

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
EL TORO WATER DISTRICT  
February 26, 2026

President Freshley called the meeting of the Board of Directors of the EL TORO WATER DISTRICT to order at 7:30 a.m.

Director Gaskins led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Directors MARK MONIN (Zoom), 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, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, SHERRI SEITZ, Public Affairs, Manager, VU CHU, Water Resources Supervisor, VICKI TANIOUS, Senior Accountant (Zoom), MIKE G. (Zoom), Member of the Public, and MARISOL MELENDEZ, Recording Secretary.

Determination of a Quorum

Roll Call:

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

Director Monin participated in the meeting via teleconferencing as noted in today's Agenda and the remaining Board members were present. Therefore, a Quorum was determined.

Oral Communications/Public Comments

There were no comments.

Items Received Too Late to be Agendized

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

Consent Calendar

President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director McClean made a Motion, seconded by Vice President Havens to approve the Consent Calendar.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Directors Reports for Meetings Attended

Director Gaskins stated that he attended the MWDOC P&O meeting, the RRC meeting, the MWDOC Met Directors Workshop, the SOCWA Board meeting, the WACO meeting, the MWDOC Admin/Finance meeting, the Community Advisory Group meeting, the OCWA Luncheon, the District's Engineering and Finance meeting, and the District's regular Board meeting.

Director McClean stated that he attended the MWDOC P&O meeting, the ISDOC executive meeting, the MWDOC Met Directors Workshop, the WACO planning meeting, the MWDOC Admin/Finance meeting, the CAG meeting, the OCWA luncheon, the District's Engineering and Finance meeting, and the District's regular Board meeting.

Vice President Havens stated that she attended the MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC Met Director's Workshop, the WACO meeting, the MWDOC Admin/Finance meeting, the CAG meeting, the Budget Committee #1 meeting, the Agenda Review meeting, the OC Reuse meeting, the District's Engineering and Finance meeting, the District's regular Board meeting, and will attend the Pres/VP/GM meeting tomorrow.

Director Monin stated that he attended both District Board meetings, the MWDOC Admin/Finance meeting, the MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC Met Director's Workshop, the WACO Planning meeting, the ISDOC meeting, the CAG meeting, and the Urban Water Institute Conference.

President Freshley stated that she attended both ETWD's regular Board meetings, will attend the Pres/VP/GM meeting tomorrow, the RRC meeting, the SOCWA Board meeting, the SOCWA Finance Meeting, the Agenda Review meeting, the LAFCO meeting, the OCWA luncheon, the Laguna Woods City Council meeting, the WACO meeting, the MWDOC P&O meeting, and the MWDOC Met Directors Workshop.

General Manager Information Items

California Special District's Association (CSDA) Board of Directors Call for Nominations.

Southern Network – Seat C

Mr. Cafferty reported that CSDA is conducting its election process for the Southern Network Seat C position. The incumbent is running for re-election and if the Board wished to nominate a candidate, the item could be brought back at the next meeting. No action is required if the Board does not wish to submit a nomination. The Board did not nominate a candidate.

### SB 707 Brown Act Compliance

Mr. Cafferty stated that one relevant change of SB 707 requires that a copy of the Ralph M. Brown Act be provided to each Board member. The agenda packet includes the CSDA Brown Act Compliance Manual and the legislative text of the Brown Act, and a hard copy was also distributed to Board members. Another relevant change is the financial training requirement, which is currently in progress.

### General Manager's Monthly Report

Staff and the Board discussed the meeting date for the June Special Board meeting to conduct the Public Hearing.

President Freshley inquired about the District's AI Committee. Mr. Cafferty explained that Ms. Ford is leading the effort with the committee to develop an AI use policy.

President Freshley also inquired about the process used by the District's collection agency. Mr. Sharma stated that the agency has achieved good results in the past. Mr. Granito reminded the Board and staff that lien procedures are also available for the District's consideration.

### Legislative Reports

Ms. Seitz provided an overview of the ACWA sponsored AB 2180. She explained that the bill would clarify how water agencies comply with Proposition 218 when setting water rates and is intended to provide greater predictability for agencies, support water conservation goals, and help minimize unnecessary legal disputes over water rates.

Ms. Seitz discussed SB 1143, which is also sponsored by ACWA. The bill would clarify the limited role of water systems during wildfires while strengthening emergency preparedness in high-risk areas. The legislation would establish that limitations in water supply or pressure during a wildfire are not a substantial cause of wildfire damages and clarify that wildfires are not an inherent risk associated with the design, construction or maintenance of a public water system. This bill would also require urban water retail suppliers serving high or very high fire hazard zones to include wildfire specific response procedures in their emergency response plans beginning 2028.

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff plans to provide coalition letter support for proposed legislation unless the Board expressed any objections.

#### Public Education and Outreach Report

Ms. Seitz reported that staff is currently working on designing the Proposition 218 Notice and the Water Quality Report and is also planning upcoming community events.

#### Water Use Efficiency Report

Mr. Chu reported that potable water demand decreased in January by approximately 15.58% compared to the same period last year. He also noted that the recycled water usage was lower in January due to recent rain events with recycled water consumption down approximately 10% year-to-date.

#### SOCWA Reports

President Freshley reported that the Board discussed and approved project costs related to PC 21. Ms. Ford added that staff will be actively involved in this SOCWA project to help ensure clear communication and work toward an effective

solution. She also reported that SOCWA recently conducted a biosolids workshop which is a valuable use of their regional service.

Mr. Cafferty reported that the Finance Committee discussed the budget and the use audit. He noted that another meeting is scheduled for next week, at which time additional details are expected to be available.

#### MWDOC

Mr. Cafferty stated that he attended a managers' meeting where the budgets for MWDOC and the MET were discussed. He noted that MET is planning to change the way it bills for treated water, which has historically been charged entirely on a volumetric basis. The agency is introducing a fixed treatment charge to recover approximately 30% of treatment costs through fixed revenue.

#### South Orange County Agencies Group Meeting

Director Gaskins stated that the final SOCAG meeting was held last month before it is handed off to Santa Margarita Water District.

#### LAFCO

President Freshley reported that a Public Hearing was held regarding the activation of latent powers for Three Arch Bay Community Services District.

#### ISDOC

Director Monin reported that he was appointed to the Operational Area Executive Board as an alternate.

#### WACO

Director Monin reported that the program included a Washington update by Eric Sapirstein.

## COMMITTEE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

### Dates to Remember for February/March 2026

There were no comments.

### Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

There were no comments.

### Attorney Report

Mr. Granito reported that there is a need for a Closed Session today in regards to both items on today's Closed Session agenda.

### Closed Session

At approximately 9:07 a.m. everyone left the open session except the Board members, General Counsel, and Mr. Cafferty. Also, at this time, the Board took a short recess before going into the Closed Session.

### Regular Session

At approximately 9:23 a.m., the meeting returned to Regular Session. Also, at this time, Ms. Melendez returned to the meeting.

### Open Session Report

Mr. Granito reported that the Board went into Closed Session to discuss both items on today's Closed Session Agenda. During the first phase of the Closed Session, Item #1 was discussed and no reportable action was taken. During the second phase of the Closed Session, Item #2 was discussed and no reportable action was taken.

### Adjournment


There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

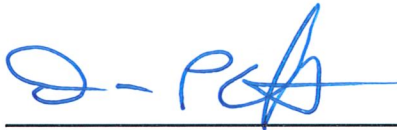


MARISOL MELENDEZ  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:



KATHRYN FRESHLEY, 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