MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
October 21, 2026

At 8:32 a.m., President Dick called to order the Regular Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) in the Boardroom at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Following a moment of silence, District Secretary Angela Crespi led the Pledge of Allegiance, then she 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
Vicki Osborn, Director of Emergency Management/ WEROC
Hilary Chumpitazi, Director of Finance/IT
Heather Baez, Director of Government Affairs
Cathy Harris, Director of HR/Administration
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Rachel Davis, Water Loss Control Programs Managers
Rachel Waite-Harvey, Water Use Efficiency Programs Manager
Kathy Pham, Assistant Board Secretary
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel

Also Present

Dick Ackerman	Ackerman Consulting
Karla Nemeth	Association of California Water Agencies
Doug Davert	East Orange County Water District
Vu Chu	El Toro Water District
Kathryn Freshley	El Toro Water District
Mike Gaskins	El Toro Water District
Kay Havens	El Toro Water District
Mark Monin	El Toro Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Albert Napoli	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Donald Froelich	Moulton Niguel Water District
Marina Lindsay	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Fred Jung	Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Charles Luas	Orchard Dale Water District
Emily Novak	San Diego County Water Authority
Rob Grantham	Santa Margarita Water District
Saundra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District

David Youngblood	Santa Margarita Water District
Greg Mills	Serrano Water District
Robert Pitts	Serrano Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
John Horst	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Larry McKenney	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Michael Perea	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Karen Warner	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Chuck Gibson	
Bobby LaPointe	
Michael Miller	

TELECONFERENCE SITE

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

President Dick suggested reordering the Agenda to take the Introduction of Association of California Water Agencies Executive Director Karla Nemeth prior to public comments. There were no objections.

INTRODUCTION OF ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KARLA NEMETH

President Dick provided an overview of Karla Nemeth's professional background and highlighted her key achievements and qualifications as the Executive Director.

Ms. Nemeth shared her insights and vision for the future of water.

President Dick thanked Ms. Nemeth for attending the Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Dick asked whether any member of the public had any comments on items that were not on the agenda.

Santa Margarita Water District's (SMWD) General Manager Robert Grantham provided an update on the Notre Fire that occurred on Friday, October 16. He reported on SMWD's operational impacts and response efforts, highlighted how SMWD's investments in readiness supported the fire response efforts, and expressed appreciation to MWDOC and Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County for their partnership and support.

President Dick thanked Mr. Grantham for attending the Board meeting and for his update.

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 less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

District Secretary Angela Crespi reported that no items were distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KARLA NEMETH

This item was taken earlier in the Agenda.

TOP WORKPLACE RECOGNITION AWARD

Director of Human Resources and Administration Cathy Harris announced that MWDOC has been recognized as a 2026 Top Workplace by the Orange County Register, thanks to a nomination by Director of Government Affairs Heather Baez. This recognition is significant as it is based on confidential feedback from employees through a survey focusing on workplace culture, leadership, communication, and overall job satisfaction, with a remarkable 95% response rate. MWDOC earned recognition in ten award categories, including leadership and employee appreciation, and the results will be published on December 4. This achievement emphasizes MWDOC's commitment to fostering a supportive workplace culture and acknowledges the collective efforts of employees and leadership to create an environment where individuals feel valued.

The Board congratulated staff and extended appreciation for their dedication and hard work.

NEXT RESOLUTION NO. 2181

CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 1 to 9)

Upon MOTION by Director Thomas, seconded by Director Seckel, and carried (7-0), the Board approved Consent Calendar Items 1 – 9, by the following roll call vote:

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

1. MINUTES

The following minutes were approved.

a. September 2, 2026 Joint Workshop Board Meeting
b. September 8, 2026 Special Planning & Operations Committee Meeting
c. September 9, 2026 Administration & Finance Committee Meeting
d. September 16, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
e. September 17, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting

2. TREASURER'S REPORTS

The following items were ratified and approved as presented.

a. MWDOC Revenue/Cash Receipt Register as of September 30, 2026
b. Disbursement Registers (September/October)

The following items were received and filed as presented.

c. Summary of Cash and Investment and Portfolio Master Summary Report (Cash and Investment report) as of August 31, 2026
d. PARS Monthly Statement (OPEB Trust)

3. FINANCIAL REPORT

The following item was received and filed as presented.

a. Combined Financial Statements and Budget Comparative for the Period Ending August 31, 2026

4. AMENDMENT TO AN AGREEMENT WITH GARDENSOFT CORPORATION FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER SMART GARDENS WEBSITE

The Board authorized an amendment to an agreement with GardenSoft Corporation to increase the not-to-exceed amount by $5,000 for a total revised not-to-exceed limit of $30,000 over five years ending May 31, 2029.

5. CALIFORNIA WATER EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP (CALWEP) DIRECT DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

The Board authorized the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the California Water Efficiency Partnership to participate in the Direct Distribution Program, which provides a customized high-efficiency irrigation equipment web store tailored for Orange County water users, at no cost to the District.

6. MINOR SAFETY AND PROTECTION POLICY

The Board adopted a Minor and Safety Protection Policy.

7. 2027 HEALTHY SAVINGS ACCOUNT CONTRIBUTIONS

The Board approved an increase to the District's annual Health Savings Account contribution amounts, made by the District, to the Kaiser and Anthem-PPO Consumer Driven Health Plans for the 2027 plan year, as follows:

	Employee Only	2-party	Family
Kaiser CDHP	$1,750	$3,400	$3,400
Anthem-PPO CDHP	$1,750	$3,000	$2,800

8. APPROVAL OF ON-CALL ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) POST-IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT SERVICES PRE-QUALIFIED CONSULTANTS

The Board approved the list of pre-qualified consultants for on-call technical and professional services for post-implementation support of the District's Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance & Operations Enterprise Resource Planning system.

9. ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES (ACWA) PROPOSED AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS' AUTHORIZATION TO VOTE

The Board authorized President Dick, or his designee, to cast a vote to approve the Association of California Water Agencies proposed amended and restated bylaws.

End of Consent Calendar

ACTION ITEMS

10. ADOPT A RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CALPERS)

Upon MOTION by Director Seckel, seconded by Director Thomas, and carried (7-0), to adopt a Resolution of Intention to approve an amendment to the contract between California Public Employees' Retirement System and the Municipal Water District of Orange County by the following roll call vote:

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

INFORMATION CALENDAR

11. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT (ORAL AND WRITTEN)

Water Use Efficiency Manager Rachel Waite-Harvey introduced Water Use Efficiency intern Natalie Lange, then shared a brief overview of her educational background.

District Secretary Angela Crespi introduced Records Specialist Brittany Rucker, then shared a brief overview of her professional background.

12. MWDOC GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

President Dick announced that he received a resignation letter from MWDOC-MET Director Linda Ackerman, effective January 12, 2027. He offered his gratitude for the years of service she devoted to MWDOC and Metropolitan. In response to this announcement, he asked Legal

Counsel to describe to the Board and audience the steps for appointing our next MWDOC-MET Director.

Legal Counsel Joe Byrne announced the process for MWDOC-MET Director as outlined in MWDOC's Administrative Code Sections 1500 – 1505. The Board appoints all MWDOC-MET Directors by majority vote, with a minimum of two seats reserved for MWDOC Board members. The remaining seats are designated as North County or South County region seats, with Member Agencies from the applicable region nominating candidate(s) through a one-agency, one-vote process when a vacancy occurs. He noted that this vacancy is identified as a North County region seat.

Mr. Byrne added that although the Board is not required to appoint the Member Agency's nominee, past practice has been for the Board to do so; all nominees must reside within the MWDOC service area, and all MWDOC-MET Directors are required to represent the interests of the entire MWDOC service area; and the timing of filling the vacancy is at the discretion of the MWDOC Board.

President Dick thanked Mr. Byrne for that overview of the process and directed staff to collaborate with Legal Counsel to draft a letter informing all Member Agencies of Director Ackerman's resignation and the resulting vacancy in the North County seat. He also directed staff to add the appointment selection to the agenda for the full Board to review and vote on during the Joint Workshop meeting on January 6. The appointment of the new MWDOC-MET Director will take effect after the Metropolitan Board meeting on January 12, 2027.

The Board expressed gratitude for Director Ackerman's years of service and dedication to both MWDOC and Metropolitan.

a. Board of Directors - Reports re: Conferences and Meetings

The Board members each reported on their attendance at the regular MWDOC Board and Committee meetings. In addition to these meetings, the following reports were made on conferences and meetings attended on behalf of the District.

Director Nederhood advised that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, Executive, and Joint Planning Committee meetings, as well as the Joint Workshop and Regular Board meetings), Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) meetings, Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC) Executive Committee meeting, Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO) meeting, Meeting with staff regarding Water Energy Education Alliance, Administrative Code Review Ad Hoc Committee meetings, Yorba Linda Mayor's Event, Orange County Water Summit Ad Hoc Committee meetings, and California Special Districts Association Clean Vehicle seminar. Director Nederhood provided an overview of the meetings he attended.

Director McVicker reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, Executive, and Joint Planning Committee meetings, as well as the Joint Workshop and Regular Board meetings), Metropolitan Board and Committee meetings, WACO and WACO Planning meetings, ISDOC Executive Committee

meeting.

Director Thomas advised that he attended most of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, and Joint Planning Committee meetings as well as the Joint Workshop Regular Board meetings), Administrative Code Review Ad Hoc Committee meetings, and Orange County Water Summit Ad Hoc Committee meetings.

Director Seckel reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations and Administration & Finance Committee meetings, as well as the Joint Workshop and Regular Board meetings), Metropolitan Board and Committee meetings, State Water Project Inspection trip, Orange County Keeper Toast the Coast, Orange County Water Summit, meeting with Charley Wilson, meeting with ACWA Executive Director Karla Nemeth, Orange County Grand Jury Tour, and MWDOC Member Agencies Managers' meeting. Director Seckel provided an overview of the meetings he attended.

Director Crane advised that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, Executive, and Joint Planning Committee meetings, as well as the Joint Workshop and Regular Board meetings), Metropolitan Board and Committee meetings, Orange County Water Summit, South Orange County Agencies Group meeting, WACO, Irvine Ranch Water District Board meeting, Moulton Niguel Water District Board meeting, and California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance meeting.

Director Yoo Schneider reported that he attended all of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Administration & Finance, Executive and Joint Planning Committee meetings, as well as the Joint Workshop Board meeting), Santa Margarita Water District meetings, South Coast Water District meeting, WACO and Metropolitan Board and Committee meetings, and California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance meeting.

Director Dick advised that he attended most of the regularly scheduled MWDOC meetings (Planning & Operations, Executive, and Joint Planning Committee meetings, as well as the Joint Workshop and Regular Board meetings), ISDOC, WACO, Orange County Water Summit, and Urban Water Institute meetings.

b. Requests for Future Agenda Topics

No future agenda topics were requested.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Dick adjourned the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

Angela Crespi
District Secretary