform bill, the possibility of a special session on fire liability, salinity and dredging in the South Delta, Assembly Bills (AB) 1881 and 2218 advancing tribal rights, AB 2180 and the determination of tiered water rates, and the State Water Resources Control Board's final draft plan to protect California's Bay-Delta, water, and wildlife.

The Board thanked Mr. Boccadoro and Ms. Olhasso for their report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman of Ackerman Consulting provided an update on data centers.

The Board thanked Mr. Ackerman for his report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Peter Whittingham of Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors reported that there is currently a vacancy on the Irvine Ranch Water District Board of Directors. They received four applications, and interviews are scheduled for September 17. He also reported that the City of Newport Beach was ordered by the Superior Court to place four initiatives on the November 2026 ballot. However, the Orange County Registrar of Voters notified the City that they do not have sufficient time to do so.

Director Seckel requested that staff agendize South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) emissions from emergency standby generators for discussion at the next MWDOC Member Agencies Managers meeting.

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.

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

Director Seckel informed the Board that Metropolitan discussed returning funds to its Member Agencies. He provided an update on the upcoming Metropolitan Chair election, reviewed California's share of the Colorado River, and outlined watershed management efforts and ongoing work to improve runoff conditions. He also reported that Metropolitan staff are meeting with their Member Agencies to discuss the pros and cons of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W), as well as Metropolitan's efforts to address housing needs for Colorado River Aqueduct employees.

The Board discussed the Delta Islands evaluation study and the cost of housing for Colorado River Aqueduct employees.

ACTION ITEM

3. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COORDINATED OPERATING, WATER SHORTAGE, EXCHANGE AND DELIVERY AGREEMENT AMONG METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY AND IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT (PRESENTATION BY PAUL WEGHORST)

Water Resources Analyst Jared Dawson provided a brief overview of the topic and introduced Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) Executive Director of Water Policy Paul Weghorst who presented an overview of IRWD's water banking projects, background on the COA, the benefits of the current COA, principles for proposed amendments, and the anticipated benefits of the amendments.

The Board engaged in a discussion regarding MWDOC's involvement in the COA between Metropolitan and IRWD. Mr. Weghorst confirmed that the system was previously tested with a sample water delivery to verify accurate billing. The Board also discussed inquiries from the San Diego County Water Authority about whether they could receive water from IRWD or develop a similar project. Additionally, the Board reviewed the financial benefits to IRWD, the substantial advantages of the model, and the benefit to Metropolitan being able to borrow program water from IRWD when needed.

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director Thomas, and carried (6-0), the Board authorized the General Manager to execute an amended Coordinated Operating, Water Storage, Exchange and Delivery Agreement among Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Municipal Water District of Orange County, and Irvine Ranch Water District by the following roll call vote:

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. 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

5. METROPOLITAN BOARD AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Summary regarding August 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 10:34 a.m.

Angela Crespi
District Secretary