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Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MESA WATER DISTRICT  
Tuesday, October 28, 2025  
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
12:00 p.m. Adjourned Regular Board Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by President DePasquale.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice President Dewane led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Directors Present**

Marice H. DePasquale, President *(departed at 3:01 p.m)*  
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  
Andie Jacobsen, Executive Assistant to the General Manager/  
Acting 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  
Anthony Phou, Controller

**Others Present**

Harry Lorick, Owner and Principal, LA Consulting, Inc.  
Amie Drotning, Senior Associate, LA Consulting, Inc.  
Travis Van Ligten, Partner, Rutan & Tucker, LLP  
Ed Ring, Co-Founder and Director, Water and Energy Policy,  
California Policy Center *(teleconference)*  
Geoff Bowman, Vice President, Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc.  
*(teleconference)*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

There was no public present and President DePasquale proceeded with the meeting.

*Mesa Water Adjourned Regular Board Meeting of October 28, 2025*

## **ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA**

General Manager Shoenberger requested to remove Items 12 and 13 and defer them to a future meeting. There were no objections.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **1. FISCAL YEAR 2025 DISTRICT-WIDE PERFORMANCE AUDIT:**

Business Manager Lind provided an overview of the topic and introduced LA Consulting, Inc. Owner/Principal Harry Lorick and Senior Associate Amie Drotning who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Annual Performance Audit: The Road to Gold
- Performance Ratings by Department
- Overview
- Conclusion

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

Mr. Lorick and Ms. Drotning responded to questions from the Board and they thanked them for the presentation.

No action was taken on this item.

#### **2. COLORADO RIVER WATER PRESENT PERFECTED RIGHTS:**

Water Policy Manager Taylor provided an overview of the topic and introduced Rutan & Tucker, LLP Partner Travis Van Ligten who proceeded with a presentation regarding Colorado River Water Present Perfected Rights.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

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

### **MOTION**

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by Director Fisler, to direct staff to prepare and present to the Board at a future meeting a recommendation and proposed scope of work to engage a consultant to further evaluate Colorado River Water Present Perfected Rights. Motion passed 5 – 0.

### **RECESS**

President DePasquale declared a recess at 1:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:23 p.m.

*Mesa Water Adjourned Regular Board Meeting of October 28, 2025*

3. MESA WATER DISTRICT FEDERAL ADVOCACY – NEW POLICY INITIATIVES:

Water Policy Manager Taylor provided an overview of the topic and introduced Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. Vice President Geoff Bowman and California Policy Center Co-Founder and Director of Water and Energy Policy Ed Ring who proceeded with a presentation entitled *The Myth of the "Drought Emergency"*.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

Mr. Ring responded to questions from the Board and proceeded with a second presentation entitled *How Federal Involvement Can Make Large-Scale Seawater Desalination a Reality in California*.

Mr. Ring and Mr. Bowman responded to questions from the Board and they thanked them for the presentations.

No action was taken on this item.

4. REGIONAL WATER ISSUES:

District Engineer Wiesner proceeded with a presentation entitled *Feasibility Study of Brackish Groundwater Desalination*.

Mr. Wisner responded to questions from the Board and proceeded with a second presentation entitled *Interagency Water Transfers*.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

President DePasquale departed the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

GM Shoenberger and Mr. Wiesner responded to questions from the Board and they thanked them for the presentations.

No action was taken on this item; under the General Manager's signing authority, the Board determined that the General Manager should contract with special legal counsel to prepare a proposed enhanced groundwater delivery and interconnection agreement with the City of Newport Beach.

***RECESS***

Acting President Dewane declared a recess at 3:10 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 3:20 p.m.

*Mesa Water Adjourned Regular Board Meeting of October 28, 2025*

5. SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY EMERGENCY WATER PROJECT PROPOSAL:

GM Shoenberger provided an overview of the topic.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

No action was taken on this item.

6. EXTERIOR SIGNAGE UPGRADE:

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Acting President Dewane, to direct staff to install a Mesa Water District logo on the second floor south-facing wall of the Headquarters Administration Building. Motion passed 4–1, with President DePasquale absent.

7. LANDSCAPING AND ENTRYWAY IMPROVEMENTS:

MOTION

Motion by Acting President Dewane, second by Director Bockmiller, to direct staff to include a Mesa Water District Headquarters landscaping upgrade in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, including a plan to address the Boardroom patio landscaping, and defer the entryway improvement project to a future fiscal year. Motion passed 4–1, with President DePasquale absent.

8. FACILITY MODERNIZATION IMPROVEMENTS:

MOTION

Motion by Acting President Dewane, second by Director Fisler, to defer the Facility Modernization Improvements discussion to Fiscal Year 2027 and bring the topic to a future meeting in one year. Motion passed 4–1, with President DePasquale absent.

9. FISCAL YEAR 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN:

GM Shoenberger provided an overview of the status of the Fiscal Year 2025 Strategic Plan.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Director Atkinson, to receive the status of the Fiscal Year 2025 Strategic Plan, and direct staff to include in the Fiscal Year 2027 Strategic Plan an objective to evaluate the development of a District Strategic Energy Plan. Motion passed 4–1, with President DePasquale absent.

*Mesa Water Adjourned Regular Board Meeting of October 28, 2025*

**REPORTS:**

10. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
11. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

**CLOSED SESSIONS:**

12. PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6:  
Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
Title: General Manager

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

13. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE GENERAL MANAGER:

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

Acting President Dewane adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

*Marice H. DePasquale*

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Marice H. DePasquale, President

Signed by:

*Denise Khalifa*

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Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer