

MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
March 5, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Vice President Tran called to order the March 5, 2025 regular meeting of the Orange County Water District Board of Directors at 5:30 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, the District Secretary called the roll as follows. Public access was also provided via Zoom webinar.

Directors

Valerie Amezcua  
Denis Bilodeau (arrived @5:35 p.m.)  
Cathy Green  
Fred Jung (arrived @5:37 p.m.)  
Dina Nguyen (arrived @5:38 p.m.)  
Natalie Meeks (absent)  
Stephen Sheldon (participated as public)  
Van Tran  
Erik Weigand  
Roger Yoh

Staff

John Kennedy, General Manager  
Jeremy Jungreis, General Counsel  
Christina Fuller, District Secretary

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

There were no visitors wishing to address the Board this evening.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Once quorum was established, the Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Green, seconded by Director Jung and carried [8-0] as follows:

Ayes: Amezcua, Bilodeau, Green, Jung, Nguyen, Tran, Weigand, Yoh

Absent: Meeks, Sheldon

1. Approval of Cash Disbursements

MOTION NO. 25-22  
APPROVING CASH DISBURSEMENTS

Payment of bills for the period of February 13, 2025 through February 26, 2025 in the total amount of 14,540,764.44 is ratified and approved.

2. Public Hearing on OCWD Vacancies, Recruitment and Retention Efforts

MOTION NO. 25-23  
SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing is scheduled for April 2, 2025 to present the District's status on vacancies, recruitment and retention efforts.

3. General Manager Compensation

MOTION NO. 25-24  
APPROVING INCREASE IN GENERAL MANAGER'S COMPENSATION

An approximate 12% increase to the General Manager's annual base salary changing it from \$320,361 to \$359,029 effective retroactively to January 26, 2025; and provide a \$11,000 onetime bonus is authorized.

ITEM RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AT RETIREMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
FEBRUARY 25

4. Secure Act 2.0 Optional Provisions for Retirement Plans

MOTION NO. 25-25  
APPROVING ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADDITION OF SECURE ACT 1.0/2.0  
OPTIONAL PROVISIONS

The following actions in connection with the Secure Act 1.0/2.0 optional provisions are hereby approved:

1. Self-certification of hardship and unforeseen emergency withdrawals – 457(b) plan;
2. Penalty-free withdrawal for domestic abuse cases with the participant self-certifying their eligibility – 457(b) plan;
3. Increased catch-up contribution limits – 457(b) plan;
4. Increase in small balance mandatory distribution threshold – 457(b) plan;
5. Qualified Birth and Adoption Distributions – 457(b) plan; and
6. Funds for Qualified Disaster Relief with the participant self-certifying their eligibility – 401(a) and 457(b) plans.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

5. Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange County (LAFCO) Feasibility Study on the Consolidation of the Orange County Water District and the Municipal Water District of OC

General Manager John Kennedy advised that staff received the updated LAFCO Consolidation Study late this afternoon and stated that based upon LAFCO staff comments and staff's initial review, there are very few changes to the report from what was reviewed back in December 2024. He reported that the LAFCO Commission will review the document at its meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> to receive and file the report. He advised that he and/or President Bilodeau will attend this meeting to thank LAFCO for preparing the document. Mr. Kennedy stated that staff has no recommendations for tonight's meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

\*The following item was presented and discussed first on the agenda.

6. Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget

CFO/Treasurer Randy Fick reviewed the fiscal year 2025-26 proposed budget in the total amount of \$289.7 million. He advised that the General Fund budget of \$110.0 million contains \$4.8 million for PFAS Treatment O&M costs for Producers with an increase in headcount to 227. Mr. Fick stated that the water budget is proposed at \$11.1 million and includes 3,000 af of water purchases for the Alamitos Barrier and 5,000 af for MWD untreated water. He reviewed the projects included in the CIP budget of \$87,239,462

and presented the remaining budget components. Mr. Fick stated that next fiscal year’s budget is based on an increased Replenishment Assessment of \$711/acre-foot and a Basin Production Percentage of 85%.

7. SAWPA Update

Director Bilodeau provided an update on recent SAWPA activities.

8. Committee/Conference/Meeting Reports

The Board reported on attendance at the following Committee meeting, noting the Action Agenda was included in tonight’s Board packet.

February 25 – Retirement Committee

9. Verbal Reports

Director Green reported on her attendance at the ACWA DC Conference, noting she met with various Senators regarding PFAS liability. President Bilodeau, along with Directors Tran and Jung, reported on their attendance at the Urban Water Institute Spring Conference on February 26-28.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR [Government Code Section 54956.8]  
Real property located at: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) land adjacent to APN 253-451-07 at Burriss Basin OCWD negotiator: John Kennedy, Negotiating party: Caltrans, Under negotiation: Price and Terms

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened in Open Session whereupon General Counsel Jungreis advised that there were no reportable items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  
Denis Bilodeau  
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Denis Bilodeau, President

DocuSigned by:  
Christina Fuller 3/20/2025  
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Christina Fuller, District Secretary