

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
April 2, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

President Bilodeau called to order the April 2, 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
Cathy Green
Fred Jung
Dina Nguyen
Natalie Meeks
Stephen Sheldon
Van Tran
Erik Weigand
Roger Yoh

(participated as public)

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.

1. Public Hearing on OCWD Vacancies, Recruitment and Retention Efforts (AB2561-Government Code Section 3502.3)

President Bilodeau opened the Public Hearing on OCWD Vacancies, Recruitment and Retention Efforts. Human Resources Director Stephanie Dosier stated that recently adopted Assembly Bill (“AB”) 2561 requires all local public agencies to hold annual public hearings each fiscal year to discuss staff vacancies, recruitment and retention efforts prior to the adoption of the final budget. She provided a brief presentation on current vacancies at the District and current recruitment efforts in compliance with AB 2561. She reported that staff reviewed applicable policies, procedures, and recruitment activities to identify any potential obstacles in the District’s hiring process and noted no obstacles were identified.

President Bilodeau then opened the hearing for public comment. There being no persons wishing to present testimony, President Bilodeau declared the hearing closed and the Board took the following action.

MOTION NO. 25-34
RECEIVING AND FILING REPORT ON OCWD VACANCIES AND RECRUITMENT AND
RETENTION EFFORTS

Upon motion by Director Meeks, seconded by Director Jung and carried [9-0], the OCWD vacancies and recruitment and retention efforts report is hereby received and filed.

Ayes: Amezcua, Bilodeau, Green, Jung, Meeks, Nguyen, Sheldon, Weigand, Yoh

Absent: Tran

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Amezcua, seconded by Director Green and carried [9-0] as follows:

Ayes: Amezcua, Bilodeau, Green, Jung, Nguyen, Meeks, Sheldon, Weigand, Yoh

Absent: Tran

2. Approval of Cash Disbursements

MOTION NO. 25-35 APPROVING CASH DISBURSEMENTS

Payment of bills for the period of March 13, 2025 through March 26, 2025 in the total amount of \$5,506,952.52 is ratified and approved.

3. Request for Proposals: Direct Access Electricity Purchase for Groundwater Replenishment System, Burris Pump Station, and Green Acres Project Santa Ana Reservoir

RESOLUTION NO. 25-4-51 AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF RFP FOR GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM, BURRIS PUMP STATION, AND GREEN ACRES PROJECT SANTA ANA RESERVOIR

RESOLVED, that issuance of a Request for Proposals for Direct Access electricity procurement for the OCWD Kiwi Substation, Burris Pump Station, and Green Acres Project Santa Ana Reservoir is authorized.

4. Authorization Resolution for Watersmart Planning and Project Design Grant for Sunset Gap Seawater Barrier Feasibility Study

RESOLUTION NO. 25-4-52 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR THE WATERSMART PLANNING AND PROJECT DESIGN GRANT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023 AND 2024 INCLUDING ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT SUNSET GAP SEAWATER BARRIER FEASIBILITY STUDY AND THE EXECUTION OF GRANT DOCUMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors adopted a policy regarding control of seawater intrusion to: 1) prevent degradation of the quality of the groundwater basin from seawater intrusion, 2) effectively operate and evaluate the performance of the District's seawater barrier facilities, and 3) adequately identify and track trends in seawater intrusion in susceptible coastal areas and evaluate and act upon this information, as needed, to protect the groundwater basin;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors approved the design and construction of Sunset Gap groundwater monitoring wells, water quality sampling, and a barrier feasibility study to evaluate the extent of seawater intrusion and seawater intrusion barrier alternatives;

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, announced the second-round grant funding program entitled "WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants for Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024" ("Grant") provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for collaborative planning and design projects to support water management improvements; and

WHEREAS, this resolution certifies the Board of Directors' review and support for the application package submitted for the Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of Orange County Water District does hereby resolve:

Section 1: The Board of Directors hereby authorizes and directs the General Manager to sign, submit and file, for and on behalf of Orange County Water District, a Grant application package to the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, in response to the Notice of Funding Opportunity Number R23AS00109 to support the Sunset Gap Barrier Feasibility Study.

Section 2: The Board of Directors hereby agrees and further authorizes the General Manager or his designee, to provide the assurances, certifications, and commitments required for the Grant, to negotiate and execute any documents related to this Grant, including a financial assistance agreement and any amendments or changes thereto, and to accept financial assistance from the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

Section 3: If the Grant application package is approved, Orange County Water District has the financial capability to provide the cost-sharing funds to match the requirements of the Grant.

Section 4: Orange County Water District will work with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, to meet established deadlines for entering into a financial assistance agreement.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Stormwater Credit Program

Keith Linker, City Engineer for Anaheim, presented on Anaheim's stormwater credit banking program, which launched in 2023. He reported that Anaheim is the first city in Orange County to establish a fully operational credit banking system designed to encourage private developers and public agencies to invest in stormwater capture and infiltration projects. He advised that the program enables participants to earn credits by implementing stormwater management improvements that exceed regulatory requirements. He noted that the credits can then be used to offset obligations on other projects, creating a flexible and market-driven approach to stormwater compliance. Mr. Linker stated that the success of Anaheim's program offers a potential model for OCWD to consider as it evaluates its own approach to stormwater credit banking. He advised that the city has already seen benefits, including increased investment in green infrastructure, enhanced groundwater recharge, and a scalable funding mechanism for future water-related projects.

6. SAWPA Update

Director Bilodeau provided an update on recent SAWPA activities.

7. Committee/Conference/Meeting Reports

There were no reports provided this evening.


8. Verbal Reports


General Manager John Kennedy reported that the District received two awards from the California Association of Public Information Officers (CAPIO).

Director Weigand reported on his attendance at the Mesa Water Education Center dedication event on March 28th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

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Denis Bilodeau, President

DocuSigned by:
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Christina Fuller, District Secretary