



MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE EAST ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT (EOCWD)

January 16, 2020

1. **Call to Order.** A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the East Orange County Water District was called to order by President DOUGLASS DAVERT at 5:01 p.m. on Thursday, January 16, 2020, in the offices of the East Orange County Water District, 185 N. McPherson Road, Orange, California, with Director MURDOCH leading the Pledge of Allegiance. JEFF HOSKINSON, Secretary, recorded the minutes of the meeting.

The following Directors were present: RICHARD BELL, DOUGLASS DAVERT, JOHN DULEBOHN, GEORGE MURDOCH, and JOHN SEARS.

Also present were:

LISA OHLUND	General Manager
SYLVIA PRADO	District Administrative Assistant
JEFF SMYTH	Engineering Manager
JEFF HOSKINSON	District Secretary and Legal Counsel
STEVEN ANDREWS	Steven Andrews Engineering
JOHN LEWIS	Lewis Consulting
TOM BROZ	HMP Steering Committee Member

2. **Public Communications to the Board.** None.

3. **Items Arising After Posting of Agenda.**

ACTION TAKEN:

The Board, upon motion duly seconded, unanimously determined that, on based on an immediate need to take an action that came to the District’s attention after the posting of the agenda, it would add Item 7(B), the Southern California Water Committee’s luncheon event, to the agenda for consideration for a conference and meeting request.

4. **Consent Calendar.**

The Board, on motion from SEARS, seconded by BELL, following a brief discussion whereby President DAVERT introduced Tom Broz who will serve on the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee, approved the Consent Calendar items by unanimous vote as follows:

- A. Minutes: THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2019 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED;
- B. General Manager’s Report: THE GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT WAS RECEIVED AND FILED;

- C. Modification of February Regular Board Meeting to February 13, 2020: THE BOARD APPROVED A CHANGE IN THE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE WITH RESPECT TO THE FEBRUARY 20, 2020 REGULAR MEETING, TO NOW HOLD THE MEETING AT 5:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020;
- D. Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee: THE BOARD RATIFIED THE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS.
- E. Notification of Retail Zone Rate Increase: THE 30-DAY NOTIFICATION OF RETAIL ZONE RATE INCREASE PER THE FIVE-YEAR RATES THAT WAS APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2016, WAS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION ONLY;
- F. Water Quality Policy Update: THE BOARD RECEIVED, FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY, AN UPDATE ON THE WATER QUALITY POLICY; and
- G. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (“PFAS”) Status Report: THE BOARD RECEIVED THE REPORT FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

**5. Operation, Management and Construction Matters.**

**A. Robert B. Diemer Treatment Plant Shutdown – Presentation and Update.**

General Manager Lisa Ohlund introduced the item, along with District Engineer Jeff Smyth. Mr. Smyth then led a presentation and discussion relative to the Robert B. Diemer Treatment Plant 7-day shut down at the end of December. Mr. Smyth discussed the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s (“MET”) plan with the Board, relative to the Diemer shutdown for various improvements to the treatment plant, inspection of the Allen McColloch Pipeline (“AMP”), and other various items. Mr. Smyth explained that it will likely be another five years before the line is shut down again due to the PFAS issue and resulting increased regional reliance on MET imported water. Mr. Smyth then summarized the steps EOCWD is taking to accommodate the shut-down, as well as EOCWD’s contingency plans in the event the shut-down were to last longer than expected.

Ms. Ohlund added that Karl Seckel of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (“MWDOC”) had aided substantially in identifying and putting in place the contingency components, and expressed gratitude to the City of Anaheim for the loan of a large mobile pump and Irvine Ranch Water District for providing an alternative source of water in the event the shutdown exceeds the planned period, and that she will be sending a letter to thank them all.

ACTION TAKEN: None. Information Only.

**B. Report on Collapsed Sewer:** Mr. Smyth presented the item, providing an overview and summary of the sewer collapse experienced on the siphon located near the 14600 block of Holt Avenue in Tustin. Mr. Smyth outlined how the siphon had been fine on inspection December 1, 2019, but found collapsed during a subsequent cleaning on January 2, 2020. Mr. Smyth reported that there had been no danger of a spill from the collapse, and that sewage was still flowing in the pipe at the location. Mr. Smyth reported that the collapse was repaired on January 3, 2020, at an estimated cost of \$20,000, and that EOCWD was now inspecting all siphons via CCTV to ensure that all are functioning and not at risk of a similar collapse.

ACTION TAKEN: None. Information Only.

**C. Mid-Year Strategic Plan Presentation.** Ms. Ohlund presented the item, representing that this was a report relative to the status of EOCWD's efforts since the Second Update to the Strategic Plan adopted on June 21, 2019. Ms. Ohlund outlined the four major goals of the plan, and updated the Board as to the progress relative to those goals. Ms. Ohlund provided special attention to issues such as the increasing impacts of the PFAS issue; Vista Panorama seismic retrofit; and sewer spills. Directors SEARS and BELL made general inquiries, after which Ms. Ohlund reviewed the relevant Key Performance Indicators.

ACTION TAKEN: None. Information Only.

**6. Financial Matters.**

**A. Approval of schedules of disbursements.**

**B. Report on investments/ratification of investment activity.**

**C. Receipt and filing of financial statements (November 30, 2019)**

ACTION TAKEN:

The Board, on motion by MURDOCH, seconded by DULEBOHN, unanimously (1) approved the Schedule of Disbursements for Consideration, as submitted; (2) ratified and approved the Schedules of Investments; and (3) received and filed the Financial Statements and reports."

**D. Annual Debt Filing Report.**

ACTION TAKEN:

The Board, on motion by SEARS, seconded by BELL, unanimously voted to receive and file the Annual Debt Report, and authorized the General Manager, or her designee, to take such actions as reasonably necessary relative thereto.

7. **Miscellaneous Matters.**

**A. Wholesale and Retail Water Usage Report – December 2019:** Ms. Ohlund highlighted the increasing demand in the Retail Zone, by one- to two-percent, and that EOCWD was keeping an eye on such increase and staying on the water conservation message. Ms. Ohlund indicated that in the Spring, the Board will promote the MWDOC program that, in light of a grant received by MWDOC, will focus on hiring landscape architects to design landscaping for water savings.

Director MURDOCH inquired relative to State trends for water use, to which Ms. Ohlund confirmed that they are also on a rise—as a general sentiment seems to exist that people believe we have plenty of water, however still not rebounding anywhere near as much as it has after previous droughts. Director BELL commented on prior drought response and use bounding.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

On motion by MURDOCH, seconded by BELL, the Board unanimously received and filed the wholesale and retail water usage report.

**B. Conference and Meeting Request.**

i. Municipal Water District of Orange County (“MWDOC”) Policy Forum and Dinner – February 12, 2020 at the Avenue of Arts Hotel in Costa Mesa, CA.

ii. Southern California Water Coalition, January 24, 2020 – 12pm to 2pm. Ontario Luncheon.

**ACTION TAKEN:**

On motion by SEARS, seconded by BELL, the Board unanimously determined that: (1) all Directors, less Director MURDOCH, as well as certain staff, would attend by MWDOC Policy Forum and Dinner on February 12, 2020; and (ii) that none would attend the Southern California Water Coalition luncheon on January 24, 2020.

**C. Directors’ reports on meetings attended at District expense (Government Code Section 53232.3) and Directors’ comments. Directors or staff may ask questions for clarification, make brief announcements, and make brief reports on their own activities. Directors may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting concerning a matter, or direct staff to place a matter on a future agenda (Government Code § 54954.2)**

Director SEARS reported attendance at: (1) the Foothill Community Association Board Meeting on January 9, 2020; (2) the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (“WACO”) meeting on January 10, 2020; and (3) the North Tustin Fire Safe Counsel meeting on January 14, 2020.

Director MURDOCH attended his first Association of California Water Agencies (“ACWA”) Board Meeting via conference call on January 6, 2020, where the ACWA Board approved ACWA President Steven LaMar’s recommended positions through various committees—including Director MURDOCH’s appointment to the Membership and Water Quality Committees. The Board congratulated Director MURDOCH, who in turn thanked them for their support.

Director DULEBOHN had nothing to report.

Director BELL had nothing to report.

President DAVERT indicated he undertaken substantial activities relative to the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”), including providing the LAFCO report at the ISDOC Board Meeting. President DAVERT made brief statements relative to status and issues at LAFCO.

**D. Monthly Legislative & Outreach Report:** John Lewis of Lewis Consulting provided a brief overview of his report and observations. Mr. Lewis reported that the LAFCO had unanimously re-elected President DAVERT as Vice-Chairman, along with a summary of recent LAFCO agenda items and activities.

## **8. Informational Items.**

**A. General interest publications.** Ms. Ohlund briefly related that, as to the last item, one public comment on EOCWD’s social media over the holidays had indicated that, relative to a holiday greeting posted by EOCWD, nothing said Christmas like a picture of an EOCWD sewer manhole.

## **9. Closed Session**

- A.** Closed Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation - Initiation of Litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9: *AT&T and T-Mobile Communications (Vista Panorama)*
- B.** Closed Conference with Legal Counsel – existing litigation pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9 – *Irvine Ranch Water District v. Orange County Water District, Case No. 30-2016-00858584-CU-WMCJC.*
- C.** Open session: The Board took no reportable action.



10. Adjournment.

ACTION TAKEN:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m. to a regular meeting to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at the Offices of the East Orange County Water District, 185 N. McPherson Road, Orange, California.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeffrey A. Hoskinson