



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MESA WATER DISTRICT
Wednesday, September 10, 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
Jim Atkinson, Director
Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., 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
Kurt Lind, Business Manager
Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
Nadia Boutros, Civil Engineer
Anthony Phou, Controller
Camille Shehadeh, Senior Human Resources Analyst
Kaitlyn Norris, Senior Public Affairs Specialist
Jeff Hoskinson, General Legal Counsel

Others Present

William C. O'Neill, Partner, Newmeyer & Dillion LLP
Ryan Gallagher, Principal, MKN & Associates

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 recommended reordering the agenda and taking Items 14 – 16 after the Consent Calendar. There were no objections.

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CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

Director Bockmiller pulled Items 6 and 7 for discussion. There were no objections.

1. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of August 13, 2025.
2. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of August 27, 2025.
3. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
4. Board Schedule:
 - Conferences, Seminars and Meetings
 - Board Calendar
 - Upcoming Community Outreach Events
5. Receive and file the Annual Investment Reports: PARS OPEB & Pension.
6. Approve a sponsorship to CalDesal for \$5,000 in Fiscal Year 2026 to provide funding for the preparation of a white paper on brine discharge at the Carlsbad Desalination Plant for publication in a peer-reviewed, open-source scientific journal.
7. Approve a pilot program to provide grant money to purchase water bottle refilling stations for a total amount not to exceed \$10,000.

MOTION

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

ITEM 6 - Approve a sponsorship to CalDesal for \$5,000 in Fiscal Year 2026 to provide funding for the preparation of a white paper on brine discharge at the Carlsbad Desalination Plant for publication in a peer-reviewed, open-source scientific journal.

GM Shoenberger introduced the item and called on Water Policy Manager Taylor to provide additional details on the ongoing efforts.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President Dewane, to approve Item 6 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0.

ITEM 7 - Approve a pilot program to provide grant money to purchase water bottle refilling stations for a total amount not to exceed \$10,000.

GM Shoenberger introduced the item.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

MOTION

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

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RECESS

President DePasquale declared a recess at 4:39 p.m.

President DePasquale announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 4:42 p.m.

CLOSED SESSIONS:

ITEM 14 - CONFERENCE WITH SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION:

Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.9(a) and 54957.1(a)(2) – based on existing facts and circumstances, the Board is meeting with Special Legal Counsel.

Number of Cases: 1

The Board returned to Open Session at 5:20 p.m.

Attorney Hoskinson announced the Board conducted Closed Session Item 14 with the General Manager, District Secretary, Water Policy Manager, Special Legal Counsel and General Legal Counsel pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.9(a) and 54957.1(a)(2). The Board received information and provided direction to staff.

RECESS

President DePasquale declared a recess at 5:25 p.m.

President DePasquale announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 5:30 p.m.

ITEM 15 - 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 5:35 p.m.

Attorney Hoskinson announced the Board conducted Closed Session Item 15 with the General Manager and General Legal Counsel pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6(a). The Board received information and provided direction to staff.

RECESS

President DePasquale declared a recess at 5:37 p.m.

President DePasquale announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 5:40 p.m.

ITEM 16 - CONFERENCE WITH GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION:

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) – significant exposure to litigation. (Two potential cases; the publicly disclosable claims are included in the agenda packet)

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

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Attorney Hoskinson announced the Board conducted Closed Session Item 16 Claim 1 with the General Manager, District Secretary, Controller, Water Operations Manager and General Legal Counsel pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2). The Board received information and provided direction to staff.

Attorney Hoskinson announced the Board conducted Closed Session Item 16 Claim 2 with the General Manager, District Secretary, Controller, Water Operations Manager and General Legal Counsel pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2). The Board received information and took the following action:

MOTION

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by Director Bockmiller, to deny the claim of Dr. Melad Hanna. Motion passed 5 – 0.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

8. NEWPORT BEACH INTERAGENCY WATER TRANSFERS:

District Engineer Wiesner provided an overview of the topic and introduced MKN & Associates Principal Ryan Gallagher who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Project Objective
- Available Clear Well Capacity
- Available Amber Well Capacity
- Newport Beach Imported Water Demand
- Interconnection Opportunities
- Financial Analysis
- Study Conclusions
- Next Steps

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

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

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President Dewane, to authorize the General Manager to proceed, up to his signing authority, with MKN & Associates for the Newport Beach Interagency Water Transfer cost estimate for design and construction. Motion passed 5 – 0.

ACTION ITEMS:

9. PLAN CHECK CONSULTING SERVICES:

MOTION

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by Director Bockmiller, to amend the existing contract with John Robinson Consulting, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$23,191.25 for a total Fiscal Year 2025 contract amount not to exceed \$203,191.25 to provide Plan Check Consulting Services, with the revenue for this amendment coming from developer plan check fees collected. Motion passed 5 – 0.

10. CONSTRUCTION OUTREACH CONSULTING SERVICES:

MOTION

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by Director Bockmiller, to amend the existing contract with Murakawa Communications, Inc. to extend the term through August 1, 2026 and approve an additional \$24,000 to provide ongoing construction outreach consulting services for the remaining Capital Improvement Program Renewal projects. Motion passed 5 – 0.

REPORTS:

11. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

12. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

CLOSED SESSIONS:

14. CONFERENCE WITH SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION:
Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.9(a) and 54957.1(a)(2) – based on existing facts and circumstances, the Board is meeting with Special Legal Counsel.
Number of Cases: 1

Item 14 taken after Consent Calendar Items on the agenda.

15. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR:
Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6(a)
District Negotiator: General Manager
Employee Organization: Represented and Non-Represented Employees

Item 15 taken after Consent Calendar Items on the agenda.

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16. CONFERENCE WITH GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION:
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) – significant exposure to litigation.
(Two potential cases; the publicly disclosable claims are included in the agenda packet)

Item 16 taken after Consent Calendar Items on the agenda.

President DePasquale adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m., in memory of Charlie Kirk, to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

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Marice H. DePasquale, President

Signed by:

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Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer