

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

May 28, 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 McClean 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, JUDY CIMORELL, Director of Human Resources, HANNAH FORD, Director of Engineering, SCOTT HOPKINS, Operations Superintendent, MIKE MIAZGA, Information Technology Manager (Zoom), VU CHU, Water Resources Supervisor, NICHOLAS CARRERA, Maintenance Worker II, STEVE SANCHEZ, Collections Maintenance Worker III, DONNIE BOYLES, Maintenance Worker I, RANDALL CRANE, Municipal Water District of Orange County (Zoom), MICHAEL MILLER, 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.

Presentation of Awards, Recognition, Certifications and Introductions

Service Awards

Mr. Cafferty recognized and congratulated Nicholas Carrera, Steve Sanchez, and Donnie Boyles for their years of service with the District.

Mr. Carrera, Mr. Sanchez, and Mr. Boyles left the meeting at approximately 7:42 a.m.

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 ACWA Conference and JPIA Membership Summit, the RRC meeting, the MWDOC Admin/Fin meeting, the MWDOC Board meeting, the Engineering and Finance committee meeting, the District's regular Board meeting, the State of the Fifth District event, and will attend the SOCAG meeting.

Director Monin stated that he attended the OCCOG Board meeting, the OCCOG Annual Conference, the Orange County Emergency Council meeting, the WACO meeting, the ISDOC Executive meeting, the MWDOC A&F meeting, the SMWD Water Festival, the MWDOC Executive Meeting, the Southern California Water Coalition quarterly luncheon, the WACO Planning meeting, the MWDOC P&O meeting, the Laguna Woods City Council meeting, and both District Board meetings.

Director McClean stated that he attended the WACO meeting, the ACWA Conference, the ISDOC Executive meeting, the MWDOC Admin/Finance meeting, the Southern California Water Coalition, the CAG meeting, the Southern California Economic Coalition meeting, the District's Engineering and Finance meeting, and the District's regular Board meeting.

Vice President Havens stated that she attended the WACO meeting, the MWDOC P&O meeting, the President/VP/GM meeting, the CAG meeting, the Agenda Review meeting, the MWDOC Board meeting, the District's Engineering and Finance meeting, and the District's regular Board meeting.

President Freshley stated that she attended both ETWD's regular Board meetings, the SOCWA Board meeting, the RRC meeting, the Agenda Review meeting, the CAG meeting, the Laguna Woods City Council meeting, the WACO meeting, the

MWDOC P&O meeting, the MWDOC Met Directors Workshop, the MWDOC Board meeting, the SOCAG meeting, and the President/VP/GM meeting.

General Manager Action Items

Transmittal of Election Information – Special District

Mr. Cafferty stated that the Transmittal of Election is a standard item for the election cycle. The registrar of voter's requests information including the names of Directors who are up for reelection, whether the District will be paying for the statement of qualifications, and whether 200 or 400 words are authorized. In the past, the District has elected to not pay for the statement of qualifications, and to allow up to 400 words for the statement.

President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Gaskins made a Motion, seconded by Director Monin that the El Toro Water District will not pay for Statement of Qualifications by candidates for the November 3, 2026 election, and that the number of words the District authorizes for said Statements shall be 400 words.

Roll Call Vote:

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

General Counsel Service Agreement

Mr. Cafferty stated that the District has been operating under the current General Counsel Service Agreement since 2017. Mr. Granito has consistently provided tremendous services for many years and has requested the Board consider updating

the General Counsel Services Agreement to reflect a reasonable, fair and competitive rate.

President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Vice President Havens made a Motion, seconded by Director Monin to authorize the Board President and General Manager to execute the updated General Counsel Services Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Memorandum of Understanding to Allow the City of Laguna Woods to install, Operate and Maintain Surveillance Cameras at the El Toro Water District's Oso Lift Station

Mr. Cafferty stated that the City of Laguna Woods has requested to install a surveillance camera on a light pole within the Oso Lift Station, drawing minimal power. The camera would have visibility of the entrance to Woods End Wilderness Preserve and the ETWD Oso Lift Station. The City will install and maintain the camera which will require access to the lift station. The memorandum of understanding has been prepared by staff and reviewed by the City attorney and Mr. Granito.

President Freshley asked for a Motion.

Motion: Director Monin made a Motion, seconded by Vice President Havens to authorize the Board President and General Manager to execute the "Memorandum of Understanding to Allow the City of Laguna Woods to Install, Operate and Maintain Surveillance Cameras at the El Toro Water District's Oso Lift Station.

Roll Call Vote:

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

General Manager Information Items

Strategic Plan Status Report

Mr. Cafferty reported that this is the first status report associated with the new five-year Strategic Plan. He noted the significant progress in the plan and stated that there are items still underway due to it being early in the cycle. Mr. Cafferty highlighted Goal A.1.3 which is the completion of the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), noting that it is essentially complete and will be recommended for Board approval next month. He added that Mr. Chu completed the UWMP, saving the District \$50-60k. Additional highlights of the Strategic Plan include the progress in the Capital Improvement Program, the Effluent Transmission Main project, the Asset Management Plans for sewer force mains, evaluating options for longer term rate setting, progress on meeting reserves fund targets, and succession planning.

Mr. Cafferty requested feedback on the class compensation studies which allow staff to review District positions and their place in the salary structure to determine if there are any warranted changes. He stated that when the Board adopts the labor budget, it has a list of all the classifications and ranges. The Board agreed to authorize the General Manager to make salary changes deemed appropriate for certain positions and provide a report on those changes.

General Manager's Monthly Report

There were no comments.

Public Education and Outreach Report

Mr. Cafferty reported that President Freshley participated in a Laguna Woods Village Television interview covering infrastructure and accomplishments. He also stated that the report includes two coalition letters the District participated in regarding the Sites reservoir and MWDOC's water smart grant application.

Water Use Efficiency Report

Mr. Chu reported that potable water usage increased approximately 34% in April compared to the same month last year. Year to date potable usage is approximately 3% lower compared to the same period last year. Recycled water usage is approximately 1% lower year to date compared to the prior year but remains significantly above budget.

SOCWA Reports

President Freshley stated that the Coastal Treatment Plant was discussed. Mr. Cafferty added that one of the options being considered was sending flow to the MNWD Regional Treatment Plant and eliminating the Coastal Plant. Staff is staying informed on its potential impacts to the District.

MWDOC

There were no comments.

LAFCO

President Freshley reported that the Commission approved the budget for next year which is approximately an 11% decrease from last year. She further stated that the Commission approved the annexation of 1.97 acres of unincorporated territory to

the City of Irvine as the responsible agency. President Freshley also stated that the commission approved the activation of the latent power for Three Arch Bay Community Services District.

ISDOC

Director Monin reported that the committee discussed the upcoming CSDA Annual Conference.

WACO

Director Monin reported that the program was about Plastic Pollution. He added that regional water supply updates will be provided at upcoming meetings.

COMMITTEE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Dates to Remember for May/June 2026

There were no comments.

Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Cafferty reported that Mr. Stribling will be attending next months FIC meeting to provide his report. Mr. Cafferty also stated that the second Community Informational Meeting regarding budget and rates was held and no one from the public attended.

Mr. Cafferty provided an update on AB 2180 stating it passed the assembly in early April and is currently at the Senate Local Government Committee. He added that SB 1153 passed the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee and is currently at the Senate.

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 9:26 a.m. everyone left the open session except the Board members, General Counsel, Mr. Cafferty, and Ms. Ford.

Regular Session

At approximately 9:45 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

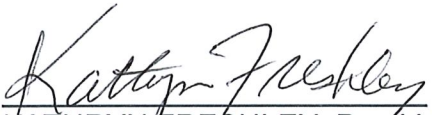
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:46 a.m.

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