



*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

**AGENDA  
MESA WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Wednesday, October 8, 2025  
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

**Teleconference Site:  
401 North Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60611**

**Members of the public may attend and participate in the meeting at both locations. Notice will be posted on the door at the teleconference site.**

**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 September 10, 2025.
2. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of September 24, 2025.
3. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
4. Board Schedule:
  - Conferences, Seminars and Meetings
  - Board Calendar
  - Upcoming Community Outreach Events

5. Approve an additional \$30,000 for Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. to conduct expanded advocacy activities on behalf of Mesa Water District in Washington, D.C. as part of the District's Federal Advocacy Program.
6. Award a three-year contract, with the option for two additional one-year renewals, to Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. for \$427,257.45 and a 10% contingency of \$42,725 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$469,982.45 to secure integrated meter reading software and implementation services, and authorize execution of the contract.
7. Award a contract to AdaptivEdge, LLC for \$96,600 and a 10% contingency of \$9,660 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$106,260 to provide Microsoft Office 365 Evaluation & Reset Consulting Services, and authorize execution of the contract.

#### **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

NONE

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

8. DIRECT MAILING SERVICES:

**Recommendation: Approve a three-year contract, with the option for two additional one-year renewals, with InfoSend, Inc. for an annual amount not to exceed \$140,000 to provide Direct Mailing Services, and authorize execution of the contract.**

9. WEBSITE MAINTENANCE CONSULTING SERVICES:

**Recommendation: Approve a contract amendment with 360 GT LLC to extend the term through September 1, 2026 and authorize an additional \$39,600 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$93,780 to provide ongoing website maintenance consulting services, and authorize execution of the contract.**

#### **REPORTS:**

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

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

12. 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](http://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, OCTOBER 22, 2025 AT 4:30 P.M.**



*Dedicated to  
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**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.

**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.

**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.

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.



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

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Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer



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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MESA WATER DISTRICT  
Wednesday, September 24, 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 *(teleconference)*  
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  
Kurt Lind, Business Manager/  
Acting District Treasurer  
Andrew D. Wiesner, District Engineer  
Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager  
Juan Hernandez, Assistant Water Operations Manager  
Anthony Phou, Controller  
Karyn Igar, Principal Engineer  
Kaitlyn Norris, Senior Public Affairs Specialist  
Rob Anslow, General Legal Counsel

**Others Present**

Kimera Hobbs, Senior Consultant, Moran Consulting  
*(teleconference)*  
Kathryn Bonen, Member of the Public  
Jared Callister, Member of the Public

District Secretary Khalifa stated one Mesa Water Director was attending the meeting via teleconference.

For each action, a roll call vote was taken in accordance with California Government Code Section 54953(b)(2) which states, "all votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by roll call."

## 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.

## CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Receive and file the Developer Project Status Report.
2. Receive and file the Mesa Water and Other Agency Projects Status Report.
3. Receive and file the Water Quality Call Report.
4. Receive and file the Accounts Paid Listing.
5. Receive and file the Monthly Financial Reports.
6. Receive and file the Outreach Update.
7. Award a one-year contract to Venture Strategic for an amount not to exceed \$60,000 to provide Orange County Advocacy Consulting Services for Mesa Water District, and authorize execution of the contract.

## MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President Dewane, to approve Items 1 – 7 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	None

## PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

### 8. FISCAL YEAR 2025 CUSTOMER SERVICE AUDIT:

Business Manager Lind provided an overview of the topic and introduced Moran Consulting Senior Consultant Kimera Hobbs who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Overview of Customer Service Department Activity
- 8-Years of Progress
- Key Performance Indicators and Ratings
- Scorecard
- The Road to Gold Ongoing Performance: 8-Years of Progress
- Recommendations for Continuous Improvement

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

9. PLAN CHECK RESIDENTIAL METER UPGRADE ONLY PROJECT:

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

- Residential Meter Upgrade Only Projects
- Current Plan Check Process
- Proposed Process for Residential Meter Upgrade Only Projects
- Recommendation

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

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

MOTION

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by President DePasquale, to direct staff to update the Rules and Regulations and Miscellaneous Fees and bring draft resolutions for adoption to a future meeting. Motion passed 5 – 0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	None

10. SINGLE METER POLICY:

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

- Single Meter Policy
- Implementation of Single Meter Policy
- Single Meter Policy
- Potential Single Meter Policy
- Recommendation

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

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

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President Dewane, to direct staff to update the Rules and Regulations and Miscellaneous Fees and bring draft resolutions for adoption to a future meeting. Motion passed 5 – 0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	None

**ACTION ITEMS:**

NONE.

**REPORTS:**

11. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER:
  - August Key Indicators Report
12. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

13. INTEGRATED METER READING SOFTWARE
14. MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 EVALUATION & RESET
15. FEDERAL ADVOCACY UPDATE
16. STATE ADVOCACY UPDATE
17. ORANGE COUNTY UPDATE

President DePasquale adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

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Marice H. DePasquale, President

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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: October 8, 2025  
SUBJECT: Attendance at Conferences, Seminars, Meetings and Events

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### 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:

<b>September 27 - October 1, 2025</b>	
Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC)	
Chicago, IL	
<b>October 22, 2025</b>	
CALAFCO Annual Conference	
San Diego, CA	
<b>November 5 - 6, 2025</b>	
SWMOA Annual Symposium	
Palm Springs, CA	
<b>December 2 - 4, 2025</b>	
ACWA JPIA Fall Conference	<i>Atkinson, Bockmiller, DePasquale</i>
San Diego, CA	
<b>December 16 - 18, 2025</b>	
Colorado River Water Users Association Conference	
Las Vegas, NV	

## 2026 CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS:

<b>January 26, 2026</b>	
CMUA Annual Capitol Day	
Sacramento, CA	
<b>February 11, 2026</b>	
ACWA Legislative Symposium	
Sacramento, CA	
<b>February 11 - 13, 2026</b>	
CalDesal Legislative Advocacy Day & Annual Conference	<i>DePasquale</i>
Sacramento, CA	
<b>February 18 - 19, 2026</b>	
Annual AGWT - AGWA CA Groundwater Conference	
Ontario, CA	
<b>February 24 - 26, 2026</b>	
ACWA Washington D.C. Conference	<i>Bockmiller</i>
Washington, D.C.	
<b>February 25 - 27, 2026</b>	
Urban Water Institute Spring Conference	
Palm Springs, CA	
<b>March 8 - 11, 2026</b>	
WaterReuse Symposium	
Los Angeles, CA	
<b>March 22 - 24, 2026</b>	
CMUA Annual Conference	
Monterey, CA	

# October 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 28	29	30	Oct 1 WEFTEC Conference (Chicago) 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD 12:00pm R/S to 10/21 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 & VIRTUAL) 5:30pm OCWD Board Meeting (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	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) 12:00pm R/S from 10/1 Executive Committee 6:00pm Costa Mesa City	22 CALAFCO Annual Conference (1355 N Payday 8:30am Jt. 4:30pm Board Meeting	23 5:30pm Southern California Water Coalition 2025 Annual Meeting and Dinner (1221 West	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 5:30pm OC Taxpayers Association Event (17900 Jamboree Road, Irvine)	30 Pay Period Ends 11:30am ISDOC Quarterly Meeting (MWDOC/OCWD Boardroom)	31	Nov 1



# November 2025

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
2	3 8:30am MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting	4 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In	5 Payday 8:30am Jt. 12:00pm Executive 5:30pm OCWD Board	6 12:00pm OCWD Communications/Legislative Committee (IN PERSON &	7 SWMOA Annual Symposium (Palm Springs, CA) 7:30am WACO Meeting (VIRTUAL)	8
9 SWMOA Annual Symposiur	10 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	11 District Holiday	12 8:15am LAFCO Meeting 8:30am MWDOC Admin 12:00pm OCWD Water 4:30pm Board Meeting	13 Pay Period Ends 12:00pm OCWD Admin & Finance Committee 5:30pm ACWA Regions	14 9:30am ACWA Regions 8,9 & 10 Water Forum (1800 Von Karman Avenue,	15
16	17	18 7:30am WACO Planning Committee (VIRTUAL) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In	19 Payday 8:30am MWDOC Board 3:00pm Costa Mesa 5:30pm OCWD Board	20 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (In Person & Virtual)	21 10:00am MCWRA Fall Forum (Auburn, CA)	22
23	24 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	25	26	27 District Holiday Pay Period Ends	28 District Holiday	29
30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6

# December 2025

December 2025							January 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	1	2	3
14	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	8	9	10
21	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	15	16	17
28	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	22	23	24
	29	30	31							29	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 30	Dec 1 8:30am MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	2 ACWA Fall Conference (San Diego, CA) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In Person & Virtual)	3 Payday 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD 5:30pm OCWD Board	4 12:00pm OCWD Communications/Legislative Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	5	6
7	8 12:00pm Executive Committee Meeting (Panian Conference) 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person)	9 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL) 8:00am OCBC Infrastructure	10 8:15am LAFCO Meeting (400 W Civic Center) 8:30am MWDOC Admin 12:00pm OCWD Water 4:30pm Board Meeting	11 Pay Period Ends 12:00pm OCWD Admin & Finance Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	12 7:30am R/S from 12/5 - WACO Meeting (VIRTUAL)	13
14	15	16 CRWUA Annual Conference (Las Vegas, NV) 7:30am WACO Planning Committee (VIRTUAL) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In Person)	17 Payday 8:30am MWDOC Board 3:00pm Costa Mesa 5:30pm OCWD Board	18 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (In Person & Virtual)	19	20
21	22 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	23	24 District Holiday	25 District Holiday Pay Period Ends	26	27
28	29	30	31 District Holiday Payday	Jan 1, 26	2	3



## **UPCOMING COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS**

Event	Date & Time	Location
Newport-Mesa Unified School District State of the Schools Breakfast	Tuesday, October 28, 2025 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Estancia High School 2323 Placentia Avenue Costa Mesa, CA 92627



*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager  
DATE: October 8, 2025  
SUBJECT: Funding for Added Federal Advocacy

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### RECOMMENDATION

Approve an additional \$30,000 for Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. to conduct expanded advocacy activities on behalf of Mesa Water District in Washington, D.C. 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, following a competitive procurement process conducted by staff, the Board of Directors (Board) approved retaining [Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc.](#) (VSA) to provide Federal Government Advocacy Consulting Services to Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®), with annually-approved renewals since then (most recently by Board action at its November 12, 2024 meeting), to support the District's Federal Advocacy Program and help implement Mesa Water's annually-updated Federal Advocacy Plan (Attachment A).

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 sponsorship of the [California Policy Center](#) (CPC) to support its ongoing efforts to promote water supply abundance for Californians.

At its August 13, 2025 meeting, the Board approved expanded advocacy activities by VSA on Mesa Water's behalf to further existing federal policy engagement and pursue new federal policy initiatives, in collaboration with the CPC, as part of the District's Federal Advocacy Program.

### BACKGROUND

Since November 2022, Mesa Water and its Washington, D.C. lobbyist, 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 will 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, the Board approved a proposal from the CPC's co-founder, Edward Ring, a Research and Policy Proposal (Attachment D) encompassing the below-listed 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 key members of Congress and White House staff, as well as with representatives from the: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of the Interior, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

To accomplish Mesa Water's enhanced Federal advocacy, supplementary funding is needed for VSA to perform added services for the District in calendar years 2025 and 2026. This augmented funding for VSA's increased support, inclusive of fees and expenses, is anticipated not to exceed \$30,000 which is within the General Manager's authority and will come from Cash on Hand.

To further the District's existing federal policy engagement, staff recommends approving \$30,000 for VSA's expanded advocacy activities on behalf of Mesa Water in Washington, D.C.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$450,000 is budgeted for Water Policy Support Services; \$85,215 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 (approved by 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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President, Division V

**Marice H. DePasquale**  
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**Jim Atkinson**  
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**James R. Fisler**  
Director, Division II

## 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).

**Providing an abundance of local, reliable, clean, safe water.**

1965 Placentia Avenue Costa Mesa, CA 92627

**MesaWater.org**





### **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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 119<sup>th</sup> 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 117<sup>th</sup> 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, MWD/OC/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](mailto:ed@calpolicycenter.org)  
916-524-7534



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kurt Lind, Business Manager  
DATE: October 8, 2025  
SUBJECT: Integrated Meter Reading Software

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### RECOMMENDATION

Award a three-year contract, with the option for two additional one-year renewals, to Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. for \$427,257.45 and a 10% contingency of \$42,725 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$469,982.45 to secure integrated meter reading software and implementation services, and authorize execution of the contract.

### 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 September 12, 2019 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) awarded a contract to Badger Meter, Inc. (Badger) for metering equipment and software.

At its March 13, 2024 meeting, the Board approved a change order with Plante Moran for \$83,125 to perform a meter reading software evaluation and provide implementation support; this effort was sub-contracted to E Source Companies, LLC, (E Source), a professional utility consulting firm specializing in metering technology.

At its September 24, 2025 meeting, the Board received an Information Item regarding integrated meter reading software.

### BACKGROUND

In the spring of 2020, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) launched the Meter Technology Pilot Project (MTPP), replacing 212 aging meters in Route 600 with Badger equipment and implementing the Badger Beacon web-based software for real-time data management. This pilot, which targeted the District's highest water users (5% of users accounting for 50% of overall consumption), was completed in the fall of 2020 and set the stage for replacing an additional 1,380 meters. The Badger Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology has performed well for most meters, but challenges persist with inconsistent automated reads from meters in vaults, underground parking structures or near large buildings.

Despite the success of the AMI system, Mesa Water faces challenges with Badger's equipment and software, which are designed for AMI and not suited for the 99% of meters requiring manual reading. The current Badger handheld meter reading devices (MRDs) are unsupported, and Badger's proposed MRD replacement is inefficient for manual reads. With Badger's customer service unresponsive, staff consulted Plante Moran, who advised replacing meter reading software



and equipment either before or after the new Customer Information System (CIS) implementation. Mesa Water opted for a competitive selection process to identify new software and equipment that align with the District's needs, requiring only the replacement of AMI meter registers and endpoints to integrate with the new system.

## DISCUSSION

Mesa Water recently engaged in a competitive selection process for qualified firms to provide an integrated meter reading solution and installation services to upgrade the District's meter reading system. This system will support manual, cellular and drive-by meter reading for approximately 25,300 meters, with 95% of meters read manually. The project aims to enhance meter reading efficiency and integrate with Mesa Water's new Customer Information Software (SpryCIS).

The selected integrated meter reading solution and installation services firm will perform the following tasks:

- Conduct project planning and kick-off meetings;
- Manage schedule development, weekly status reports, subcontractor oversight and project closeout;
- Design and configure software applications and integrations with SpryCIS;
- Document requirements, configurations and integration specifications;
- Source meter endpoints, meter registers and handheld devices, ensuring compatibility with existing encoded registers where possible;
- Provide a Software as a Solution (SaaS) environment for route management and configure communication paths;
- Perform unit testing, support integration and user acceptance testing, including a small initial deployment of less than 30 endpoints;
- Install 1,262 endpoints (262 cellular, 1,000 drive-by AMR), replacing registers as needed without meter replacements; and
- Ensure compliance with prevailing wage laws and provide a performance bond for 100% of construction costs.

On April 10, 2024, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent to three qualified firms. Three proposals were received and reviewed by a selection committee comprised of Mesa Water staff, and ranked in the following order:

1. Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. (Neptune Technology Group)
2. Itron Meters
3. Badger Meter, Inc.

The evaluation criteria was based on specifications, system requirements and, most importantly, functionality. The key functionality component is the capability to easily manage automated and manual meter reads. Two firms, Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. (Neptune Technology) and Itron Meters, were invited to attend an onsite system demonstration for staff to evaluate and compare software functionality against Mesa Water's specifications and system requirements.



Following the software demonstrations, an evaluation meeting took place where the selection committee moved forward with Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. (Neptune Technology Group) as the top-ranked vendor to participate in a final demonstration and reference checks.

The final demonstration was based on Mesa Water's system requirements and specifications. Reference checks were conducted and Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. (Neptune Technology Group) was deemed well qualified to perform the work effort and provided a solid solution for automated and manual meter reads.

The completed project will provide Mesa Water with the following benefits:

- **Improved Efficiency:** The integrated meter reading solution streamlines cellular, drive-by and manual reading processes, reducing operational time and errors.
- **System Compatibility:** Seamless integration with SpryCIS ensures accurate data management and billing.
- **Scalability:** Provides a foundation for future AMR expansions (if desired) targeting high-consumption customers, optimizing resource use.
- **Reliability and Support:** This solution supports Mesa Water's long-term vision for manual reading and provides robust customer and technical support.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Retrofitting existing registers minimizes replacement costs, and the SaaS environment reduces infrastructure expenses.
- **Compliance and Quality:** Prevailing wage compliance and a performance bond ensure high-quality, legally compliant installations.

Staff recommends the Board award a three-year contract, with the option for two additional one-year renewals, to Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. for \$427,257.45 and a 10% contingency of \$42,725 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$469,982.45 to secure integrated meter reading software and implementation services, and authorize execution of the contract.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

Over Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027, \$500,000 is budgeted under Capital Expenditures.

#### ATTACHMENTS

None.



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kurt Lind, Business Manager  
DATE: October 8, 2025  
SUBJECT: Microsoft Office 365 Evaluation & Reset

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### RECOMMENDATION

Award a contract to AdaptivEdge, LLC for \$96,600 and a 10% contingency of \$9,660 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$106,260 to provide Microsoft Office 365 Evaluation & Reset Consulting Services, and authorize execution of the contract.

### 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 September 24, 2025 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) received an Information Item regarding the Microsoft Office 365 (M365) Evaluation & Reset.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Project Purpose**

Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) implemented M365 with E5 licensing in August 2022, providing access to productivity applications, advanced security and compliance tools. The M365 Evaluation & Reset project aims to optimize the use of M365 across the organization to enhance functionality, streamline processes and improve interdepartmental connectivity. This initiative will ensure Mesa Water maximizes the value of its M365 investment, aligning with strategic goals of operational excellence, employee development and superior customer service.

#### **Scope of Work**

Recently Mesa Water engaged in a competitive selection process for qualified firms to provide M365 consulting services. The project encompasses six key tasks to be executed within a \$90,000 budget by a selected M365 professional service firm. The following tasks are designed to assess, refine and support the M365 environment:

1. **M365 Assessment:** Conduct a comprehensive review of current M365 usage, licensing, configuration, security, compliance and collaboration tools (e.g., Teams, SharePoint, OneDrive). This includes discovery sessions, over-the-shoulder reviews and a detailed report with prioritized recommendations to optimize performance and cost-efficiency.
2. **M365 Governance Planning:** Develop a governance plan through multiple workshops to establish policies for M365 tools, focusing on file management, security, access and collaboration strategies. The plan will address Teams, SharePoint and OneDrive architectures to ensure consistent and secure usage.



3. **M365 Re-Configuration:** Reconfigure M365 settings based on assessment findings and governance decisions. This includes establishing guiding principles, standard operating procedures and best practices for optimal tool usage.
4. **Organizational Change Management (OCM) Planning:** Create an OCM plan to facilitate staff adoption of M365 improvements. This involves workshops to define adoption milestones, training priorities and a communication strategy to ensure smooth transitions.
5. **M365 Training & Go-Live Plans:** Develop a tailored training plan for key M365 tools (including hands-on exercises) and a go-live plan including pre-go-live preparation, on-site support and a six-week stabilization period. The rollout may be phased to ensure effective adoption.
6. **Post-Implementation Support & Training:** Provide a one-year support contract for technical troubleshooting, general support and ongoing training to address staff needs post-stabilization.

Mesa Water solicited and received proposals from seven qualified firms to provide professional consultation services for the M365 Evaluation & Reset. The firms included:

- AdaptivEdge, LLC
- Affirma
- AgreeYa Solutions, Inc.
- Consultadd, Inc.
- Journey Team, LLC
- Planet Technologies, Inc.
- TPx Communications

The proposals were reviewed and evaluated by a selection panel comprised of Mesa Water staff from Administrative Services, Financial Services and Water Operations. Each proposal was evaluated and ranked based on qualifications, experience, project understanding and scope of work. The top four firms were then invited to interview with the selection panel. The firms included:

- AdaptivEdge, LLC
- Affirma
- Consultadd, Inc.
- Planet Technologies, Inc.

Although all four firms are well qualified and provided a unique and solid approach to the required scope of work, it was determined that due to their significant experience in M365, solid understanding of the software operation/integrations and strong background in information technology and change management, AdaptivEdge, LLC is best suited to provide M365 Evaluation & Reset Consulting Services.



The project will combine on-site engagement (e.g., staff interviews, process reviews, go-live support) with remote bi-weekly meetings via video conferencing. The consultant will have appropriate access to Mesa Water's IT infrastructure for discovery, configuration and support tasks. The Mesa Water Project Team, supported by T2 Technology Group, will collaborate closely with the consultant to ensure alignment with organizational needs.

### **Benefits**

The M365 Evaluation & Reset project will deliver significant benefits to Mesa Water:

- **Enhanced Productivity:** Optimized M365 configurations will streamline workflows, improving collaboration across Mesa Water's current 56 employees in seven departments, particularly between the 35 heavy users and 21 light users.
- **Cost Efficiency:** Identifying and reallocating unused licenses will reduce costs while maximizing the value of the E5 licensing investment.
- **Improved Security and Compliance Policies:** Strengthened governance policies will enhance data protection and regulatory compliance.
- **Increased User Adoption:** Tailored training and change management will empower staff to effectively use M365 tools, fostering a culture of digital proficiency.
- **Interdepartmental Connectivity:** Standardized processes for Teams, SharePoint and OneDrive will improve communication and collaboration.
- **Long-Term Support:** Post-implementation support ensures sustained success, addressing ad-hoc issues and reinforcing training over a one-year period.

The M365 Evaluation & Reset project supports Mesa Water's strategic goals of operational excellence, employee development and financial responsibility, positioning the organization for continued success in delivering reliable, high-quality water services.

Staff recommends that the Board award a contract to AdaptivEdge, LLC for \$96,600 and a 10% contingency of \$9,660 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$106,260 to provide Microsoft Office 365 Evaluation & Reset Consulting Services, and authorize execution of the contract.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$100,000 is budgeted for M365 Consulting Services; no funds have been spent to date.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None.



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kaitlyn Norris, Senior Public Affairs Specialist  
DATE: October 8, 2025  
SUBJECT: Direct Mailing Services

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### RECOMMENDATION

Approve a three-year contract, with the option for two additional one-year renewals, with InfoSend, Inc. for an annual amount not to exceed \$140,000 to provide Direct Mailing Services, and authorize execution of the contract.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION

None.

### DISCUSSION

The Public Affairs department has increased the use of Direct Mailing Services to reach customers with important messages. In addition to an increase in direct mailings each year, all mailings are now being distributed via Every Door Direct Mail (EDDM) lists rather than only to Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) customers.

In prior years, multiple vendors were used for Direct Mailing Services. To receive efficient, high-quality service, formalizing the process with one vendor will provide great benefit in the direct mail process. Staff continues to have a positive and productive working relationship with InfoSend, Inc. (InfoSend), the District's current billing and mailing service provider. InfoSend consistently demonstrates a high level of customer service and effectively addresses Mesa Water's requests for modifications and adjustments in a prompt manner.

To provide delineation between Customer Service billing and mailing needs and Public Affairs direct mail needs, staff is recommending an additional contract with Infosend. The current Customer Service Billing and Mailing contract will cover all customer billing and the mailing costs associated with billing, whereas the proposed Public Affairs Direct Mailing Services contract will cover all proactive direct mailings such as the Fiscal Year in Review, Water Quality Report, event marketing mailings and more.

Staff recommends the Board of Directors approve a three-year contract, with the option for two additional one-year renewals, with InfoSend for an annual amount not to exceed \$140,000 to provide Direct Mailing Services, and authorize execution of the contract.



#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$1,139,850 is budgeted for Public Affairs Support Services, \$74,830 has been spent to date.

#### ATTACHMENTS

None.



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kaitlyn Norris, Senior Public Affairs Specialist  
DATE: October 8, 2025  
SUBJECT: Website Maintenance Consulting Services

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### RECOMMENDATION

Approve a contract amendment with 360 GT LLC to extend the term through September 1, 2026 and authorize an additional \$39,600 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$93,780 to provide ongoing website maintenance consulting services, and authorize execution of the contract.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION

None.

### DISCUSSION

In 2024, under the General Manager's COVID-19 signing authority, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) entered into a contract with 360 GT LLC (360 GT) to assist the Public Affairs department with website maintenance, security upgrades and development of the MesaWater.org webpage. 360 GT brings more than 20 years of experience in website development, security and programming for utility and government clients. The firm specializes in advanced technology, creative functionality and user experience.

Staff recommends the Board of Directors approve a contract amendment with 360 GT to extend the term through September 1, 2026 and authorize an additional \$39,600 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$93,780 to provide ongoing website maintenance consulting services, and authorize execution of the contract. Staff will release a Request for Proposal for website maintenance consulting services in Fiscal Year 2026.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$1,139,850 is budgeted for Public Affairs Support Services, \$74,830 has been spent to date.

### ATTACHMENTS

None.

**REPORTS:**

10. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**REPORTS:**

11. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS



## **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
N/A	

### **Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E.**

#### **Meetings Attended**

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
10/2/25	Costa Mesa Sanitary District Event, 8/19
10/2/25	Meeting with General Manager, 9/2
10/2/25	Meeting re: Water Issues, 9/15
10/2/25	Mesa Water Education Center Event, 9/18

### **Marice H. DePasquale**

#### **Meetings Attended**

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
10/2/25	Mesa Water Education Center Event, 9/8
10/2/25	Mesa Water Education Center Event, 9/9
10/2/25	Meeting with Director, 9/11
10/2/25	Mesa Water Education Center Event, 9/15

### **Shawn Dewane**

#### **Meetings Attended**

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
9/18/25	Urban Water Institute Annual Conference, 8/20 – 8/22
10/2/25	Mesa Water Education Center Event, 9/8
10/2/25	Mesa Water Education Center Event, 9/9
10/2/25	Mesa Water Education Center Event, 9/15
10/2/25	Meeting with Director, 9/19

### **James R. Fisler**

#### **Meetings Attended**

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
10/2/25	Irvine Ranch Water District Board Meeting, 8/11
10/2/25	Costa Mesa Sanitary District Event, 8/19
10/2/25	OC Water Summit, 9/5