

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

March 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 Monin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Directors 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, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, SHERRI SEITZ, Public Affairs, Manager, VU CHU, Water Resources Supervisor, Michael G., Member of the Public (Zoom), 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

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 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 Monin made a Motion, seconded by Director McClean 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 Budget Committee #2 meeting, the WACO meeting, the MWDOC Board meeting, the Engineering and Finance committee meeting, the Budget Committee #3 meeting, the District's regular Board meeting, will attend the SOCAG meeting, will attend the RRC meeting at the end of the month and the Lake Forest Chamber Meet the Mayor event.

Director Monin stated that he will attend the Lake Forest Chamber Meet the Mayor event, he attended all of the MWDOC meetings, the WACO meeting, the WACO Planning meeting, the OCWA luncheon, and both District Board meetings.

Motion: Director Monin made a motion, seconded by Director McClean to 1) authorize Kay Havens to vote in the OC LAFCO Special District Selection Committee election, 2) designate Michael Gaskins as the alternate voting member, 3) nominate Kathryn Freshley for the Alternate Special District member and 4) authorize the General Manager to submit the Declaration of Qualification to Vote form and Nomination Form to LAFCO by the April 13, 2026 deadline.

Roll Call Vote:

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

General Manager Information Items

General Manager's Monthly Report

Mr. Cafferty reported that MET held a recent meeting to review budget options, and their staff will present three cost of service analysis alternatives to its Board at their April meeting. He also noted that the District's new Proposition 218 Notice will include updated requirements for submitting protests or legal objections, which must be provided in writing and delivered by mail or in person to the District.

Mr. Cafferty reported that staff has been in discussions with Moulton Niguel Water District regarding its Oasis Project and potential opportunities for the District to deliver recycled water to a portion of their service area.

President Freshley inquired about the billing process for Will Serve projects. Ms. Ford explained that the process includes deposits for plan check and inspection, construction fees, and capital facilities fees. Mr. Cafferty added that these requirements are outlined in the District's Administrative Code.

Legislative Reports

Mr. Granito noted that pending Assembly Bill 2568 would increase the allowable compensation of Board members from 10 to 15 meetings per month. Mr. Granito indicated that if the legislation is adopted, the Board would have the discretion to revise the District's Compensation Ordinance.

Public Education and Outreach Report

Ms. Seitz reported that staff is rescheduling President Freshley's appearance on LWVT for April. She also noted that the new website is nearing launch and that staff will seek Board feedback prior to finalizing. Ms. Seitz also provided an update on upcoming community engagement events, including some ideas for America's 250th birthday.

Water Use Efficiency Report

Mr. Chu reported that potable water demand continued to decline in February. Year-to-date, total potable water demand is down approximately 7.9% and recycled water demand has decreased by approximately 12%.

SOCWA Reports

Director Gaskins reported that at the SOCWA Board meeting, expenses associated with hiring a public relations firm was discussed. Mr. Cafferty added that SOCWA's finance committee meetings have focused primarily on the budget and cost reductions measures, and that their use audit is still a work in progress.

MWDOC

There were no comments.

LAFCO

President Freshley reported that the budget was approved, noting an approximate 11% decline in assessment revenue and the elimination of a staff position. She also stated that some counties have withdrawn from CALAFCO and that a new group, the Alliance of the Southern Districts was created.

ISDOC

Director Monin reported that the Board discussed proposed Bylaw updates to allow staff to participate on the Board but no decision has been reached at this time.

WACO

Director Monin reported that the meeting included a presentation on Data Centers and AI. He added that the next meeting will focus on the MET budget and include an update on the Doheny Desalination project.

COMMITTEE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Dates to Remember for March/April 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 the item on today's Closed Session agenda.

Closed Session

At approximately 9:05 a.m. everyone left the open session except the Board members, General Counsel, and Mr. Cafferty

Regular Session

At approximately 9:13 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 the item on today's Closed Session Agenda. No reportable action was taken.

Adjournment

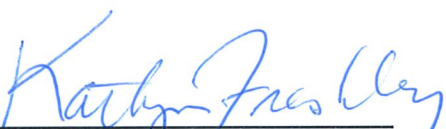
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:14 a.m.

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