



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

**AGENDA
MESA WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, August 13, 2025
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Items Not on the Agenda: Members of the public are invited to address the Board regarding items which are not appearing on the posted agenda. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. The Board will set aside 30 minutes for public comments for items not appearing on the posted agenda.

Items on the Agenda: Members of the public shall be permitted to comment on agenda items before action is taken, or after the Board has discussed the item. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. The Board will set aside 60 minutes for public comments for items appearing on the posted agenda.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA

At the discretion of the Board, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed as an Action Item, may be deliberated and may be subject to action by the Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

Approve all matters under the Consent Calendar by one motion unless a Board member, staff or a member of the public requests a separate action.

1. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of July 9, 2025.
2. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of July 23, 2025.
3. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
4. Board Schedule:
 - Conferences, Seminars and Meetings
 - Board Calendar
 - Upcoming Community Outreach Events
5. Approve a proclamation honoring Costa Mesa Sanitary District's Arlene Schafer for her nearly five decades of dedicated public service and commitment to the Costa Mesa community.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

6. 2025 EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY:

Recommendation: Receive the presentation.

7. CUSTOMER PROJECT – C0681-25-01 – 1400 BRISTOL STREET:

Recommendation: Receive the presentation.

8. BOARD WORKSHOP PLANNING:

Recommendation: Review agenda topics and discuss planning for the October 28, 2025 Board of Directors' workshop.

ACTION ITEMS:

9. LOCAL GROUNDWATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

Recommendation: Approve a contract amendment with Black & Veatch for \$5,612 for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$582,105 to engage Clean Energy Capital to develop financial modeling and funding strategy support for the Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project, and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract.

10. MESA WATER DISTRICT FEDERAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM:

Recommendation: Approve expanded advocacy activities to further existing federal policy engagement and pursue new federal policy initiatives, in collaboration with the California Policy Center, as part of the District's Federal Advocacy Program.

11. CLAIM OF JOHN PATTON:

Recommendation: Deny the claim of Mr. John Patton.

REPORTS:

12. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
13. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

14. RATE ADJUSTMENT COMMUNICATION
15. CEQA CHANGES IN STATE'S BUDGET TRAILER BILLS
16. MESA WATER DISTRICT'S PRINT SERVERS



17. CUSTOMER INFORMATION SYSTEM SUPPORT SERVICES

18. DIRECTORS' REPORTS (AB 1234) PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.3 (D)

In compliance with California law and the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services in order to participate in the meeting, or if you need the agenda provided in an alternative format, please call the District Secretary at (949) 631-1205. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) to make reasonable arrangements to accommodate your requests.

Members of the public desiring to make verbal comments using a translator to present their comments into English shall be provided reasonable time accommodations that are consistent with California law.

Agenda materials that are public records, which have been distributed to a majority of the Mesa Water Board of Directors (Board), will be available for public inspection at the District Boardroom, 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA and on Mesa Water's website at www.MesaWater.org. If materials are distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior or during the meeting, the materials will be available at the time of the meeting.

ADJOURN TO A REGULAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2025 AT 4:30 P.M.



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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MESA WATER DISTRICT
Wednesday, July 9, 2025
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President DePasquale.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Fisler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Directors Present

Marice H. DePasquale, President
Shawn Dewane, Vice President
Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Director
Jim Atkinson, Director
James R. Fisler, Director

Directors Absent

None

Staff Present

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager
Denise Khalifa, Chief Administrative Officer/
District Secretary
Tyler Jernigan, Water Operations Manager/
Acting District Treasurer
Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
Kurt Lind, Business Administrator
Nadia Boutros, Civil Engineer
Anthony Phou, Controller
Kaitlyn Norris, Senior Public Affairs Specialist
Rob Anslow, General Legal Counsel

Others Present

Bill Dunlap, Member of the Public
Sandy Barberi, Member of the Public
Mary Carolyn, Member of the Public
David Rosten, Member of the Public
Scott Harris, Member of the Public
Melissa Spangler, Member of the Public
Igal Israel, Member of the Public

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President DePasquale asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

There were no comments and President DePasquale proceeded with the meeting.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA

General Manager Shoenberger reported that there were no items to be added, removed or reordered on the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of June 11, 2025.
2. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
3. Board Schedule:
 - Conferences, Seminars and Meetings
 - Board Calendar
 - Upcoming Community Outreach Events
4. Approve support of Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District General Manager Don Bartz for the California Special Districts Association Board of Directors Seat B – Southern Network, authorize President Marice H. DePasquale to be the District's voting delegate, and direct staff to cast the electronic ballot.
5. Approve a one-time exception to Resolution No. 1579 – the Mesa Water District Board of Directors Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy – to authorize reimbursement for Director Jim F. Atkinson in light of unforeseen and personal circumstances.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Director Atkinson, to approve Items 1 - 5 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

6. KARL KEMP RESERVOIR SITE AT LINDBERGH PARK:

GM Shoenberger provided an overview of the topic and introduced District Engineer Wiesner who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Proposed Project
- Mesa Water's Mission Statement
- Mesa Water's Core Values
- The Karl Kemp Reservoir is Critical Water Infrastructure
- Property Ownership and Agreements
- Supporting Dog Parks in the Right Location
- Potential Off-Leash Dog Park Risks
- Brentwood Park
- Potential Next Steps
- Recommendation

Mr. Wiesner responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the presentation.

Seven Members of the Public offered comments in support of establishing an off-leash dog park at Lindbergh Park, located above the Karl Kemp Reservoir.

President DePasquale thanked the members of the public for their comments and for bringing their insights and suggestions to the discussion.

No action was taken on this item.

RECESS

President DePasquale declared a recess at 5:42 p.m.

The Board meeting reconvened at 5:52 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. 2025 PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS REPORT:

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Director Fisler, to accept the Report on Mesa Water District's Water Quality relative to the 2025 Public Health Goals and receive comments at the Public Hearing scheduled for the July 23, 2025 Board of Directors meeting. Motion passed 5 – 0.

REPORTS:

8. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

9. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

10. DIRECTORS' REPORTS (AB 1234) PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.3 (D)

President DePasquale adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

Marice H. DePasquale, President

Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer



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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MESA WATER DISTRICT
Wednesday, July 23, 2025
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President DePasquale.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Dewane led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Directors Present

Marice H. DePasquale, President
Shawn Dewane, Vice President
Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Director
Jim Atkinson, Director
James R. Fisler, Director

Directors Absent

None

Staff Present

Paul E. Shoenberger, P. E., General Manager
Denise Khalifa, Chief Administrative Officer/
District Secretary
Tyler Jernigan, Water Operations Manager/
Acting District Treasurer
Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
Kurt Lind, Business Administrator
Anthony Phou, Controller
Karyn Igar, Principal Engineer
Kaitlyn Norris, Senior Public Affairs Specialist
Rob Anslow, General Legal Counsel

Others Present

Emily Owens-Bennett, P.E., BCEE, Drinking Water Lead,
Trussell Tech *(teleconference)*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President DePasquale asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

There were no comments and President DePasquale proceeded with the meeting.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA

General Manager Shoenberger reported there were no items to be added, removed or reordered on the agenda.

Director Bockmiller pulled Item 8 for discussion. There were no objections.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of June 25, 2025.
2. Receive and file the Developer Project Status Report.
3. Receive and file the Mesa Water and Other Agency Projects Status Report.
4. Receive and file the Water Quality Call Report.
5. Receive and file the Accounts Paid Listing.
6. Receive and file the Monthly Financial Reports.
7. Receive and file the Outreach Update.
8. Approve attendance at conferences, seminars, meetings and events for the following organizations: California Water Efficiency Partnership, Ducks Unlimited, Festival of Children Foundation, KOCI, Newport-Mesa Schools Foundation, Pacific Research Institute, Power of One Foundation and Share Ourselves.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President Dewane, to approve Items 1 - 7 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0.

ITEM 8 – Approve attendance at conferences, seminars, meetings and events for the following organizations: California Water Efficiency Partnership, Ducks Unlimited, Festival of Children Foundation, KOCI, Newport-Mesa Schools Foundation, Pacific Research Institute, Power of One Foundation and Share Ourselves.

Director Bockmiller asked for clarification regarding one of the listed organizations. Senior Public Affairs Specialist Norris responded to his request for clarification and he thanked her for the information.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President Dewane, to approve Item 8 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

9. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE 2025 PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS REPORT:

President DePasquale announced the Public Hearing was now opened for the purpose of receiving comments regarding the 2025 Public Health Goals Report.

District Secretary Khalifa reported that a Notice of Public Hearing was posted at Mesa Water District's office and website from July 8, 2025 through July 24, 2025 and at Costa Mesa City Hall. Legal advertisements were published in the *Daily Pilot* on July 10, 2025 and July 17, 2025.

Water Operations Manager Jernigan introduced Trussell Tech Drinking Water Lead Emily Owens-Bennett who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Drinking Water Standards
- Public Health Goals Reporting
- Parameters with Exceedances
- Public Health Risk
- Best Available Technology
- Estimated Treatment Costs

President DePasquale opened the floor for discussion by the Board. Comments were offered.

President DePasquale opened the floor for public comments. There were no comments.

District Secretary Khalifa reported that the District had not received any written or verbal comments or letters of protest regarding the 2025 Public Health Goals Report.

President DePasquale declared the public comments section closed.

President DePasquale opened the floor for discussion by the Board. There were no comments.

President DePasquale declared the Public Hearing closed.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Director Atkinson, to receive and file Mesa Water District's 2025 Public Health Goals Report. Motion passed 5 – 0.

10. RESERVOIRS 1 AND 2 PUMP STATION UPGRADES PROJECT QUARTERLY UPDATE:

District Engineer Wiesner provided an overview of the topic and introduced Principal Engineer Igar who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Reservoir 1 – Site Layout
- Reservoir 1 – Heavy Equipment Port
- Reservoir 1 – Generator Pads
- Reservoir 1 – Generator Delivery
- Reservoir 2 – Site Layout
- Reservoir 2 – Chemical System Pad and Pump Station
- Reservoir Project Schedule
- Reservoir Project Planned vs. Actual

Ms. Igar responded to questions from the Board and they thanked her for the presentation.

11. PUBLIC AFFAIRS FISCAL YEAR 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

GM Shoenberger provided an overview of the topic and introduced Senior Public Affairs Specialist Norris who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Strategic Plan Goal #4
- Community Events
- Hosted Programs
- Water Issues Study Group
- Mesa Water Notify
- Updated Brand Guide and Graphics
- New Customer Welcome and 25-Year Anniversary Programs
- Social Media
- Earned Media
- Customer Communications
- Water Use Efficiency
- Water Vending Machine & OC Fair Stations
- Mesa Water Education Center Grand Opening
- Mesa Water Education Center Field Trips & Tours

Ms. Norris responded to questions from the Board and they thanked her for the presentation.

RECESS

President DePasquale declared a recess at 5:30 p.m.

The Board meeting reconvened at 5:35 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

12. HUNTINGTON BEACH INTERAGENCY WATER TRANSFERS:

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President Dewane, to award a contract to MKN & Associates, Inc. for \$78,821 and a 10% contingency of \$7,882 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$86,703 to prepare a Feasibility Study for Huntington Beach Interagency Water Transfers, and authorize execution of the contract. Motion passed 5 – 0.

REPORTS:

13. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER:

- June Key Indicators Report

14. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 15. ZERO USAGE ACCOUNTS
- 16. FEDERAL ADVOCACY UPDATE
- 17. STATE ADVOCACY UPDATE
- 18. ORANGE COUNTY UPDATE

CLOSED SESSIONS:

President DePasquale announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 5:55 p.m.

19. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR:

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6(a)
District Negotiator: General Manager
Employee Organization: Represented and Non-Represented Employees

The Board returned to open session at 6:20 p.m.

GM Shoenberger announced the Board conducted one Closed Session with the General Manager pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957.6(a). The Board received information and provided direction to staff.

President DePasquale adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

Marice H. DePasquale, President

Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Denise Khalifa, Chief Administrative Officer
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Attendance at Conferences, Seminars, Meetings and Events

RECOMMENDATION

Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.
Goal #5: Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.
Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.
Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its October 23, 2024 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) adopted Ordinance No. 36 Director Compensation and Expense Reimbursement which authorizes attendance at conferences, seminars, meetings and events.

At its June 11, 2025 meeting, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2026 attendance at conferences, seminars, meetings and events, with modifications.

At its July 23, 2025 meeting, the Board approved attendance at conferences, seminars, meetings and events for eight additional organizations.

DISCUSSION

During the discussion of this item, if any, the Board may choose to delete any item from the list and/or may choose to add additional conferences, seminars, meetings or events for approval, subject to available budget or additional appropriation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

2025 CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS:

August 19 - 21, 2025	
9th Annual CA Water Data Summit	
San Diego, CA	
August 20 - 22, 2025	
Urban Water Institute Annual Conference	<i>Atkinson, Dewane</i>
San Diego, CA	
August 25 - 28, 2025	
CSDA Annual Conference	<i>Bockmiller</i>
Monterey, CA	
September 5, 2025	
OC Water Summit	<i>Atkinson, Fisler</i>
Costa Mesa, CA	
September 27 - October 1, 2025	
Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC)	
Chicago, IL	
October 22, 2025	
CALAFCO Annual Conference	
San Diego, CA	
November 5 - 6, 2025	
SWMOA Annual Symposium	
Palm Springs, CA	
December 2 - 4, 2025	
ACWA JPIA Fall Conference	
San Diego, CA	
December 16 - 18, 2025	
Colorado River Water Users Association Conference	
Las Vegas, NV	

August 2025

August 2025							September 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	1	2	7	1	2	3	4	5	6
10	11	12	13	14	8	9	14	8	9	10	11	12	13
17	18	19	20	21	15	16	21	15	16	17	18	19	20
24	25	26	27	28	22	23	28	22	23	24	25	26	27
31					29	30		29	30				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1 7:30am WACO Meeting (VIRTUAL)	2
3	4 8:30am MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting	5 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In	6 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD 12:00pm R/S to 8/11 5:30pm OCWD Board	7 Pay Period Ends 12:00pm OCWD Communications/Legi 6:00pm OC Fair Business	8 11:00am OC 25 State of the County (690 Newport Center Drive, Newport	9
10	11 12:00pm R/S from 8/6 Executive Committee 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person	12 8:00am OCBC Infrastructure Committee Meeting	13 8:15am LAFCO Meeting 8:30am MWDOC Admin 12:00pm OCWD Water 4:30pm Board Meeting	14 12:00pm OCWD Admin & Finance Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	15	16
17	18	19 7:30am WACO Planning Committee (VIRTUAL) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In	20 Urban Water Institute Annual Conference (San Diego) 8:30am MWDOC Board 3:00pm Costa Mesa 5:30pm OCWD Board	21 Pay Period Ends 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee	22	23
24	25 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	26 CSDA Annual Conference (Monterey, CA)	27 Payday 4:30pm Board Meeting (Boardroom)	28	29	30
31	Sep 1	2	3	4	5	6

September 2025

September 2025							October 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	1	2	3	4
14	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	8	9	10	11
21	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	15	16	17	18
28	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	22	23	24	25
	29	30							29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 31	Sep 1 District Holiday 8:30am R/S to 9/2 MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting	2 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting 8:30am R/S from 9/1 MWDOC Planning 6:00pm Costa Mesa City	3 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD 12:00pm Executive Committee Meeting 5:30pm OCWD Board	4 Pay Period Ends 12:00pm OCWD Communications/Legislative Committee (IN PERSON &	5 7:30am 17th Annual OC Water Summit (686 Anton Blvd., Costa 7:30am R/S to 9/12 WACO Meeting	6
7	8 3:30pm Special Semi-Annual Board Meeting (Boardroom) 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person)	9	10 Payday 8:15am LAFCO Meeting 8:30am MWDOC Admin 12:00pm OCWD Water 4:30pm Board Meeting	11 12:00pm OCWD Admin & Finance Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	12 7:30am R/S From 9/5 WACO Meeting (VIRTUAL)	13
14	15	16 7:30am WACO Planning Committee (VIRTUAL) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In Person & Virtual)	17 8:30am MWDOC Board Meeting (IN PERSON) 3:00pm Costa Mesa Chamber of 5:30pm OCWD Board	18 Pay Period Ends 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (In Person & Virtual)	19	20
21	22 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	23	24 Payday 4:30pm Board Meeting (Boardroom)	25	26	27 WEFTEC Conference (Chicago, IL)
28 WEFTEC Conference (Chicago, IL)	29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4

October 2025

October 2025							November 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 28	29	30	Oct 1 WEFTEC Conference (Chicago) 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD 12:00pm Executive 5:30pm OCWD Board	2 Pay Period Ends 12:00pm OCWD Communications/Legislative Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	3 7:30am WACO Meeting (VIRTUAL)	4 12:00pm Pacific Research Institute Event (1221 West Coast Hwy, Newport Beach, CA 92663)
5	6 8:30am MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	7 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting 8:00am OCBC Infrastructure 6:00pm Costa Mesa City	8 Payday 8:15am LAFCO Meeting 8:30am MWDOC Admin 12:00pm OCWD Water 4:30pm Board Meeting	9 12:00pm OCWD Admin & Finance Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	10	11
12	13 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual) 5:00pm OCWD GWRS Steering Committee	14	15 8:30am MWDOC Board Meeting (IN PERSON) 3:00pm Costa Mesa Chamber of 5:30pm OCWD Board	16 Pay Period Ends 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (In Person & Virtual)	17 8:30am City/Districts Liaison Committee Meeting (Costa Mesa City Hall (77 Fair Dr, Costa Mesa, CA	18
19	20	21 7:30am WACO Planning Committee (VIRTUAL) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In Person & Virtual)	22 CALAFCO Annual Conference (1355 N Payday 8:30am Jt. 4:30pm Board Meeting	23	24	25
26	27 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	28 7:00am Newport-Mesa Unified School District State of the 3:30pm Board Workshop	29	30 Pay Period Ends 11:30am ISDOC Quarterly Meeting (MWDOC/OCWD Boardroom)	31	Nov 1



UPCOMING COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

Event	Date & Time	Location
Power of One Foundation Trunk or Treat	Saturday, October 25, 2025 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 pm	IKEA Parking Lot 1475 South Coast Drive Costa Mesa, CA 92626



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Denise Khalifa, Chief Administrative Officer
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Proclamation Honoring Arlene Schafer

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a proclamation honoring Costa Mesa Sanitary District's Arlene Schafer for her nearly five decades of dedicated public service and commitment to the Costa Mesa community.

The Executive Committee will review this item at its August 11, 2025 meeting.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #4: Provide excellent customer service.

Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

DISCUSSION

Arlene Schafer, longtime Board Member of the Costa Mesa Sanitary District (CMSD), has retired effective August 1, 2025. To celebrate her nearly five decades of exemplary public service, Ms. Schafer will be honored at a special event being held at CMSD and over Zoom on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 at 2 p.m. Mesa Water District's (Mesa Water®) Board President Marice H. DePasquale will present a proclamation to Director Schafer at the retirement event.

Since her election to Costa Mesa's City Council in 1978, Director Schafer's expansive career has led her to serve in several leadership roles, including as Chair of the Costa Mesa Redevelopment Advisory Committee, Costa Mesa City Planning Commissioner, and Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa. She was first elected to the CMSD Board of Directors in 1994, serving as its Board President from 2000 to 2004 and again from 2008 to 2010. She most recently served as their Board's Vice Secretary, a position she stepped down from to spend more time with her family.

Director Schafer has been a dedicated public servant representing the interests of Costa Mesa and the surrounding areas in innumerable ways. She served on the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission, represented CMSD with the Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC) and served on the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Board of Directors. She is also active with the Harbor Mesa Lion's Club, Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce, and the Costa Mesa and Orange County Republican Women's Federation.

Throughout her career, Director Schafer spearheaded numerous programs and projects which will have a lasting impact on her community for years to come, including launching Southern California's first curbside organics recycling program to convert food scraps and green waste into



renewable natural gas (RNG), establishing door-to-door household hazardous waste collection, and ensuring emergency power redundancy at CMSD's 20 wastewater pump stations. She was also instrumental in the land acquisition for and construction of Robin Hamers Yard, Costa Mesa's first LEED-certified facility.

In recognition of her incredible contributions, Director Schafer was named as the Orange County Board of Supervisors' "Honored Citizen of Orange County," was a recipient of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District's Beacon Award, and was recognized as the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce's "Woman of the Year".

Director Schafer's commitment and vision have fundamentally improved her Costa Mesa community and the lives of the people she served, and she will long be remembered as a driving force for positive change and growth.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Draft Proclamation

DRAFT

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



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Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: 2025 Employee Engagement Survey

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the presentation.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #5: Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At the request of the Board of Directors (Board), staff has presented the results of the Employee Engagement Survey annually since 2022.

DISCUSSION

As part of our continued commitment to fostering a positive, engaged and high-performing workplace, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) has partnered with Gallup, Inc. (Gallup) since 2019 to conduct an annual Employee Engagement Survey. This important initiative allows the District to assess engagement levels, track progress over time, and identify areas where staff can strengthen workplace culture and organizational effectiveness.

We are pleased to report that the employee participation rate in this year's survey increased to 94%, demonstrating a strong level of interest and investment from staff across the District. While participation increased, the District's overall engagement score decreased from 3.91 out of 5.0 in 2024 to 3.79 this year, highlighting important areas for continued improvement.

On July 22, 2025 all managers and supervisors received a detailed briefing from Gallup to review the results, understand the key factors influencing engagement, and begin planning next steps to sustain momentum and address opportunities for growth within their teams.

Gallup Learning and Development Consultant Rose Bloomfield will present key findings in a presentation to the Board on August 13, 2025. During this presentation, Gallup will provide a summary of the agency-wide results, including changes from last year, comparisons to Gallup's benchmarks, and an overview of strengths and areas for improvement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Customer Project – C0681-25-01 – 1400 Bristol Street

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the presentation.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION

None.

DISCUSSION

Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) owns and operates a six-inch mainline that is routed northeast across the property located at 1400 Bristol Street. The Bristol Street Atlas Map (Attachment A) shows the existing route of the six-inch line through the property. The pipeline is routed through the middle of the property and, towards the southwest property line, is routed between two of the motel buildings.

On May 27, 2025, a contractor working at Customer Project C0681-25-01 damaged the six-inch line. The contractor had not contacted Dig Alert prior to starting the excavation and demolition at the site. Mesa Water staff responded, repaired the line and returned it to service. The District will recover the costs of the repair from the contractor.

Following the repair, staff investigated three options for the six-inch line routed through the property:

1. Leave as repaired and allow the construction to continue;
2. Require the contractor to replace the six-inch line to restore the pipeline to its preconstruction condition; or
3. Abandon the six-inch line, quitclaim the easement and bring all services to the Public Right of Way per Mesa Water's current standards.

Staff is recommending that the six-inch line be abandoned and to quitclaim the easement. All water meters and the fire service line will be located within the Public Right of Way or at the property line according to Mesa Water's current standards. All piping within the middle of the property will become a private water line. Disconnecting this line will not impact fire service to the property or neighboring properties and will better align with Mesa Water's rules and regulations.

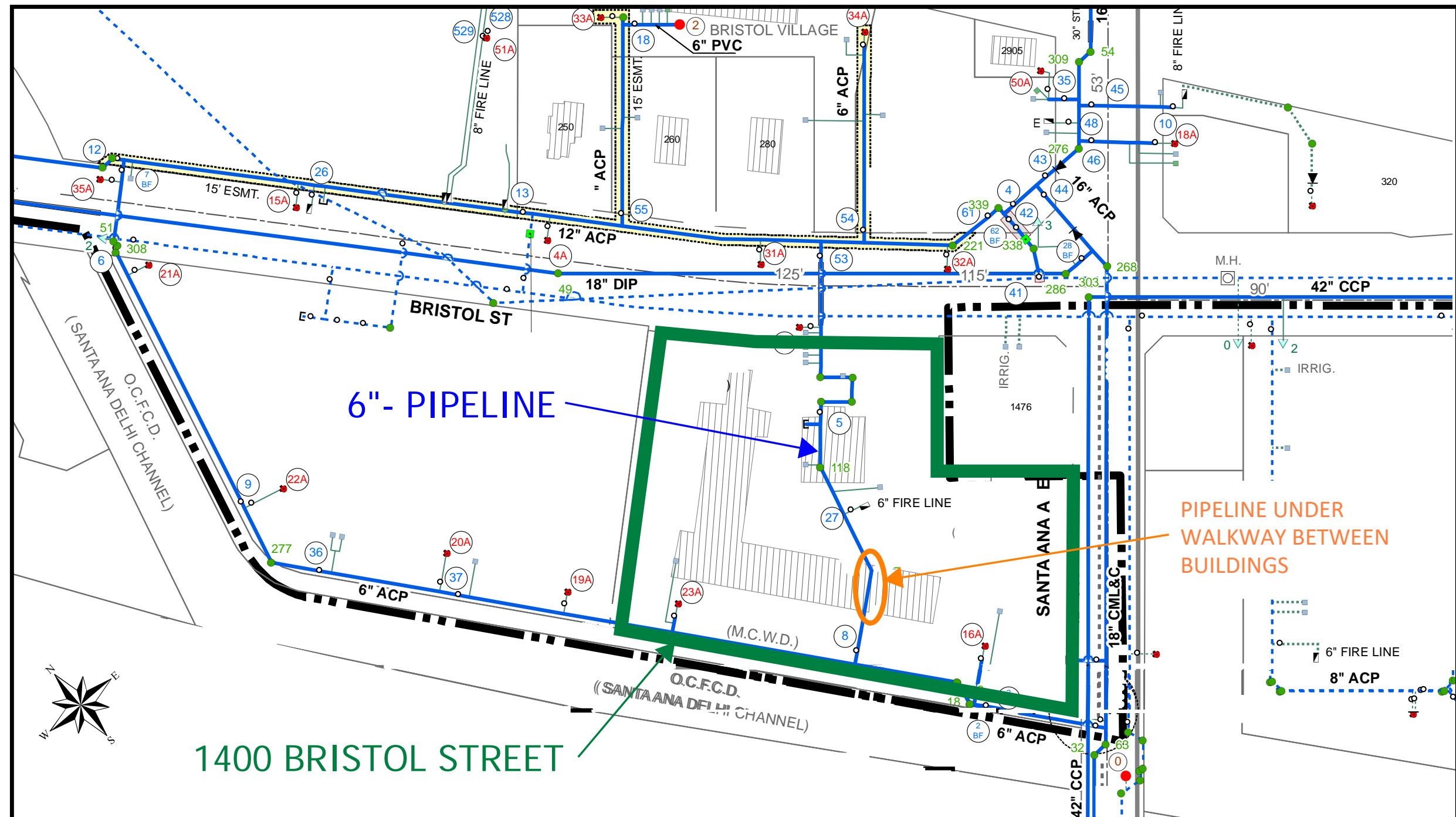


FINANCIAL IMPACT

There would be no financial impact to Mesa Water; all costs shall be borne by the property owner.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: 1400 Bristol Street Atlas Map



ATTACHMENT A - 1400 BRISTOL STREET ATLAS MAP



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Water Needs*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Board Workshop Planning

RECOMMENDATION

Review agenda topics and discuss planning for the October 28, 2025 Board of Directors' workshop.

The Executive Committee will review this item at its August 11, 2025 meeting.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.
Goal #5: Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.
Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.
Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

DISCUSSION

For the Board of Directors' review, the proposed agenda topics are as follows:

- Regional Water Issues
- Fiscal Year 2025 Strategic Plan Status
- Annual District-Wide Performance Audit
- Annual Performance Evaluation of the General Manager
- Board Engagement Metrics

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$1,000 is budgeted for Board workshop expenses; no funds have been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a contract amendment with Black & Veatch for \$5,612 for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$582,105 to engage Clean Energy Capital to develop financial modeling and funding strategy support for the Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project, and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its January 25, 2023 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) authorized staff to commit \$250,000 from Mesa Water for a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSmart Water grant for a feasibility study regarding brackish groundwater desalination and to offer to partner with Orange County Water District (OCWD) and neighboring cities.

At its April 18, 2023 workshop, the Board received a presentation regarding the Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project (Local SIP).

At its October 30, 2023 workshop, the Board received a presentation regarding the Local SIP.

At its March 19, 2024 workshop, the Board received a presentation regarding the Local SIP.

At its May 22, 2024 meeting, the Board awarded a contract to Black & Veatch Corporation for \$524,085 and a contingency of \$52,409 for an amount not to exceed \$576,494 for the Local SIP, in partnership with Orange County Water District, the City of Huntington Beach, and the City of Newport Beach.

At its September 11, 2024 meeting, the Board received a presentation regarding the Local SIP.

DISCUSSION

The Local SIP is currently in the feasibility study phase. A key component of the study is evaluating long-term capital and operational costs, as well as identifying viable funding and financing approaches for potential future project implementation.



To support this effort, staff recommends the Board approve a contract amendment with Black & Veatch to engage Clean Energy Capital - a subconsultant with expertise in public infrastructure financing and utility rate economics. Clean Energy Capital will work with Black & Veatch to develop a high-level pro forma financial model, evaluate alternative funding and financing and prepare preliminary unit cost projections. Their findings will inform ongoing planning efforts and be incorporated into the feasibility study deliverables prepared in accordance with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Directives and Standards for Desalination Feasibility Studies (WTR 11-01). Clean Energy Capital's scope of work is incorporated into a total amendment request of \$21,745, which includes Black & Veatch's costs for project management, coordination and incorporating the financial results into the draft USBR feasibility report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

\$524,085 is budgeted for the Local SIP; \$432,260 has been spent to date. \$250,000 of funding will be from Mesa Water and \$350,000 will be provided through a USBR grant, Orange County Water District, the City of Huntington Beach, and the City of Newport Beach. Additional requested funds will come from Cash on Hand.

\$36,275 was previously authorized from the approved \$52,409 contingency, putting this \$21,745 contract amendment amount \$5,612 over the approved contingency.

	Contract Actual <u>Amounts</u>	Contract Cost <u>Amounts</u>
Initial Contract Estimate	\$500,000	
Original Contracts		\$ 524,085
Change Orders		\$ 52,409
Requested Funding		\$ 5,612
Revised Contracts		<u>\$ 582,106</u>
Actual Spent to Date		\$ 432,260
Revised Contract Estimate	\$582,106	

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Mesa Water District Federal Advocacy Program

RECOMMENDATION

Approve expanded advocacy activities to further existing federal policy engagement and pursue new federal policy initiatives, in collaboration with the California Policy Center, as part of the District's Federal Advocacy Program.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION

At its November 15, 2022 Committee meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) approved retaining [Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc.](#) to provide Federal Government Advocacy Consulting Services to Mesa Water, with annually-approved renewals since then, to support the District's Federal Advocacy Program and help implement Mesa Water's annually-updated Federal Advocacy Plan (Attachment A).

At its January 25, 2023 meeting, the Board approved a \$12,500 sponsorship of the [California Policy Center](#) to help fund and support the organization's research on *Water Infrastructure Solutions for California*.

At its February 14, 2024 meeting, the Board received a presentation from California Policy Center Co-Founder [Edward Ring](#) on [The Abundance Mindset: A New Approach to Water Policy](#).

At its February 28, 2024 meeting, the Board approved a \$12,500 sponsorship of the California Policy Center to help fund the organization's ongoing research on *Water Solutions for California*.

At its June 11, 2025 meeting, the Board approved its Fiscal Year 2026 budget which included funds for Mesa Water's Federal Advocacy Program and a \$12,500 sponsorship of the California Policy Center to support its ongoing efforts to promote water supply abundance for Californians.

BACKGROUND

Since November 2022, Mesa Water and its Washington, D.C. lobbyist -- Van Scoyoc Associates (VSA) -- have implemented the District's Federal Advocacy Program to promote: 1) high priority Mesa Water projects (Attachment B) for government funding consideration (e.g., appropriations, grants, low-interest loans); 2) the District's [Policy Positions](#) and Policy Platforms (Attachment C) as relevant to Federal issues; and, 3) Mesa Water in general and its [Strategic Plan](#) goals, mission, values, and vision.



As part of its Federal Advocacy Program, the District has annually conducted (since 2023) a week of advocacy engagement -- dedicated to promoting Mesa Water's projects and policies -- in Washington, D.C. via meetings with members of the Orange County, CA Congressional delegation as well as with Federal Administration and Agency representatives.

This year's meetings (in June 2025) included very productive policy discussions and ideas exchange with Congressional staff and representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

To build upon this foundation for its Federal Advocacy Program, Mesa Water staff and lobbyists believe it would be advantageous for the District, as well as for other public water agencies statewide and in the Western U.S., to follow-up on and further research two policy concepts that developed from the District's June 2025 meetings in Washington, D.C.:

1. Desalination Plants on Federally-Owned Coastal Lands; and,
2. Assessing the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#).

To that end, and as part of the District's Federal Advocacy Program, staff requested and received from the California Policy Center (CPC) co-founder, Edward Ring, a Research and Policy Proposal (Attachment D) which is hereby offered to Mesa Water's Board for consideration.

The CPC proposal (Proposal) encompasses the following scope of work:

1. Conduct research on the two above-mentioned issues, including the retention of:
 - a. an attorney with expertise on coastal land use authorities, and
 - b. a statistician to compare the U.S. Drought Monitor's records to actual rainfall data;
2. Develop a white paper, as deemed apropos, for one or both of the two above-mentioned issues; and,
3. Accompany Mesa Water Board and lobbyist representatives in Washington, D.C. for a week of meetings this fall (November 3-7, 2025) dedicated to advocating on and presenting the findings of the white paper(s).

The advocacy in Washington, D.C. this November (and beyond) could entail meetings with representatives from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of the Interior, and White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Staff are confident in the CPC's and Ed Ring's capabilities to successfully accomplish the Proposal based on the policy work performed since the CPC's 2013 inception, including:

- In 2021, performing and publicizing policy research devised to identify: 1) water supply projects that could solve California's water scarcity, 2) how these projects could be funded, and 3) the necessary regulatory reforms that could remove obstacles to their construction. The CPC's research, made available to the public, also evaluated which sectors of California's economy would most benefit from abundant water.
- From the above research, producing the Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022 to offer a comprehensive solution to water scarcity in California, whereby a dedicated [More Water Now](#) political action committee was formed to file the final amended version of the Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022 and attempt to qualify it for the ballot. The initiative would have accomplished many objectives, including funding conservation programs and allocating two percent of the state's general fund revenues for water supply construction projects. Specifically, this initiative would have: 1) increased California's water supply by five million acre-feet annually, 2) improved aging infrastructure, and 3) constructed new means to capture and deliver water to all parts of the state. Unfortunately, the Water Infrastructure Funding Act of 2022 did not receive enough signatures to qualify for the November 2022 state ballot.
- In 2023 and 2024, renewing the CPC's research project (using lessons learned from 2022) with the goal of changing California's preferred policies from rationing and politically-imposed scarcity to policies that embrace and nurture abundance and affordability. The CPC's work towards attaining this goal included the following impactful activities and achievements:
 - launched "Californians for Energy and Water Abundance" ([AbundanceCA.com](#)) and an accompanying weekly newsletter -- "What's Current - California's Energy & Water Future" ([AbundanceCA.com/news/](#)) -- sent to a list of 1,200 influential individuals;
 - built a team of experts on California's energy and water challenges to promote policy solutions;
 - developed several legislative recommendations to address specific regulatory obstacles and to help achieve water and energy abundance, with one such recommendation (related to reforming the California Environmental Quality Act) resulting in the "Californians for Fair Housing" Political Action Committee which is conducting signature gathering to qualify the "[California Homeownership Affordability Act](#)" for the November 2024 state ballot;
 - assembled a coalition of activist groups dedicated to advocating on the CPC's policy solutions and legislative recommendations; and,
 - aggressively promoted the CPC's policy solutions and legislative recommendations to journalists, politicians, and the public.

Per Mesa Water's approved Fiscal Year 2026 budget, some of the Proposal's scope of work can be performed within the current allocation of funds for the District's Federal Advocacy and Sponsorships Programs. Any additional funding needed is expected to be within the General Manager's authority.



To further the District's existing federal policy engagement and pursue new federal policy initiatives, staff recommends approving the CPC's Proposal and expanded advocacy activities by Mesa Water in Washington, D.C. as part of the District's Federal Advocacy Program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$450,000 is budgeted for Water Policy Support Services; \$18,815 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Mesa Water's 2025 Federal Advocacy Plan

Attachment B: Mesa Water's 2025 Projects for Funding

Attachment C: Mesa Water's 2025 Policy Platforms

Attachment D: California Policy Center's Research and Policy Proposal to Mesa Water

2025 Federal Advocacy Plan

Vision: To Be a Top Performing Water Agency

Mission: Mesa Water District, a local independent special district, manages its finances and water infrastructure, and advocates water policy, while reliably providing an abundance of clean, safe water to benefit the public's quality of life.

Core Values:

- Health and Safety of the Public and Our Staff
- Excellence
- Philosophy of Abundance
- Perpetual Agency Philosophy

Strategic Goal #7 – “Policy Leadership”: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

Objective: Conduct Federal advocacy to seek funding for Mesa Water's priority projects/programs.

Q1 Tactics: Finalize—Mesa Water's 2025 Federal Advocacy Plan and updates to Mesa Water's 2025 Policy Positions and Policy Platforms; OC Federal Delegation Outreach—correspondence and meetings with members and/or staff (in-person and/or virtual), update DC contact list (for MVEC event); Seek Federal Funding—finalize list of Mesa Water's priority projects and programs for funding, determine potential project/program-specific opportunities, develop capture strategies via the Congressional appropriations process and suggest priorities to delegation; Industry Collaboration—ACWA DC conference (Feb.), OCWD and NSDC coordination; Advocacy Reporting—monthly memo and bill list, grant opportunities emails, virtual Federal Advocacy team meeting(s), ongoing communications.

Q2 Tactics: Finalize—Mesa Water's 2025 Federal Advocacy in DC PPT; OC Federal Delegation Outreach—Mesa Water Federal Advocacy in DC (June); Seek Federal Funding—pursue potential project/program-specific opportunities via agency engagements and the Congressional appropriations process; continue Industry Collaboration (ACWA, etc.); Advocacy Reporting—monthly memo and bill list, grant opportunities emails, virtual Federal Advocacy team meeting(s), ongoing communications.

Q3 Tactics: Federal Advocacy—continue Federal Outreach and Industry Collaboration (ACWA, CSDA, etc.), in District meetings with members and/or staff (in-person and/or virtual); Seek Federal Funding—monitor opportunities; Advocacy Reporting—monthly memo and bill list, grant opportunities emails, virtual Federal Advocacy team meeting(s), ongoing communications.

Q4 Tactics: Federal Advocacy—continue Federal Outreach and Industry Collaboration (ACWA, etc.), update Mesa Water's Policy Positions and Platforms, Federal Advocacy Plan and Calendar for 2025; Seek Federal Funding—monitor opportunities and update Priorities List; Advocacy Reporting—VSA @ Mesa Water (in person or virtual), monthly memo and bill list, grant opportunities emails, virtual Federal Advocacy team meeting(s), ongoing communications.

Outcome 1: Policy Positions and Platforms, and accompanying advocacy to benefit Mesa Water and its constituents.

Outcome 2: Continue advocacy leadership by positively influencing water policy and other priority policy issues for Mesa Water.

Outcome 3: Conduct funding-related advocacy for Mesa Water's priority projects and programs.

Outcome 4: Increase positive awareness of Mesa Water with water/government/utility industry and non-governmental organizations.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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James R. Fisler
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Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) Projects & Programs for Potential Funding – 2025

Project Name – 1951 Cohort Pipeline Replacement *(DWSRF Application in Process)*

- Project Status - Construction Ready, Scale-able
- Project Description - Replace 22,000 feet of 4-inch through 8-inch Cement Mortar Lined & Coated (CMLC) steel pipelines with new PVC pipelines.
- Estimated Project Timing - On hold pending funding
- Estimated Project Total Cost - \$15,000,000
- Project Partner(s) - None
- Primary Project Benefits - Replace infrastructure that has reached the end of its useful life to improve the water reliability and water use efficiency of Mesa Water's distribution system in an area serving disadvantaged and multi-family residents.

Project Name – Cathodic Protection Improvements Project

- Project Status - Planning
- Project Description - Evaluate and replace/repair cathodic protection systems that have reached the end of their useful life. Cathodic protection systems help to protect buried assets, such as transmission mains, thus extending their useful life.
- Estimated Project Timing - Completion by June 2028
- Estimated Project Total Cost - \$2,500,000
- Project Partner(s) – None
- Primary Project Benefits - Project will improve the reliability and operability of the water transmission pipelines.

Project Name – Cybersecurity Project *(Approps Priority #1)*

- Project Status - Ready to Start (pending funding), Scale-able
- Project Description - Enhanced System Security including Network Protection, IT Upgrades Development and Testing, and Web Services Redundancy and Disaster Recovery
- Estimated Project Timing - On hold pending funding (target start timing calendar year 2025)
- Estimated Project Total Cost - \$4,786,000
- Project Partner(s) – None
- Primary Project Benefits - Project would improve cyber protection and data security, provide added network reliability and redundancy, and reduce online system outages and the costs of such (thus increasing work effectiveness and efficiencies).

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Project Name – Mainline Valves Replacement Project – Phase 2 (Approps Priority #2)

- Project Status - Construction Ready, Scale-able
- Project Description - Replace several mainline valves within the distribution system that have reached the end of their useful life. The valves replacement will improve system reliability by minimizing the number of customers impacted by a water shutdown.
- Estimated Project Timing - On hold pending funding
- Estimated Project Total Cost - \$3,000,000
- Project Partner(s) – None
- Primary Project Benefits - Project would improve the reliability and operability of the water distribution system.

Project Name – Reservoir #2 Pump Station Upgrade Project

- Project Status - Design Completed February 2023, Construction Ready
- Project Description - Several components to increase the efficiency and reliability of Reservoir #2:
 - Pump replacement and conversion of drivers from gas engines to electrical motors,
 - Pipeline surge protection system,
 - Upgrades to the reservoir electrical service through SCE,
 - Installation of back-up diesel generator systems to power the reservoirs in the event of an emergency,
 - Miscellaneous system rehabilitation and upgrades including electrical gear replacement, pipeline rehabilitation, pipeline modifications, and instrumentation.
- Estimated Project Timing - Completion by March 2027 (majority of funds not spent until 2025)
- Estimated Project Total Cost - \$9,000,000
- Project Partner(s) - None
- Primary Project Benefits - Project will modernize Mesa Water's Reservoir #2 pump station and provide a standardized pump drive and back-up power system with other pumping facilities.

Project Name – Mesa Water Reliability Facility Back-Up Power (Approps Priority #3)

- Project Status - Planning
- Project Description - Provide full back-up power for the High Lift Pump Station at the Mesa Water Reliability Facility (MWRF).
- Estimated Project Timing - On hold pending funding
- Estimated Project Total Cost - \$4,000,000
- Project Partner(s) – None
- Primary Project Benefits - Heat Emergency Response: The project would allow the MWRF's High Lift Pump Station to continue operation during a power outage. With continued operation of the pump station, the MWRF could be brought back online without interruption of water supply from the treatment facility. This would improve Mesa Water's reliability during a power outage.



Project Name – Mesa Water Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project “Local SIP”

(WaterSMART grant approved, consider high priority for design/construction phase funding)

- Project Status - Feasibility Study
- Project Description - Study (\$500,000) to determine the feasibility of developing brackish groundwater as a new water source for the Orange County Groundwater Basin (“OC Basin”, serving over 2.5 million residents in North and Central Orange County), potentially followed by planning, design, and construction.
- Estimated Project Timing - Study completion by July 2025, and the outcome would provide a framework for selecting a proposed project alternative to move into planning, design, and construction of a pilot project (Phase 1: 5-8 MGD facility).
- Project Partner(s) - Mesa Water (lead), City of Huntington Beach, City of Newport Beach, Orange County Water District
- Primary Project Benefits - Increase water supply reliability and drought resilience for Orange County, CA by providing a local reliable source of water that is not dependent on the (imported surface water from the) Colorado River or the State Water Project.

Project Name – Mesa Water Vehicle Fleet Electrification

- Project Status – Planning
- Project Description - Purchase electric vehicles as needed and install the infrastructure needed to maintain an electric vehicle fleet
- Estimated Project Timing - Completion by December 2035 (start date TBD)
- Estimated Project Total Cost - \$10,000,000
- Project Partner(s) – None
- Primary Project Benefits - Meet new state of CA requirements.

NEW Programs *(research if grant opportunities exist)*

- **Accessibility/ADA (with Transparency?)** – remodel/upgrade bathrooms, elevators, kitchens; MesaWater.org Accessibility
- **Environmental Leadership** – charging stations for staff vehicles, drought-tolerant landscaping, & LEED Certification for all District properties
- **Human Resources & Workforce Development** – DEI/Diversity Spaces Program, Intern Program, Mentoring Program, Retiree Program, Safety Program, Wellness Program (including blue light screens on computers)
- **Transparency (with Accessibility/ADA?)** – Agenda Preparation Software & Records Management Software
- **Water Education Program @ MVEC (with service area tour?)** – Adults Program (WISG) & Students Program for 5th Grade & beyond (including early elementary through college)
- **Water Use Efficiency Program** – demo gardens, rebates, resi/CII surveys, workshops



2025 Policy Platforms

February 12, 2025

Federal

The 119th Congress convened at noon on January 3, 2025. As the nation enters a transition period for the federal government, the House of Representatives and the United States Senate may continue to suffer from a period of legislative gridlock due to tight majorities in both chambers.

The Executive Branch will be industrious in 2025, though it is somewhat unclear what path the Administration will take regarding water policy. Certainly, the Administration will once again have to implement a new "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rulemaking that closely aligns with Justice Alito's opinion in the [Sackett v. EPA](#) decision. The Administration will also have to determine if it will follow the previous Administration's "[PFAS Roadmap](#)" or undertake a new rulemaking, similar to its outlook for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI).

Also uncertain is how the new Administration will maintain or restrain other additional rulemakings and Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) through 2025. While there are no expected large-scale efforts in Congress at reforming the nation's water policy laws, nor at creating new water programs in statute, there are other priorities -- such as reforming many federal permitting programs -- that may be of benefit to Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) in accelerating its capital improvements. The legislative gains from the 117th Congress -- like those included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) -- are largely complete, and Congress will continue rigorous oversight on the execution of these investments.

While the IIJA and IRA included opportunities for municipal water utilities, these programs are coming to their conclusion. Also, through its advisory committee, the Department of Government Efficiency, the new Administration has signaled its intention to identify up to \$2 trillion in savings, and all discretionary programs -- including those of benefit to Mesa Water -- will face increased scrutiny in the next two to four years.

Lastly of note is the overturning of more than 40 years of case law related to the *Chevron* doctrine as held by the Supreme Court in its decision in [Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo](#). For decades, courts have shown deference to federal agency rulemakings and interpretations when provided with otherwise ambiguous laws from Congress. With the overturning of the *Chevron* doctrine, lower courts have been instructed to no longer provide the federal agencies with this level of deference. This will curtail ample rulemaking authority of federal agencies, force courts to revisit a series of previous rulemakings, and demand that Congress provide more clarity when instructing agencies to fulfill laws.

State

Calendar Year 2025 marks the first year of California's two-year (2025 and 2026) legislative



session, with the state legislature having reconvened on January 6, 2025. California's water-related legislation and regulations will continue to focus on several priority issues: water affordability and the ever-present possibility of Proposition 218 (Prop. 218) reform; continued investments in climate adaptation, drought response and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, and zero-emission vehicles acceleration; and, implementing the newly-adopted water conservation and water use efficiency regulation.

Additionally, in reaction to the recent catastrophic Southern California fires, all branches of state government will be more focused on improving wildfire prevention, protection, and recovery, including forest management, headwaters protection, water infrastructure investments, and related policy issues.

For 2025, some legislative proposals and policy discussions from prior years are anticipated to return, including legislation and regulations that could significantly impact Mesa Water, such as:

- climate adaptation, drought resilience, and related issues (e.g., electrification, energy policies, public safety power shutoffs), including implementation of Proposition 4 (which passed on the November 2024 general election ballot) whereby the state legislature and administration will use the state budget process to propose a spending plan for the authorized \$10 billion;
- headwaters and wildfire prevention, protection and recovery, forest management, and related policy issues (as mentioned previously);
- water affordability related to California's Human Right to Water and the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (respectively, [AB 685](#) and [SB 200](#)), and Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA) programs, also called "lifeline rates" ([AB 401](#)), for residential water customers, as well as the ongoing implementation of the Water Shutoff Protection Act ([SB 998](#));
- affordable housing proposals related to surplus property, CEQA streamlining, and Accessory Dwelling Units, including legislative attempts (as in prior years) to change public agencies' authority to charge impact fees for new housing developments;
- water quality, PFAS, and other Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs);
- governance, open meetings, and transparency;
- water use efficiency/conservation "clean-up" proposals, including those related to the indoor water use reduction standards of [SB 1157](#) (passed in 2022 and authored by former Senator Hertzberg-D, Van Nuys) resulting from indoor water use studies;
- water district consolidation efforts as considered/continued by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB);
- the Colorado River and California Delta (e.g., Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, Delta Conveyance Project, Endangered Species Act, Healthy Rivers and Landscapes); and,
- California's water rights system could potentially be further amended.



As policy discussions are now underway in 2025, the above issues will be the primary areas of legislative and regulatory focus.

On the air quality front, the administration and regulators finalized (in 2023) CA's [Advanced Clean Fleets \(ACF\) Rule](#) requiring 50% of new medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleet purchases by public agencies to be zero-emission starting this year, increasing to 100% in 2027.

As a reminder, in 2020, Governor Newsom issued two climate-related Executive Orders to require: 1) by 2035, that all new cars and passenger trucks sold in California are Zero-Emission Vehicles ([N-79-20](#)); and, 2) by 2030, the conservation of 30% of the state's land and coastal waters ([N-82-20](#)). These state efforts could be augmented by federal funding opportunities, including approximately \$1 billion that was included in the IRA for Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles through the Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants, rebates, and contract support to replace heavy duty vehicles with zero-emission alternatives.

Lastly, Mesa Water will continue to engage with various agencies and associations that the district is affiliated with (e.g., ACWA, AWWA, CalDesal, CMUA, CSDA, CWSA, MWDOC/MWD, OCWD, OC Tax, SCWC, WaterReuse) to advocate on policy issues including, but not necessarily limited to: 1) upholding local control and ratemaking authority; 2) promoting the "true, full cost of water" concept; 3) supporting desalination; and, 4) protecting the principles contained in Prop. 218 (Articles XIII C and XIII D of California's Constitution). In 2025, Mesa Water advocacy staff and consultants will remain focused on these four policy priorities and on government funding opportunities. Listed below, for the Board's consideration, are the proposed policy platforms regarding anticipated high-priority public policy issues in 2025 that could have major consequences for Mesa Water:

- **Water Rates** – Mesa Water supports local rate-setting authority with rate structures, set by publicly-elected boards and councils, that best serve customers and comply with the law. Furthermore, Mesa Water supports cost-based water rates that:
 - represent the true, full cost of water services, including operational costs and infrastructure funding to ensure water system sustainability in perpetuity; and,
 - harmonize the concepts of conservation and legality, with rates that provide a strong price signal for ratepayers to conserve while also complying with legal mandates (e.g., Article X of the California Constitution; SB 606 and AB 1668; and, Propositions 13, 26, and 218).
- **Proposition 13** – Mesa Water supports Article XIII A of the California Constitution (Prop. 13) and the taxpayer protections it provides as passed in 1978, and Mesa Water opposes a "Split Roll" that would remove some of the protections of Prop. 13 from nonresidential properties to raise taxes on them.
- **Proposition 218** – Mesa Water supports Article XIII C and D of the California Constitution regarding government service assessments, fees, rates and taxes, specifically:
 - the "2/3 vote" required from the legislature and voters for approval of new levies;

- the “special benefit and proportionality requirements” provision, which directly connects the special benefits received with reasonable proportionate costs, and ensures that assessments imposed for property-related (water) services must not exceed the proportional cost of the services attributable to the parcel; and,
 - transparent rate-setting procedures that protect consumers from potential government overcharge by providing sufficient opportunities for consumer participation and the ability for consumers to protest illegal rates.
- **Water Rate Assistance Programs** – Mesa Water supports localized “lifeline rates” or federal/state-funded LIRA programs that comply with Prop. 218 of the California Constitution and are funded either voluntarily or via non-restricted/non-water-rates revenues. Mesa Water opposes a state tax on local water customer bills.
- **Orange County Groundwater Basin** – Mesa Water opposes any potential streamlined process for adjudicating groundwater basins, including the Orange County groundwater basin, managed by the Orange County Water District (OCWD).
- **Water Bonds Funding (Propositions 1 and 4)** – Mesa Water supports funding from the November 2014 and November 2024 water bonds for projects that provide benefits prioritized by: 1) Mesa Water’s service area, 2) OCWD’s service area, 3) MWD’s service area, 4) MWD’s service area, 5) the State Water Contractors, and 6) California as a Lower Basin State user of Colorado River Water.
- **Water Desalination** – Mesa Water supports CalDesal in its desalination advocacy -- including engagement with the state of California’s Ocean Plan Amendment process to enable more favorable permitting conditions for water desalination projects -- as well as the local, regional, and statewide development of cost-effective and environmentally-sensitive brackish groundwater and seawater desalination projects to enhance the availability and reliability of water supply sources, and improve water supply reliability for Orange County, Southern California, statewide, and the West. Mesa Water also supports funding opportunities for these efforts, especially for the district’s Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project (Local SIP).
- **Water Conservation/Water Use Efficiency** – Mesa Water supports accounting for water resource and supply investments -- such as desalination, potable reuse, and water recycling -- as part of implementing the state’s “Making Conservation a California Way of Life” regulation. Mesa Water supports compliance flexibility and local control; maximum credit for drought-resilient supplies, deference to local discretion regarding variances for potable reuse water; and, regulatory water use and water loss target-setting that is based on local administration and enforcement, as specified in the regulation. Mesa Water also supports the continued streamlining of water reporting data as part of the implementation of, and compliance with, the regulations.
- **Water Recycling** – Mesa Water supports OCWD and WaterReuse in its efforts to advance potable reuse investment, and favorable legislation and regulations. Mesa Water supports

the “Beneficiaries Pay” principle for the development and implementation of new recycled water projects including stormwater capture.

- **Water Quality and Economic Feasibility** – Mesa Water supports efforts by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and other water industry associations/organizations to protect public health by using a full impact analysis that includes the best available scientific data, public input, and cost/benefit analyses to inform the development of reasonable and fiscally-responsible water quality standards legislation and regulations -- for current and future constituents of concern (e.g., microplastics, PFAS) -- which consider technical and economic feasibility of the standards and treatments to ensure clean, safe drinking water. Mesa Water also supports efforts by the Community Water Systems Alliance (CWSA) to require the SWRCB to define a consistent, objective method for determining the “economic feasibility” of a drinking water regulation. Additionally, Mesa Water believes that the inclusion of certain constituents (like PFAS) as designated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or “Superfund”) should be subject to public notice and comment under a formal rulemaking process and carefully considered by federal agencies, especially regarding clean-up costs and funding programs to assist such.
- **Water Storage, Banking and Exchange/Transfer Programs** – Mesa Water supports the “Beneficiaries Pay” principle for water storage/banking and exchange/transfer programs if they are market-based, ensure full cost recovery at a minimum, and account for water loss.
- **Affordable Housing** – Mesa Water supports the advocacy efforts of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and other industry associations/organizations on policies related to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), CEQA streamlining, development impact fees (e.g., capacity charges, connection fees), metering/sub-metering, surplus property, and other proposed affordable housing solutions provided that they protect water utilities’ ability to provide reliable residential water services that are appropriately priced and right-sized for public health and safety.
- **Local Government** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of CSDA and other industry associations/organizations to ensure local control and representation, efficient and transparent delivery of government services, and appropriate reserve funds levels. Mesa Water also supports CSDA’s sponsored legislation -- related to open meetings and the Brown Act -- allowing remote meeting flexibility, and the annual *Special Districts Week*.
- **Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)** – Mesa Water supports the existing protest thresholds for LAFCO-initiated reorganizations, per the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg (CKH) Act, and opposes changes that would make it more difficult for citizens to protest a LAFCO-initiated reorganization. Additionally, Mesa Water opposes any changes to the CKH Act that would weaken local control and representation and/or broaden the mission, powers, and scope of LAFCOs without providing any added public benefit.
- **Special Districts Voting Methods** – Mesa Water supports exempting special districts

from Cumulative Voting and Ranked Choice Voting methods and opposes attempts to make these methods an option or a mandate for special districts elections.

- **Delta Solutions** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA, Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), and Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC) to achieve a long-term solution for the Bay Delta that includes functional flows per the “Healthy Rivers and Landscapes” proposal for optimal statewide water supply reliability, sustainability, and quality, and for Delta ecosystem health and restoration for the public benefit. Mesa Water supports the “Beneficiaries Pay” principle for funding the Delta Solution (now called the “Delta Conveyance Project”).
- **California Headwaters and Forest Management** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA and other water industry coalitions to promote policies that enhance the pace and scale of California headwaters protection, forest management, and wildfires prevention -- including improved planning, coordination, and implementation -- and increase funding, research, and resources to: 1) protect water supply and quality, 2) bring forest management practices in line with modern challenges, and 3) implement pre-hazard mitigation measures.
- **Climate Adaptation/Resilience Bond (Prop. 4) Implementation** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA and other water industry associations/organizations in engaging with California policymakers to ensure appropriate prioritization of the \$10 billion in added funding from Prop. 4 for water infrastructure projects, such as: brackish water desalination and salinity management projects, groundwater projects, water recycling/reuse projects, and water quality and supply projects.
- **Essential Public Utilities** – Mesa Water supports the concept of exempting Essential Public Utilities -- such as water and wastewater service providers -- from future legislation, administrative actions, and regulations that add costs or time delays to a utility's work by mandating new, unfunded operational practices.
- **Federal Drought Legislation and Water Infrastructure Funding** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA, the National Special Districts Association (NSDA), and other water industry associations/organizations in collaborating with the California Congressional delegation and other decision-makers to develop bicameral, bipartisan federal drought legislation and investments in California's water infrastructure. Mesa Water also supports NSDA's efforts to define special districts in Federal law.
- **Cannabis Growers' Negative Water Impacts** – Mesa Water supports legislation and/or regulations that penalize cannabis growers' water theft and/or actions that harm water supplies, sources, and the environment.
- **ACWA's Federal Water Policy Priorities** – Mesa Water supports ACWA's Federal water policy priorities related to: 1) water infrastructure funding, 2) West-Wide Drought Legislation, 3) tax exemptions for water conservation rebates, and 4) regulations related to: a) CECs and PFAS, b) Lead Copper Rule Revisions/Improvements (LCRR/LCRI), c) public

water systems' cybersecurity (and funding for such), and d) potential PVC pipe rulemakings under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

- **CMUA's State Water Policy Priorities** – Mesa Water supports CMUA's state water policy priorities related to advocating for: 1) permissive LIRA programs that comply with Prop. 218 and that can be effectively implemented and efficiently administrated, 2) stronger penalties for tampering with/theft of water infrastructure and to deter water theft, and 3) Statewide Water Solutions legislation -- in partnership with the California Water for All coalition -- to create long-term targets for increasing water supplies for beneficial use throughout California, along with an implementable plan to achieve such targets.
- **Electric Grid Reliability** – Mesa Water supports: 1) energy investments, legislation, and/or regulations that enhance the reliability and/or security of the electrical grid to provide a stable and consistent source of electricity for water operations, 2) variances that allow fossil fuel generator maintenance, testing, and use for water operations during emergencies and/or electric power disruptions, and 3) incentives to offset the costs of water industry compliance with renewable energy and zero-emission vehicle mandates. Mesa Water also supports CSDA's and its coalition's proposal for ACF compliance relief, and exemptions/variances for emergency operations, for California's public utilities.
- **MWD's Regional Reliability Focus** – Mesa Water supports collaborating with MWD and its member/sub-member agencies to advance regional water supply reliability throughout Southern California, including MWD's Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) process -- particularly in support of the CAMP4W goals of water reliability, resiliency, affordability, and sustainability -- and MWD's efforts to ensure that the Colorado River system remains a reliable water supply resource for Southern California.
- **OCWD's PFAS Cleanup** – Mesa Water supports OCWD's efforts to ensure that public water systems are not responsible for current/future PFAS cleanup costs by: 1) securing PFAS cleanup funding, 2) protecting public water systems that comply with applicable/appropriate management and treatment standards from liability under CERCLA, and 3) upholding the "polluter pays" principle in CERCLA.
- **Water Projects Permitting** – Mesa Water supports CEQA streamlining to expedite the permitting process for water infrastructure projects.
- **Water Rights** – Mesa Water supports the water industry's interest in: 1) protecting the existing water rights priority system, and 2) potentially "modernizing" the administration of existing water rights priority system in collaboration with water associations and water industry coalitions.
- **Third Party Liability Protection** – Mesa Water supports the CWSA coalition's proposal to protect public water agencies from third party litigation while the water agency is working diligently to implement a federal- or state-approved plan to comply with a water quality regulation (such as Chromium-6). Also, for regulations undergoing compliance clarification, Mesa Water supports enforcement delays or exemptions.



**Research and Policy Presentations for Mesa Water District
Proposal to Mesa Water District**

To: Paul Shoenberger, General Manager, Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
From: Edward Ring, California Policy Center, July 23, 2025

Thank you for inviting me to possibly participate in a project designed to influence how federal water policy may better support water abundance for Californians during the Trump administration and beyond. What follows for Mesa Water District's (Mesa Water®) consideration is an outline of the proposed scope of work.

Deliverables:

1 – “Desalination Plants on Federally-Owned Coastal Lands”

A white paper, approximately 5,000 words, reporting on the potential for the federal government to utilize federally-owned coastal lands to construct ocean desalination plants.

a) Commission an outside attorney to evaluate the extent to which the federal government can unilaterally authorize and commence construction on a desalination plant that would (i) produce fresh water for the sole use of the federal personnel on-site, (ii) produce fresh water for on-site use as well as for sale to surrounding cities and water districts, and (iii) produce fresh water for on-site use with the right to sell surplus fresh water (when available) to surrounding cities and water districts.

b) Depending on the legal findings, prepare a report summarizing the feasible options the federal government would have to construct ocean desalination facilities on its owned lands, and survey the most likely potential sites for federally-owned desalination plants. Focus on sites on the Southern California coast.

2 – “Assessing the U.S. Drought Monitor”

A white paper, approximately 5,000 words, assessing the veracity of the “U.S. Drought Monitor,” a federally-funded online resource (<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>) that invariably depicts California as undergoing drought even during higher-than-average precipitation years.

a) Commission a statistician with domain expertise to compare the drought monitor's historic records against actual rainfall, with a focus on at least three regions – Northern California, Central California, and Southern California. Evaluate the archived reports from the U.S. Drought Monitor against rainfall records by year, going back at least 20 years.

b) Prepare a report summarizing the statistical analysis in order to quantify to what extent and by what percent the U.S. Drought Monitor may overstate the severity of droughts in California when compared to the record of normal, heavy, or light rainfall years. Include, either independently or in collaboration with the statistician, information on the incidence of droughts as documented over the past two hundred years or more, relying on historical records and environmental evidence such as tree ring analysis.

3 – Accompany Mesa Water® Delegation to Washington D.C. from 11/03 through 11/07

During the first week of November 2025, accompany Mesa Water's Board President Marice DePasquale and Vice President Shawn Dewane, along with the District's D.C. lobbyist, to advocate in Washington D.C. and present findings on the white paper(s) mentioned above to Federal agency officials and Federal Administration representatives.

Cost:

Compensation for preparing up to two (2) white papers can be subsumed within the \$12,500 contribution that Mesa Water has already allocated for Fiscal Year 2026 to the California Policy Center to support its ongoing work advocating ways to achieve water abundance in California.

The outside expenses for (a) an attorney to evaluate the legality of federal desalination options, (b) a statistician to review the U.S. Drought Monitor and compare its records to actual rainfall data, and (c) travel expenses for Edward Ring to Washington D.C. are additional costs to be either paid directly by Mesa Water, or reimbursed to the California Policy Center.

If Edward Ring prepares both white papers *and* travels to Washington D.C. for a full week in November, a modest additional payment of \$2,500 to the California Policy Center is proposed in addition to Mesa Water's currently budgeted contribution of \$12,500 for Fiscal Year 2026, equaling a total amount of \$15,000.

Thank you very much,

Edward Ring
Director Water and Energy Policy
California Policy Center
<https://californiapolicycenter.org/>
ed@calpolicycenter.org
916-524-7534



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Water Needs*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Anthony Phou, Controller
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Claim of John Patton

RECOMMENDATION

Deny the claim of Mr. John Patton.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

DISCUSSION

On July 9, 2025, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) received a claim from ratepayer John Patton (Tenant). Mr. Patton is requesting monetary relief for his irregularly high water bill dated 6/30/25.

On June 26, 2025, after confirming at the meter that the usage was irregular and was flowing at roughly 30 gallons a minute, Mesa Water staff informed the customer that their water had been shut off due to irregularly high water flow. Staff determined that Mr. Patton had used 3,615 units of water in a two-month period and that the leak was downstream of the water meter located at Mr. Patton's residence.

Mr. Patton and Mr. Joseph Marrocco (Owner) stated that they were not aware of any water leaks on the property. In the subsequent days, Mr. Marrocco had repairs done on the service line which corrected the leak, and the water service has since been restored.

Staff further determined that the meter is running properly and that the meter read for the June 2025 bill was accurate. In accordance with Mesa Water's Rules and Regulations for Water Service, staff recommends that the Board deny the claim of Mr. Patton.

LEGAL REVIEW

Staff consulted with the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA JPIA) and Legal Counsel - Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo - who supported Mesa Water staff's recommendation to deny the claim and recommended that a denial letter be mailed out as soon as possible.

Legal Counsel recommends that the claim in question be denied within forty-five days of presentation. The claimant will have six months in which to file suit once the claim is denied.



FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact for the discussion of this matter.

If a suit is filed, Mesa Water could expend funds, the amount of which is unknown at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Claim Form

Claim Form

(A claim shall be presented by the claimant or by a person acting on his behalf.)

NAME OF DISTRICT: Costa Mesa

1

Claimant name, address (mailing address if different), phone number, social security number, e-mail address, and date of birth.

Effective January 1, 2010, the Medicare Secondary Payer Act (Federal Law) requires the District/Agency to report all claims involving payments for bodily injury and/or medical treatments to Medicare. As such, if you are seeking medical damages, we **MUST** have both your Social Security Number and your date of birth.

Name: John Patton

Phone Number:

Address(es):

E-mail:

2

List name, address, and phone number of any witnesses.

Name: Joseph Marrocco

Address:

Phone Number: (

3

List the date, time, place, and other circumstances of the occurrence or transaction, which gave rise to the claim asserted.

Date: 26 June 2025

Time: 10am

Place:

Tell What Happened (give complete information): Mesa water alerted the account holder that their water had been shut off due to irregularly high water flow. The home owner spoke to the mesa technician on site and they help determine there was leak in the main water line. It is unknown how long the line was leaking into the ground, but it was assumed it could have been from the time of the last meter reading to the date of the June 26. Water pressure was shown to be high enough in the house to not have alerted the occupants of a leak. Mesa water also does not use smart meters which would have caught the leak.

NOTE: Attach any photographs you may have regarding this claim.

4

Give a general description of the indebtedness, obligation, injury, damage, or loss incurred so far as it may be known at the time of presentation of the claim.

The water leak resulted in a substantial amount of water loss totaling in a monetary cost of close to \$22,000. The specific amount could be determined by subtracting the average 2 month water cost from the bill that was to be issued on 01 July 2025.

5

Give the name or names of the public employee or employees causing the injury, damage, or loss, if known.

N/A

6

The amount claimed if it totals less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) as of the date of presentation of the claim, including the estimated amount of any prospective injury, damage or loss, insofar as it may be known at the time of the presentation of the claim, together with the basis of computation of the amount claimed. If the amount claimed exceeds ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), no dollar amount shall be included in the claim. However, it shall indicate whether the claim would be a limited civil case.

We seek monetary relief for the loss water, which was not of the fault of the account holder or owner of the property.

Date: July 8, 2025

Time:

Signature:

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS. OMITTING INFORMATION COULD MAKE YOUR CLAIM LEGALLY INSUFFICIENT!

REPORTS:

12. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

REPORTS:

13. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Kaitlyn Norris, Senior Public Affairs Specialist
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Rate Adjustment Communication

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for information.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.
Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its December 13, 2023 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) adopted Resolution No. 1584 Determining Compliance with Procedural Requirements, Making Findings, Revising Water Rates, Revising Meter Rates, Revising Capital Charges, Revising Fireline Stand-By Charges, Adopting a Rate and Charge Implementation Schedule, Amending the Water and Charge Schedule, Taking Related Actions and Superseding Resolution No. 1559.

DISCUSSION

Based upon the five-year rate plan approved on December 13, 2023, and in accordance with the preparation and mailing of Proposition 218 notices, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) staff will send via mail, starting October 1, 2025, a notice to its customers about adjustments to their water rates taking effect January 1, 2026. This information will also be updated and available on Mesa Water's website.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$1,139,850 is budgeted for Public Affairs Support Services; \$28,585 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: CEQA Changes in State's Budget Trailer Bills

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for information.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

DISCUSSION

At the behest of the Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) Executive Committee, staff requested and received a legal analysis and overview of the changes to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) contained in the State of California's FY2025-26 Budget Trailer Bills -- [Assembly Bill 130](#) (AB 130) and [Senate Bill 131](#) (SB 131) -- and the potential applicability of those CEQA changes to the District's infrastructure/construction projects (Projects).

Budget Trailer Bills -- which amend existing State law to implement policies included in the State's Budget Act -- take effect immediately, and both AB 130 and SB 131 were signed into law by Governor Newsom on June 30, 2025. Per a [press release](#) dated June 30, 2025 and issued by the Governor's office, AB 130 and SB 131 "...include a comprehensive streamlining package that breaks down long-standing development barriers, modernizes CEQA review for critical housing and infrastructure, and creates new tools to speed up production, reduce costs, and improve accountability across the state."

The legal analysis that was provided to Mesa Water summarized that the CEQA changes contained in AB 130 and SB 131 are: 1) limited in scope, 2) mostly focus on housing and housing development, and 3) did not change CEQA requirements for public agency infrastructure/construction projects.

As such, the two Budget Trailer Bills' CEQA changes are not directly relevant to Mesa Water or its Projects; although, if housing development accelerates in the District's service area, there may be indirect impacts to the timing of Mesa Water's future Projects, if any, to fulfill the water service demands generated by accelerated housing development.

With respect to the benefits of the CEQA changes contained in the two Budget Trailer Bills, there is possibly a procedural benefit to the District and its Projects whereby SB 131 amends CEQA to exclude staff notes from a "record of proceedings."



Further, SB 131 clarifies that "...internal agency communications does not include electronic internal agency communications, including emails, that were not presented to the final decisionmaking body, other than those communications and documents consulted, or reviewed by the lead agency executive or a local agency executive...or other administrative official in a supervisory role who is reviewing the project."

Thus, in a CEQA proceeding undertaken by Mesa Water for its Project, where the District might face a legal challenge to the proceeding, staff notes will not have to be provided as part of Mesa Water's assembly and production of its record of proceedings (in response to a request filed by a plaintiff/petitioner).

Lastly, regarding other benefits of the CEQA changes not applicable to Mesa Water, SB 131 does the following:

- Extends from 2028 to 2032 the existing CEQA exemption for small, disadvantaged community water projects;
- Expands the definition of eligible "projects" to include sewer service to a disadvantaged community served by one or more inadequate sewage treatment systems; and,
- Exempts through January 1, 2030 a community water system project funded by [California's Proposition 4](#) (passed in 2024) or by the State Water Resources Control Board's "[SAFER](#)" (Safe & Affordable Funding for Equity & Resilience) program, that does not otherwise include any construction activities, if the project: 1) results in long-term net benefits to climate resiliency, biodiversity, and sensitive species recovery, and 2) includes procedures and ongoing management for the protection of the environment.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Kurt Lind, Business Administrator
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Mesa Water District's Print Servers

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for information.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

DISCUSSION

In 2024, Mesa Water transitioned to a cloud-based print server to enhance security and simplify the management of printers. After implementation, staff encountered a print latency issue that caused the print production process to slow down resulting in increased inefficiencies. Staff worked with the District's copier/printer vendor, Canon, to find a solution that would improve the speed of the print functionality. After many attempts, the latency situation could not be resolved.

Staff desires a solution to the latency issue and proposed that Mesa Water reverse the current cloud-based strategy and bring the print servers back on-premise. Staff weighed the risks associated with moving the print servers from their current state in the cloud to back on-premise. The potential risks include:

Higher Upfront Costs

- Requires investment in servers, software licenses and IT infrastructure
- Ongoing maintenance and upgrade costs

Scalability Challenges (handling increased demand)

- Scaling up requires additional hardware and configuration

Disaster Recovery & Redundancy

- Implement a separate backup and failover system

Limited Monitoring & Logging

- Many on-premise solutions lack advanced logging or real-time monitoring, making it harder to detect suspicious activity or breaches.

Mesa Water worked in consultation with T2 Tech Group (T2) to reduce the risk factors. The risks cited above will be mitigated through the following processes:

Device Hardening

- Update Firmware: Regularly patch printer server firmware to fix known vulnerabilities and check manufacturer websites for updates
- Change Default Credentials: Replace default usernames and passwords with strong, unique credentials

Access Control:

- User Authentication: Require user authentication (e.g., PIN, badge, or LDAP integration) for print jobs and device access
- Role-Based Access: Limit administrative access to the printer server to authorized IT staff and 3rd Party Vendor (Canon)

Monitoring and Logging:

- Enable Logging: Track access, print jobs and configuration changes for auditing

Patch Management:

- Operating System Updates: Keep the printer server's operating system (e.g., Windows Server, Linux) patched and up to date
- Application Updates: Update print server software (e.g., CUPS, Microsoft Print Server) regularly

Network Monitoring:

- Intrusion Detection: Use of Intrusion Detection System and Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) to monitor for unusual traffic to or from the printer server
- Port Scanning: Regularly scan for open ports or misconfigurations

Staff recommends proceeding with transitioning the District's print functionality from cloud-based to on-premise to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of print production. At a future meeting, staff will recommend the Board approve a contract with T2 Tech Group for an amount not to exceed \$54,421 to transition the District's current cloud-based printing to an on-premise solution.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The requested contract change order is unbudgeted and will be allocated from Cash on Hand.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Kurt Lind, Business Administrator
DATE: August 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Customer Information System Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for information.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.

Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.

Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its April 26, 2023 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) received an Information Item on the Customer Information System (CIS).

At its May 24, 2023 meeting, the Board approved a contract with Plante Moran for \$507,400 to provide an independent professional consultant to evaluate, select and implement a CIS, and authorized execution of the contract.

At its April 24, 2024 meeting, the Board approved a contract with T2 Tech Group (T2) for \$42,835 to provide a professional technology team to support the evaluation and implementation of a CIS, and authorized execution of the contract.

At its December 11, 2024 meeting, the Board received an Information Item regarding the CIS selection process.

At its February 12, 2025 meeting, the Board approved a contract with SpryPoint Services, Inc. (SpryPoint) for \$643,900 and a 10% contingency of \$64,390 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$708,290 to provide Customer Information System Software and Implementation Services, and authorized execution of the contract.

DISCUSSION

SpryCIS Implementation Progress

The CIS Selection & Implementation project began in June 2023. Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) staff, Plante Moran, SpryPoint and T2 have accomplished many milestones and are currently engaged with the system testing and configuration stage of the project.

The historical information from Cogsdale CIS has been extracted and imported into SpryCIS. Staff from various departments including Financial Services, Customer Services, Customer Field Services, Water Quality, Public Affairs and Engineering are actively participating in data validation confirmation and conducting functional testing scenarios based on Mesa Water's improved business processes.

CIS Technical Support Services

T2 has provided excellent support services for the technological evaluation and implementation of a Customer Information System. The following tasks have been completed:

1. Proposal Analysis – Technical Review
2. Vendor Demonstration Support & Advisory Services
3. Due Diligence Support of Finalist Vendor
4. Statement of Work & Contract Support – Technology Requirements

T2 is currently providing Task 5:

5. Implementation Support for the CIS project

The following two tasks will be completed following implementation:

6. Documentation of IT Operations Process and Architecture
7. Go Live & Post-Implementation Support

Staff provided T2 the project plan and scope of work for implementation of SpryCIS. Upon T2's review, it was determined that staff underestimated the level of service required for a secure and complete SpryCIS implementation. The additional sub-tasks under Task 5: Implementation Support are provided below:

- 5.1 Single Sign On and SCIM Integrations
- 5.2 Security Roles & Permission
- 5.3 Data Exports & Discovery
- 5.4 Mock Go Live Dress Rehearsal
- 5.5 Legacy CIS Decommissioning & Clean Up
- 5.6 Weekly CIS Project Meetings

At a future meeting, staff will recommend the Board approve a change order to the contract with T2 for \$84,821 to provide additional professional technology services in support of the implementation of SpryCIS, as outlined in sub-tasks 5.1 through 5.6.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The requested contract change order is unbudgeted and will be allocated from Cash on Hand.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS (AB 1234) PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.3(D)

In accordance with CA Government Code 53232.3(d), the following report identifies the meetings for which Mesa Water Directors received expense reimbursement.

Jim Atkinson

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
7/7/25	ACWA JPIA Spring Conference, 5/12 – 5/16

Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E.

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
7/7/25	Meeting with General Manager, 6/19
7/7/25	Mesa Water Event, 6/24

Marice H. DePasquale

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
7/7/25	DC Advocacy Meetings, 6/2 – 6/6

Shawn Dewane

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
7/7/25	DC Advocacy Meetings, 6/2 – 6/6
7/7/25	Mesa Water Event, 6/24

James R. Fisler

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
7/7/25	Costa Mesa Sanitary District Board Meeting, 6/23