MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH METROPOLITAN DIRECTORS October 7, 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. Former Senator Dick Ackerman 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
Jennifer Wicks, Communications Manager
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Programs Manager
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
Paul Jones	Dopudja & Wells
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
Susan Sims	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
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
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services

Fred Jung	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Dan Denham	San Diego County Water Authority
Alex Heide	San Diego County Water Authority
Marty Miller	San Diego County Water Authority
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Meena Westford	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
Ken Vecchiarelli	Yorba Linda Water District
Chuck Gibson	

TELECONFERENCE SITE

Director Seckel participated via teleconference location (all agenda requirements pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act requirements were complied with).

Director Ackerman was present online but did not participate in deliberations, form part of the quorum, or vote on any items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Dick 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 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

PRESENTATION ITEM

1. INVITATION FOR METROPOLITAN BOARD CHAIR CANDIDATE

President Dick thanked San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Director Martin "Marty" Miller for attending today's meeting and shared his experiences working with Mr. Miller on the Metropolitan Board.

General Manager Harvey De La Torre provided an overview of the item and informed the Board that staff had invited Director Miller to discuss his priorities and vision for Metropolitan.

SDCWA General Manager Dan Denham provided a brief overview of Director Miller's professional background and experience in the water industry.

Director Miller then shared details about his personal, educational, and professional history, including his time at the San Diego County Water Authority and Metropolitan. He explained why he wants to become the next Chair of the Metropolitan Board and outlined his priorities and vision for Metropolitan.

Director Seckel noted that the last Metropolitan budget was based on a proposal by Director Miller, and he played a crucial role in facilitating the settlement agreement between SDCWA and Metropolitan.

The Board conveyed its strong support for Director Miller and is optimistic about his priorities.

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 Partner Sara Tucker provided an update on the Colorado River and the Nevada lawsuit, the status of the Lower/Upper Basin agreement, and the 2027-2028 operating guidelines.

Natural Resource Results Partner Garrett Durst discussed the potential for a Continuing Resolution following the elections. He also addressed water rights related to the Sites Reservoir Project and provided an update on ongoing discussions surrounding the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. Additionally, he noted that the Bureau of Reclamation appointed Anya Radabaugh as Deputy Commissioner for Policy.

The Board discussed permit provisions for the Sites Reservoir Project and their potential impacts on State Water Project operations, including whether related concerns have been resolved. The Board also discussed the ongoing conflict regarding WOTUS.

The Board thanked Ms. Tucker and Mr. Durst for their report.

b. State Legislative Report (West Coast Advisors)

In addition to the report included the agenda packet, West Coast Advisors President Michael Boccadoro provided an update on the 2025-26 legislative session, including statistics on legislation approved by Governor Newsom. He also summarized legislation and policy issues related to artificial intelligence, affordability, wildfire liability, and water supply.

West Coast Advisors Vice President Beth Olhasso discussed emergency preparedness and planning for El Niño and strategies for managing and conveying excess water supplies. She also provided an update on the revised Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, its implications for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program. She also provided an update on recently approved legislative bills.

The Board discussed opportunities and challenges associated with capturing and conveying wet-year water supplies, including the feasibility of modifying pumping operations and regulatory requirements, and California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulations.

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

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman from Ackerman Consulting shared his insights on data centers and recent articles about them.

The Board asked about dredging in the Delta and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer permitting system. Mr. Ackerman provided clarification.

The Board thanked Mr. Ackerman for his report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Peter Whittingham of Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors reported that two items of interest are scheduled for consideration on the Orange County Board of Supervisors' agenda: the preliminary design phase for a potential renewable energy project at the Prima Deshecha Landfill and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Santa Margarita Water District regarding a renewable energy exploratory task force.

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

Director Erdman reported on the agenda for the upcoming Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee meeting. He noted that two items are scheduled for consideration: authorizing standby agreements with HDR, Tetra Tech, and Geosyntec Consultants to support Capital Investment Plan projects, and awarding a contract to Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. to replace the canal concrete liner at multiple locations along the Colorado River Aqueduct.

The Board discussed Metropolitan's investments in the Sepulveda Pump Station and related impacts on water delivery and supply reliability.

General Manager Harvey De La Torre informed the Board that MWDOC signed a coalition letter to the State Water Resources Control Board regarding the Sites Reservoir Water Rights Decision and will send the letter to the Board once it is finalized.

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 September 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 10:18 a.m.

Angela Crespi
District Secretary