

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY (MWDOC)
WITH THE MWDOC MET DIRECTORS**

May 1, 2024

At 8:30 a.m., President McVicker called to order the Workshop Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County in Conference Room 101 at the District facilities located in Fountain Valley, as well as including attendance via the Zoom Webinar application. Director Nederhood led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Goldsby called the roll.

MWDOC DIRECTORS

Al Nederhood
Larry Dick*
Karl W. Seckel*
Bob McVicker
Randall Crane
Jeffery M. Thomas
Megan Yoo Schneider

STAFF

Harvey De La Torre, General Manager
Joe Byrne, Legal Counsel
Maribeth Goldsby, District Secretary
Melissa Baum-Haley, Assistant General Mgr.
Kevin Hostert, Sr. Water Resource Analyst
Heather Baez, Director of Governmental Affairs
Charles Busslinger, Dir. of Engineering/Dist. Eng.
Damon Micalizzi, Director of Public Affairs
Sarina Sriboonlue, Principal Engineer
Joe Berg, Director of Water Use Efficiency

*Also MWDOC-MET Directors

OTHER MWDOC-MET DIRECTORS

Linda Ackerman
Dennis Erdman

OTHERS PRESENT

Kira Johnson
Sara Tucker (absent)
Garrett Durst
Syrus Devers
Dick Ackerman
Peter Whittingham
Paul Jones
Adel Hagekhalil
Adan Ortega
Mohsen Mortada
Deven Upadhyay
Albert Napoli
Yvette Martinez
Margie Wheeler
Doug Davert
Dave Youngblood
Kathryn Freshley
Kay Havens
Mark Monin

Best, Best & Krieger
NRR
NRR
Syrus Devers Advocacy
Ackerman Consulting
Whittingham Public Affairs Advisors
Dopudja & Wells Consulting
Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.
Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.
East Orange County Water District
East Orange County Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District
El Toro Water District

Dennis Cafferty	El Toro Water District
Sherri Seitz	El Toro Water District
Vu Chu	El Toro Water District
Fred Adjarian	El Toro Water District
Toby Moore	Golden State Water Company
Alvin Papa	City of Huntington Beach
Steve LaMar	Irvine Ranch Water District
Doug Reinhart	Irvine Ranch Water District
Peer Swan	Irvine Ranch Water District
Paul Weghorst	Irvine Ranch Water District
Christine Compton	Irvine Ranch Water District
Keith Van Der Maaten	Laguna Beach County Water District
Jim Atkinson	Mesa Water
Jim Fisler	Mesa Water
Paul Shoenberger	Mesa Water
Stacy Taylor	Mesa Water
Dick Fiore	Moulton Niguel Water District
Sherry Wanninger	Moulton Niguel Water District
Laura Rocha	Moulton Niguel Water District
Cathy Green	Orange County Water District
John Kennedy	Orange County Water District
Chris Olsen	Orange County Water District
Alicia Dunkin	Orange County Water District
Laura Freese	Santa Margarita Water District
Chuck Gibson	Santa Margarita Water District
Sandra Jacobs	Santa Margarita Water District
Don Bunts	Santa Margarita Water District
Brad Reese	Serrano Water District
Jennifer Lopez	South Coast Water District
Fernando Paludi	Trabuco Canyon Water District
Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District
Trudi DesRoches	Yorba Linda Water District
Gene Hernandez	Yorba Linda Water District
Tom Lindsey	Yorba Linda Water District
Lisa Ohlund	Ohlund Management & Technical Services
Ken Smith	Orange County Grand Jury

TELECONFERENCE SITE

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

President McVicker inquired whether any members of the public wished to comment on agenda items.

Mr. Ken Smith of the Orange County Grand Jury thanked the Board for the recent tour of Orange County water facilities.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED - Determine need and take action to agendize item(s), which arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (ROLL CALL VOTE: Adoption of this recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the Board members present or, if less than two-thirds of the Board members are present, a unanimous vote.)

No items were presented.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO THE BOARD LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO MEETING

President McVicker inquired as to whether there were any items distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

No items were distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

AB 1827 (PAPAN) – FEES AND CHARGES: WATER – HIGHER CONSUMPTIVE WATER PARCELS

Director of Governmental Affairs Heather Baez provided an overview of AB 1827, and discussion was held regarding how this legislation would affect Proposition 218 and whether its provisions would need to be updated.

Upon MOTION by Director Dick, seconded by Director Yoo Schneider, and carried (7-0), and the Board voted to adopt a support position on Assembly Bill 1827 (Papan), by the following roll call vote:

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

AB 2257 (WILSON) – PROPERTY RELATED WATER AND SEWER FEES AND ASSESSMENTS: REMEDIES

Following a brief discussion regarding Proposition 218 and the importance of transparent rate increases, Director Yoo Schneider made a MOTION, which was seconded by Director Thomas, and carried (6-1) to adopt a support position for Assembly Bill 2257 (Wilson), by the following roll call vote:

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

ACR 163 (HART) – SPECIAL DISTRICTS WEEK

Upon MOTION by Director Yoo Schneider, seconded by Director Crane, and carried (7-0), the Board adopted a support position on Assembly Concurrent Resolution 163 (Hart), by the following roll call vote:

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

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

a. Federal Legislative Report

Mr. Garrett Durst of NRR reviewed NRR’s written report in the packet, highlighting the appropriations process, and the potential for a Tax Parity for Water Rebates bill and companion bill.

b. State Legislative Report

Mr. Syrus Devers, of SDA, reviewed his report, highlighting the various pieces of legislation as well as the State Budget.

The Board received and filed the report.

c. Legal and Regulatory Report (Ackerman)

Mr. Dick Ackerman referenced his report, highlighting the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on property rights.

The Board received and filed the report.

d. County Legislative Report (Whittingham)

Mr. Whittingham referenced his report, highlighting recent agency appointments/hirings for management positions.

President McVicker announced that MWDOC recently appointed Dr. Melissa Baum-Haley as MWDOC’s Assistant General Manager; the Board congratulated her on the appointment.

The Board received and filed his report.

e. MWDOC Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the report.

f. Metropolitan Legislative Matrix

The Board received and filed the report.

UPDATE BY MET CHAIRMAN ORTEGA AND MET GENERAL MANAGER HAGEKHALIL REGARDING MET'S CLIMATE ADAPTATION MASTER PLAN

MET Chairman Adan Ortega provided an overview of MET's efforts to address climate change and its impact on water. He highlighted MET's key initiatives to adapt to a changing climate, including MET's biennial budget process (and how various approved efforts will begin the transformation to addressing climate change), Colorado River water levels, Leak Detection Programs, the establishment of MET's long term regional planning process (and Business Modeling Subcommittee), the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) process and discussions, and investments in the Bay-Delta, as well as various issues facing the Colorado River and Bay-Delta.

MET General Manager Adel Hagekhalil then reviewed the current water supply conditions (and MET's commitment to ensure supplies are plentiful), how MET will adapt to managing future supplies (conservation, storage, etc.), investing in Colorado River infrastructure, keeping the State Water Project (SWP) Table A allocations in balance, finding new ways to incentivize water storage, investing in groundwater, investing in resiliency, monetizing properties (e.g. solar farm revenue) and MET's collaborative efforts to address these issues with its member agencies.

The audience and Board members engaged in discussion with emphasis on power issues (accessing the grid for solar energy), Delta activities (including the Delta Counties Coalition), Pure Water Project cost considerations, concerns with the IRP projections on future water supplies and demands, MET budget shortfalls, the Business Model Subcommittee efforts, the SWP, and the importance of water quality.

The Board thanked Chairman Ortega and General Manager Hagekhalil for the presentations and received and filed the reports.

QUESTIONS OR INPUT ON MET ISSUES FROM MEMBER AGENCIES/MET DIRECTOR REPORTS REGARDING MET COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

Director Erdman highlighted his recent trip to Iron Mountain where he had the opportunity to meet with the employees.

Director Ackerman noted upcoming discussions regarding the framework for interagency local supply exchange programs.

Director Seckel referenced the Business Model Subcommittee discussions and encouraged comments and/or concerns be relayed to the MET Directors.

Director Dick highlighted some key issues facing MET, namely, the need for new lab equipment, desert housing, increases in chemical costs, and the Business Model discussions.

INFORMATION ITEMS

MWD ITEMS CRITICAL TO ORANGE COUNTY

- a. MET Finance and Rate Issues
- b. MET Water Supply Conditions Update
- c. Water Quality Update
- d. Colorado River Issues
- e. Delta Conveyance Activities and State Water Project Issues

Director Nederhood highlighted the Water Supply Report and asked staff to incorporate a more complete water picture into future reports (all available water, including amounts released to the ocean). Staff advised they would look into this.

The Board received and filed the report as presented.

METROPOLITAN (MET) BOARD AND COMMITTEE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Summary reports regarding the April MET Board Meeting
- b. Review items of significance for the upcoming MET Board and Committee Agendas

The report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Maribeth Goldsby
District Secretary