

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
EL TORO WATER DISTRICT
October 23, 2025

President Gaskins called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the EL TORO WATER DISTRICT to order at 7:31 a.m.

Director McClean led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Committee Members MARK MONIN, MIKE GASKINS, KAY HAVENS, KATHRYN FRESHLEY, and WYATT McCLEAN participated.

Also participating were DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, General Manager, GILBERT J. GRANITO, General Counsel, VISHAV SHARMA, CFO, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, JUDY CIMORELL, Director of Human Resources, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, MIKE MIAZGA, IT Manager (Zoom), VICKI TANIOUS, Senior Accountant (Zoom, 7:51 a.m.), ABEL ESTRADA, Billing & Customer Service Supervisor (Zoom, 7:44 a.m.), DANIEL LOPEZ, Maintenance Worker III, and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Determination of a Quorum

Five Board members were present for the meeting. Therefore, a Quorum was determined.

Oral Communications/Public Comments

There were no comments.

Items Received Too Late to be Agendized

President Gaskins asked if there were any items received too late to be agendized. Mr. Cafferty replied no.

Presentation of Awards, Recognitions, Certifications and Introductions

Mr. Cafferty recognized Daniel Lopez, Maintenance Worker III, for 10 years of service with the District.

Mr. Lopez left the meeting at approximately 7:35 a.m.

Consent Calendar

President Gaskins asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by Director McClean to approve the Consent Calendar.

Roll Call Vote:

Director McClean	aye
Director Havens	aye
Director Monin	aye
Vice President Freshley	aye
President Gaskins	aye

Directors Reports for Meetings Attended

Director Havens stated that she attended the MWDOC/Met Directors Workshop, the WACO meeting, the MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC Admin/Finance meeting, the Lake Forest Chamber Law & Order Presentation, the Strategic Plan Workshop, the MWDOC Board meeting, the Orange County WateReuse presentation and Tour, the District’s Engineering and Finance meeting, the District’s regular Board meeting, will try to attend the H20’s for HOA’s event today, and will be attending the Fall plant trials at the research center in Irvine.

Vice President Freshley stated that she attended both ETWD’s regular Board meetings, the Strategic Plan Workshop, will be attending the SOCWA Executive Committee meeting next week, the Agenda Review meeting, the Laguna Woods City Council meeting, the Lake Forest Chamber Law & Order Luncheon, the WACO meeting, the MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC/Met Directors Workshop, the

MWDOC Board meeting, the LAFCO meeting, the OCWA luncheon, and the ISDOC Quarterly luncheon next week.

Director McClean stated that he attended the WACO meeting, the District's open enrollment meeting, the MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning meeting, the District's regular Board meeting, the District's Engineering and Finance meeting, the OCWA luncheon, the Strategic Plan Workshop, and will be on TV-6 next week.

Director Monin stated that he attended the Lake Forest Chamber Law & Order Presentation, the District's Board meeting, the District's Engineering and Finance meeting, the Strategic Plan Workshop, the ISDOC meeting, the WACO meeting, will be attending the ISDOC Quarterly luncheon, the MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC/Met Directors Workshop, the MWDOC Admin/Finance meeting, and the MWDOC Board meeting.

President Gaskins stated that he attended the MWDOC/Met Directors Workshop, the WACO meeting, the MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC Admin/Finance meeting, the Agenda Review meeting, the Strategic Plan Workshop, the MWDOC Board meeting, the District's Engineering and Finance meeting, today's Board meeting, and the MWDOC/OCWD Joint Planning meeting.

General Manager Action Items

Agreement for Sewer Services with Moulton Niguel Water District

Mr. Cafferty stated that staff has been working with MNWD to renew a fifty-year-old agreement set to expire next month. The agreement allows ETWD to discharge wastewater flow from two residential streets in Mission Viejo to MNWD due to the topography preventing flow into the District's system. The renewed agreement extends for another 50 years, with the only change from the document in the Board package being MNWD's updated mailing address. General Counsel and MNWD's attorney

reviewed the agreement and included a termination clause that permits termination only for a fundamental reason preventing MNWD from providing service, with a five-year notice required. Vice President Freshley inquired about the difference between MNWD's and ETWD's sewer rates. Mr. Cafferty stated that MNWD charges the District the same rate as their residential customers and that MNWD's sewer rates are slightly lower than ETWD's. He also noted that the District continues to perform all maintenance on the collection system on the two streets.

President Gaskins asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by Vice President Freshley to approve and authorize the General Manager to execute the "Agreement for Moulton Niguel Water District to Provide Sewer Service to El Toro Water District for the Benefit of Tract No. 880".

Roll Call Vote:

Director McClean	aye
Director Havens	aye
Director Monin	aye
Vice President Freshley	aye
President Gaskins	aye

General Manager Information Items

General Manager's Monthly Report

Mr. Cafferty highlighted the ongoing meetings with Gladwell Government Services to update the Records Retention Schedules, ensuring compliance with State law and alignment with reasonable District practices. He stated that the final updated schedules will be presented to the Board upon completion.

Mr. Cafferty stated staff is receiving and considering feedback on the Aliso Creek Lift Station Project from the presentations given at the United and GRF Board and Committee meetings.

Mr. Cafferty stated he participated on a panel at SOCWA for a consultant interview related to the JB Latham Facility Planning Assessment contract. He also reported attending the MWDOC Grand Jury Tour of the Baker Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Cafferty reported that he gave a presentation to Third Mutual on the topic of the future of water.

Mr. Cafferty stated that he attended the MET Finance Committee meeting, where discussions included rate impacts associated with several major initiatives. Topics covered the need to increase capital rehabilitation spending by 50%, the addition of staff positions, and the rate implications of potential projects such as the Sites Reservoir Project, the Pure Water Project, and the Delta Conveyance Project.

Mr. Cafferty stated that the increase in the number of posting notices and 24-hr. door hangers issued to customers compared to the previous year is due to the billing system software conversion.

Legislative Reports

Mr. Granito noted that SB 707 was recently signed into law. SB 707 overhauls and reorganizes the Brown Act. The changes will substantially impact cities; however, the District will be affected to a much lesser degree.

Public Education and Outreach Report

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff submitted a photo to the American Backflow Prevention Association, which was selected as a winner in their Backflow Prevention Day photo contest. He also noted that the Construction Alert for the Westline Sewer Lift Station project has been distributed.

Water Use Efficiency Report

Director Havens noted that the ET factor decreased from 4.96 in the previous fiscal year to 4.72 in the current year.

SOCWA Reports

There were no comments.

MWDOC

There were no comments.

South Orange County Agencies Group Meeting

Mr. Cafferty reported that the Emergency GW Supply Project, a collaboration between the City of Santa Ana and Moulton Niguel Water District, was discussed. He stated that he will present this project at an upcoming Board meeting to obtain input on the District's participation. Additionally, South Coast Water District provided an update on the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project.

LAFCO

Vice President Freshley reported that the Commission adopted a resolution approving the LAFCO Executive Officer employment agreement for Luis Tapia. She also noted that the position of Assistant Executive Secretary will not be filled.

ISDOC

Director Monin reported that the committee is still seeking to fill the Secretary position.

WACO

Director Monin reported that the City of Anaheim was featured in this month's Agency Spotlight presentation.

COMMITTEE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Dates to Remember for October/November

There were no comments.

Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Cafferty and the Board discussed scheduling a Special Board meeting in November to review the energy projects.

Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is a need for a Closed Session today to resume the annual performance evaluation of the District's General Manager, as reflected on today's Closed Session Agenda.

Closed Session

At approximately 8:46 a.m., everyone left the open session except the Board members, General Counsel, and Ms. Cimorell. In the Closed Session, the Board resumed the annual performance evaluation process of the District's General Manager.

Regular Session

At approximately 8:53 a.m., the Board returned to Regular Session. Also, at this time, Mr. Cafferty and Ms. Melendez returned to the meeting.

Open Session Report

Mr. Granito reported that the Board went into Closed Session to discuss the item on today's Closed Session agenda. No reportable action was taken.

Adjournment


There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,




MARISOL MELENDEZ
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



MIKE GASKINS, President of
the El Toro Water District and the
Board of Directors thereof



DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, Secretary
of the El Toro Water District and
the Board of Directors thereof