

MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
March 11, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

President Green called to order the March 11, 2023 special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Orange County Water District at 9:00 a.m. in the District Boardroom. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the District Secretary called the roll and reported a quorum as follows.

Directors

Valerie Amezcua
Denis Bilodeau
Cathy Green
Natalie Meeks
Dina Nguyen
Kelly Rowe
Steve Sheldon
Van Tran
Bruce Whitaker
Roger Yoh

Staff

Michael Markus, General Manager
John Kennedy, Executive Director
Jeremy Jungreis, General Counsel
Christina Fuller, Assistant District Secretary

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

Municipal Water District of Orange County's (MWDOC) Director Karl Seckel stated that the MWDOC Board is not interested in consolidation but instead would like both agencies to work together on issues and looks forward to a joint meeting between both Boards. MWDOC's Board President Megan Yoo Schneider stated that she would like to work towards addressing issues and have both agencies collaborate to address challenges.

The Consolidation of Orange County Water District and the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Study Session

Executive Director John Kennedy recalled that in June 2022, the Orange County Grand Jury released a report recommending that OCWD and MWDOC consolidate into one wholesale agency to best meet the needs of the Orange County water community. He advised that the Grand Jury came to this conclusion after reviewing the operations of the District and MWDOC and meeting with numerous Orange County water officials. Mr. Kennedy provided an overview on OCWD and MWDOC, existing imported water programs and issues with consolidating the two agencies. He reported that MWDOC's primary objections of the Grand Jury was that it did not fully investigate the different issues that would need to be resolved with a consolidation. He stated that in response to this objection, OCWD requested LAFCO, an independent third party, study how a consolidation could occur between the two agencies. He detailed the Orange County LAFCO process as well as recent attempts to develop deal points for a possible alternative agreement to address specific issues in-lieu of consolidating the two agencies. Mr. Kennedy advised that the study is informational only but will include findings that could be positive or negative about the consolidation issue.

3/11/23

Staff was directed to add this item to the March 15 Board of Directors meeting. as a matter for consideration. The Board then took the following actions:

MOTION NO. 23-27
DIRECTING STAFF TO SCHEDULE A JOINT BOARD MEETING WITH MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY (MWDOC)

Upon motion by Director Amezcua, seconded by Director Tran and carried [10-0], staff is hereby directed to schedule a joint Board meeting with the Municipal Water District of Orange County to consider the consolidation of OCWD and MWDOC.

Ayes: Amezcua , Bilodeau, Green, Meeks, Nguyen, Rowe, Sheldon, Tran, Whitaker, Yoh

MOTION NO. 23-28
DIRECTING STAFF TO ISSUE A FORMAL INVITATION TO MWDOC TO PARTICIPATE AS A JOINT APPLICANT FOR THE LAFCO CONSOLIDATION STUDY

Upon motion by Director Tran, seconded by Director Nguyen and carried [10-0], staff is hereby directed to issue a formal invitation to the Municipal Water District of Orange County to participate as a joint applicant for the Local Agency Formation Commission consolidation study to share in the cost and liability of RFP and MSR.

Ayes: Amezcua, Bilodeau, Green, Meeks, Nguyen, Rowe, Sheldon, Tran, Whitaker, Yoh

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

DocuSigned by:
Christina Fuller
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Christina Fuller, Assistant District Secretary

DocuSigned by:
Cathy Green
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Cathy Green, President