

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WATER ISSUES COMMITTEE  
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
July 12, 2023, @ 12:00 p.m.

Director Whitaker called the Water Issues Committee meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in the District Boardroom. Public access was also provided via Zoom webinar. The Secretary called the roll and reported a quorum as follows:

Committee Members

Bruce Whitaker  
Dina Nguyen (absent)  
Roger Yoh (absent)  
Van Tran arrived 12:31 p.m.  
Kelly Rowe

OCWD

Mike Markus – General Manager  
John Kennedy – Executive Director  
Leticia Villarreal – Assistant District Secretary  
Jeremy Jungreis – General Counsel

Alternates

Denis Bilodeau arrived 12:06 p.m.  
Steve Sheldon arrived 12:19 p.m.  
Valeria Amezcua (absent)  
Natalie Meeks (absent)  
Cathy Green (absent)

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Rowe requested the removal of Item No. 3, *Destruction Of Monitoring Wells*, from the Consent Calendar. The remainder of the Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Rowe and carried [3-0], as follows:

**Ayes: Whitaker, Rowe, Green**

1. Minutes of Water Issues Committee Meeting

**The Minutes of the Water Issues Committee meeting held June 14, 2023, were approved as presented.**

2. Amendment No. 7 to Agreement with AECOM for Revisions to the Draft North Basin Feasibility Study

**Recommended for approval at July 19 Board meeting: Authorize issuance of Amendment No. 7 to Agreement No. 1189 with AECOM increasing the contract amount by \$61,085.**

3. Destruction of Monitoring Wells AM-29A and MCAS-10

This item was removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

4. Contract GBM-2023-1 Installation of Shallow Aquifer Monitoring Wells Notice of Completion

**Recommended for approval at July 19 Board meeting: Accept completion of the work and authorize filing a Notice of Completion for Contract GBM-2022-1, 2022 Shallow Aquifer Monitoring Wells.**

5. Contract No. SA-2023-1 City of Santa Ana PFAS Water Treatment Plant Well Nos. 27 & 28 and Contract No. SA-2023-2 City of Santa Ana PFAS Water Treatment Plant Well No. 31: Categorical Exemption and Notices Inviting Bids

**Recommended for approval at July 19 Board meeting:**

- 1) **Authorize filing of a Categorical Exemption for the City of Santa Ana PFAS Water Treatment Plant Wells SA-27 & SA-28 project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines;**
- 2) **Authorize filing of a Categorical Exemption for the City of Santa Ana PFAS Water Treatment Plant Well SA-31 project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines;**
- 3) **Authorize publication of Notice Inviting Bids for Contract No. SA-2023-1, City of Santa Ana Wells PFAS Water Treatment Plant SA-27 & SA-28; and**
- 4) **Authorize publication of Notice Inviting Bids for Contract No. SA-2023-2, City of Santa Ana PFAS Water Treatment Plant Well SA-31**

**MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

3. Destruction of Monitoring Wells AM-29A and MCAS-10

Director Rowe requested that staff provide more information on this item. He expressed concerns about extended corrosion in the wells, with them being mild steel, and questioned whether it would pose a chronic problem with the wells becoming useless after so much time. Chief Hydrogeologist Roy Herndon provided information on wells of the same design, stating that there could be similar issues but not as severe as requiring them to be destroyed.

**Upon motion by Director Rowe, seconded by Director Green and carried [3-0], the Committee recommended for approval at July 19 Board meeting:**

- 1) **Authorize filing of a Categorical Exemption for the destruction of monitoring wells AM-29A and MCAS-10 in compliance with CEQA guidelines;**
- 2) **Authorize destruction of monitoring wells AM-29A and MCAS-10;**
- 3) **Establish a project budget of \$45,000; and**
- 4) **Authorize Notice Inviting Bids for monitoring well destruction.**

**Ayes: Whitaker, Rowe, Green**

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

6. State Water Resources Control Board State Revolving Fund PFAS Grant Applications

Executive Director John Kennedy provided an update on OCWD's efforts to secure PFAS grant money. He highlighted OCWD's significant investment in the PFAS program and emphasized its proactive approach to securing external funding to mitigate costs. He noted OCWD would focus on the State Water Board State Revolving Fund principal forgiveness program but shared a quick overview of the different areas OCWD has been looking at to bring in Grant money. He stated OCWD successfully brought in \$4.2 million with the State DWR Integrated Regional Watershed Management program. He reported that OCWD successfully submitted a feasibility report as part of

a prerequisite for the US Bureau of Reclamation Title 16 program and is now waiting for the next funding round, which could potentially be up to \$30 million. Mr. Kennedy reported that OCWD was turned down for money from the State Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Act program, but OCWD submitted a letter for reconsideration. He then reported on the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) program and introduced Mike Downing from the State Water Board, who attended the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Downing overviewed a new program established by Congress called the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act (BIA). He advised the bill appropriates funds to be administered through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) but due to Federal statutes, funding agreements must be made with individual water systems rather than the water district. He advised that SWRCB is working closely with District staff to make necessary adjustments to find a solutions to support projects and provide funding indirectly.

7. Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report – Historic Rain, Yet Drought Remains

Mr. Kennedy recalled that the Grand Jury issued a report, Historic Rain, Yet Drought Remains. He summarized that the Grand Jury report states insufficient water supplies are available to Orange County and additional local water supplies need to be developed. He advised that the Grand Jury is requesting that the County of Orange Board of Supervisors explore developing a Climate Resilience District or JPA to implement a drought-resistant water source and County of Orange water agencies should develop ocean desalination plants. Mr. Kennedy stated OCWD has 90 days to respond and must officially respond to twelve findings and give 2 recommendations; overall, seven Orange County agencies are required to respond to the Grand Jury report findings and recommendations. He noted twenty-six Orange County agencies requested to respond to the report. He shared the OCWD draft response and advised this issue will be agendaized for approval at the August Water Issues committee meeting.

**CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE JULY 19 BOARD MEETING**

It was agreed to place all items on the Consent Calendar at the July 19 Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  
*Bruce Whitaker*  
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Bruce Whitaker, Chair