

# The County of Orange Report

Prepared for the Mesa Water District

November 14, 2022  
by Lewis Consulting Group

## Red Wave Ends in Trickle

National Republican expectations and pollster's GOP predictions of voters both proved to be too high as the U.S. Senate races ended with Democrats flipping a seat [Pennsylvania] and are guaranteed at least 50 seats in the Senate. If they win the upcoming special in Georgia on December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Senate will be 51-49. The U.S. house of Representatives was much closer than anyone expected. As of early Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, Republicans have captured 214 seats to the Democrats 210. **218** is the magic number for a House majority, Republicans have slender leads in seven uncalled Congressional races. The California Legislature remains solidly **blue** as Democrats continue to hold on to their super majorities in both the Senate and State Assembly.

## Democrats Poised to Win Majority on Board of Supervisors

In Orange County's marquee local race, Pat Bates vs Katrina Foley. As of November 14<sup>th</sup>, Democrat Foley holds a 3,429 vote lead, with 175,000 ballots left to be counted. Republicans are hanging their hats on the theory that late returns might be more Republican, but it's a high hill to climb for Bates. If Foley wins, it will be the first time in decades that Democrats have had the Board majority.

## How Did Prognosticators Do in Their Final Predictions?

PROGNOSTICATORS	U.S. HOUSE SEATS		U.S. SENATE SEATS	
	REP	DEM	REP	DEM
NATE SILVER / 538	228	207	49	51
REAL CLEAR POLITICS	235	200	<b>52</b>	<b>48</b>
LARRY SABATO/CRYSTAL BALL	227	208	50	50
POLITICO	226	209	50	50
COOK POLITICAL REPORT	229	206	49	51
<b>COMPOSITE / AVERAGE</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>

The answer is NOT VERY WELL. After several election cycles of underestimating Republican strength, this time they overestimated Republican strength. The U.S. Senate will either end with a 50-50 tie or a 51-49 Democrat majority. The House should end with an extremely slim Republican majority somewhere between 218 to 221 Republican seats.

**Mesa Water Representation**

CONGRESS



KATIE PORTER

OR



SCOTT BAUGH

STATE SENATE



DAVE MIN

&



JANET NGUYEN

STATE ASSEMBLY



COTTIE PETRIE-NORRIS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



KATRINA FOLEY

OR



PAT BATES



## November 9<sup>th</sup> LAFCO Meeting

The highlight of the November LAFCO meeting was the release of the agency's 2021/2022 audit conducted by Davis Farr LLP. The auditor noted that no weakness or deficiencies were found and the agency was given a clean bill of health. In addition, the protest period for OCSD annexation of parts of Anaheim, Yorba Linda and Villa Park passed without a single letter of protest. Lastly, the brief meeting concluded with tributes to two departing Commissioners, Supervisor Lisa Bartlett and Yorba Linda Councilwoman Peggy Huang.

## October 12<sup>th</sup> LAFCO Meeting

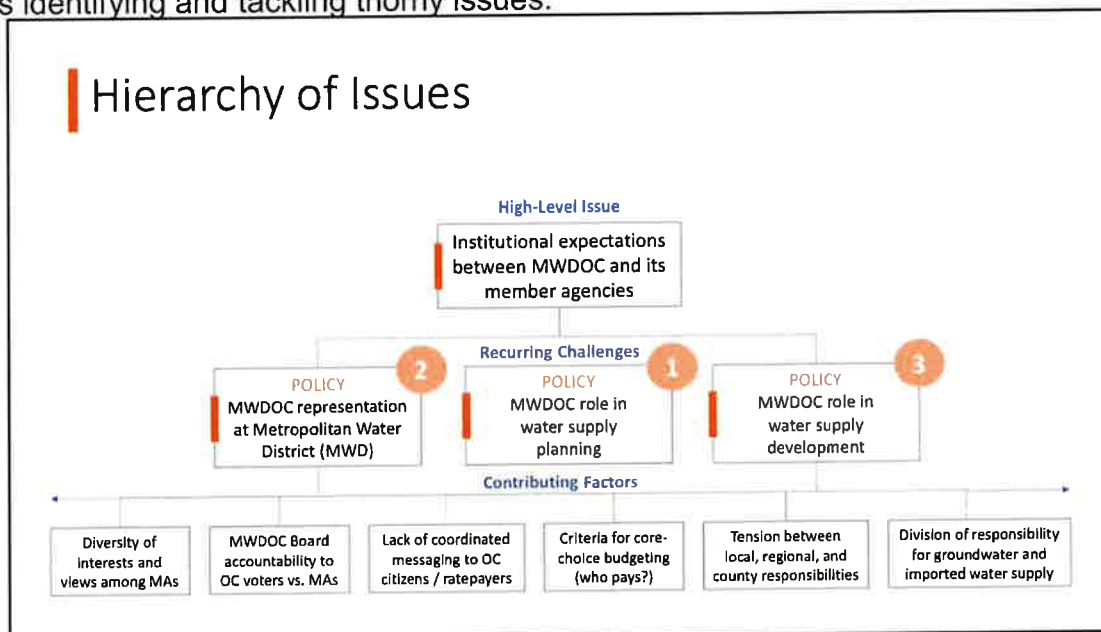
The October meeting was conducted briskly. The most interesting item was the end of the agenda when Executive Officer Carolyn Emory noted that upon request of the Orange County Water District, their Municipal Services Review will be moved up so it can be held in tandem with the study requested by the Orange County Grand Jury regarding possible consolidation with MWDOC. No specific date or deadline was set.

In other matters, LAFCO held two public hearings, the MSR and Sphere of Influence Review for the Orange County Cemetery District and the transfer of 9.2 acres of land near the Santa Ana River from the City of Orange and MWDOC to the City of Anaheim. Both matters passed unanimously and the Anaheim annexation will help facilitate an East Orangewood Avenue improvement. Also slated for a future meeting is a new application seeking to allow the Chevron/Area Parcel Annexation to the City of Brea.

## MWDOC Hold Agency Facilitated Discussion

MWDOC has already held four workshop meetings with member agencies. The June 30, July 25, September 6 and October 4<sup>th</sup> meetings covered a lot of ground dealing with the District and its member agencies. For MWDOC, this outreach is well timed given the criticism it received from the recent Grand Jury Report. Incorporated in that report were anonymous sources criticizing MWDOC from some member agencies.

So far, key issues have been identified along with MWDOC's response. Below are charts identifying and tackling thorny issues:



# Water Supply PLANNING


Mission Statement: To provide reliable, high-quality supplies from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and other sources to meet present and future needs, at an equitable and economical cost, and to promote water use efficiency for all of Orange County.

	Needs	Expectations
<b>MWDOC Board and Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need analysis for future reliable supply.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect that member agencies provide feedback on issues in a timely manner.</li> <li>Expect more conversation on issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Member Agency Managers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to better understand the relationship between MWDOC and MAs.</li> <li>Need to understand MET supply at a regional level (P&amp;O good example)</li> <li>Need to be treated as customers of MWDOC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place for MWDOC to evaluate future supply reliability.</li> <li>Information provided in a timely manner to provide feedback.</li> <li>Expect that MWDOC understands MA priorities and takes those into consideration when making decisions.</li> <li>MWDOC keeping MA's informed of reliability of imported supply</li> <li>MWDOC Board and staff think about issues from the customer perspective</li> </ul>

# MWDOC representation at Metropolitan

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	Needs	Expectations
<b>MWDOC Board and Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need for a financially healthy and stable MET.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect the MWDOC &amp; OC delegation to vote together on key MET issues.</li> <li>Expect directors to look at what's best for "MET" while taking into consideration O.C.'s position</li> </ul>
<b>Member Agency Managers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to understand MET director policy positions with proposed MWDOC positions.</li> <li>Consider the development of policy positions to be advanced at MET</li> <li>Need to understand why MWDOC votes a certain way.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expect MET Directors to be as transparent as possible about their intentions.</li> <li>Expect a clear understanding of MET issues, where MWDOC is at, and where MET MA's are at.</li> <li>Expect detailed questions from MAs on MET issues.</li> </ul>





## **Pre-Election Meeting Agenda Remains Light**

Apparently the Board of Supervisors are engaging in the tradition of avoiding controversial issues and having quick meetings on the political eve of the General Election. After all, why run the risk of casting an unpopular vote or losing precious campaign time? The October 4<sup>th</sup> and September 27<sup>th</sup> meetings followed this script, so did the election day meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

The highlight of the three meetings were the Public Comments. At one meeting, COVID protesters bitterly complained that a State of Emergency is still in effect in Orange County. At all three meetings, members of the public who appeared to be the remnant of previous election questioning groups, challenged the integrity of Orange County elections and vote counting.

## **Orange County COVID-19 Update**

<b>ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 STATS</b>	<b>11/10/2022</b>	<b>9/22/2022</b>
CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	675,634	666,185
CUMULATIVE DEATHS TO DATE	7,555	7,432
DEATHS REPORTED <b>THIS WEEK</b>	14	27
CUMULATIVE TESTS TO DATE	10,203,368	10,009,222
TESTS REPORTED THIS WEEK	27,026	35,053
CASES CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	112 *	124 *
CASES CURRENTLY IN <b>ICU</b>	20	21

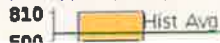
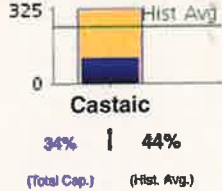
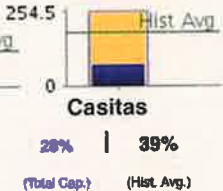
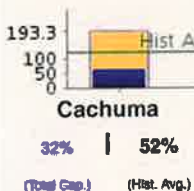
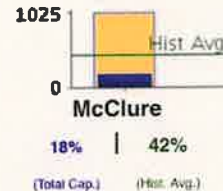
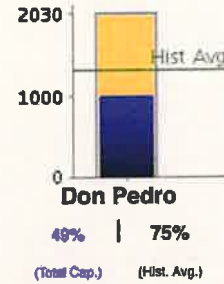
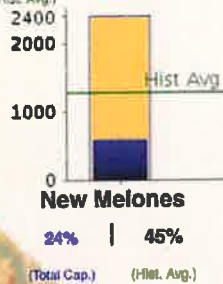
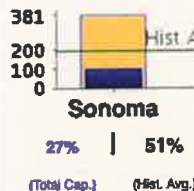
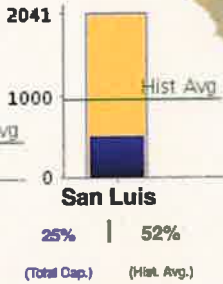
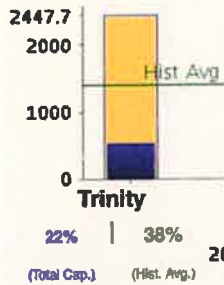
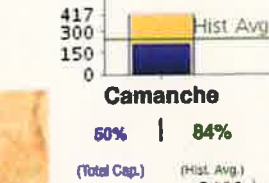
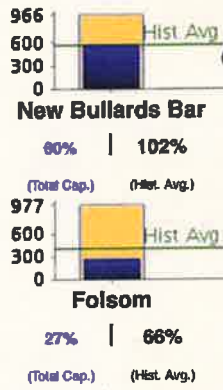
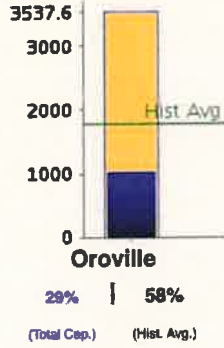
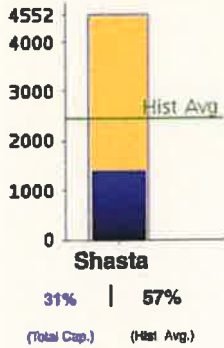
\* = INCLUDES **ICU** CASES

# Present Concern

## CURRENT CONDITIONS: MAJOR WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS: 13-NOV-2022

Midnight: 13-Nov-2022

Change Date:  13-Nov-2022

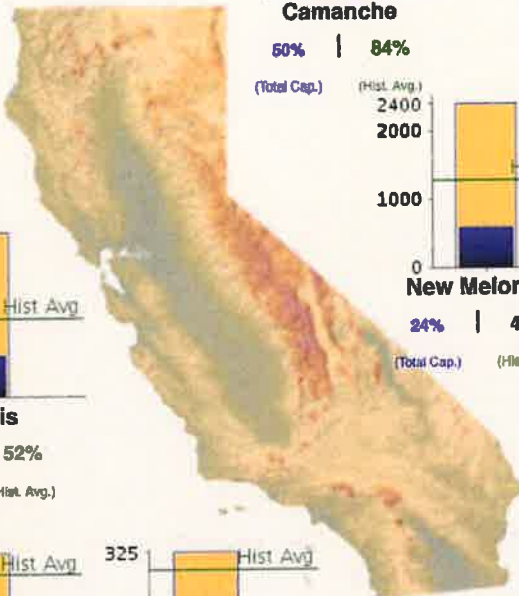


**LEGEND**

**Blue Bar:** Storage level for date  
**Gold Bar:** Total reservoir capacity  
**Green Line:** Historic level for date.

Capacity (TAF) | Historical Avg Mark

**% of Capacity | % Hist. Avg.**  
 (Click res. 3 char. code for details)



## Sign of Hope?

