



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MESA WATER DISTRICT
Wednesday, August 26, 2026
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 4:36 p.m. by President DePasquale.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Bockmiller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Directors Present

Marice H. DePasquale, President
Shawn Dewane, Vice President (*departed at 5:01 p.m.*)
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, Assistant General Manager/District Secretary
Calvin Hsu, CPA, Chief Financial Officer/District Treasurer
Jacob Hester, P.E., District Engineer
Juan Hernandez, Water Operations Manager
Brandi Chapman, Board Secretary
Dawn Jordan-Romero, Public Affairs Specialist
Kaitlyn Norris, Public Affairs Supervisor
Rob Anslow, General Legal Counsel

Others Present

Jason De La O, Member of the Public
Aaron Klemm, Member of the Public
Jeffrey Corless, President & CEO, Venture Strategic
Tim Lineberger, Vice President of Strategy & Public Relations,
Venture Strategic
Peter Dorsch, Vice President of Community Engagement,
Venture Strategic

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Member of the Public Jason De La O addressed the Board regarding a concern related to properties in his neighborhood overwatering.

Member of the Public Aaron Klemm addressed the Board regarding a concern related to properties in his neighborhood overwatering.

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The Board thanked Messrs. De La O and Klemm for bringing the issue to the Board's attention and requested staff bring an update back at the October 14, 2026 meeting or later, pending customer correspondence.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. 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. Receive and file the Fiscal Year 2026 Fourth Quarter Financial Update.
8. Receive and file the Quarterly Training Report for April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026.
9. Approve the response to the 2025-2026 Orange County Grand Jury Report, *PFAS and Public Awareness: A Closer Look at Orange County Drinking Water*.

Director Fisler requested to pull Item 3. There were no objections.

President DePasquale asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by President DePasquale, to approve Items 1 – 2 and 4 – 9 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0.

ITEM 3 – Receive and file the Water Quality Call Report.

Director Fisler commented on an email he received from the City of Costa Mesa Planning Commission Vice Chair Jon Zich regarding Mesa Water's excellent customer service.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

MOTION

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by Director Bockmiller, to approve Item 3 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

10. ORANGE COUNTY ADVOCACY SERVICES UPDATE:

GM Shoenberger introduced Venture Strategic President & CEO Jeffrey Corless who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

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- Firm Overview
- Mesa Water District Team
- Scope of Work for Mesa Water
- Accomplishments By the Numbers
- Enhancing Government & Regional Partnerships
- Advancing Key Customer & Strategic Relationships
- Current Affairs and Ongoing Public Policy Issues

Mr. Corless responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the information.

11. PUBLIC AFFAIRS FISCAL YEAR 2027 PLAN:

GM Shoenberger introduced Public Affairs Supervisor Norris who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Public Relations Framework
- Strategic Plan Goal #4
- Strategy
- MesaWater.org
- Social Media
- Customer Communications – Reach All Audiences
- Mesa Water Education and Career Center (MWECC)
- Construction Outreach – Murakawa Communications
- Water Use Efficiency
- Hosted Programs
- Continue New Customer Welcome and 25-Year Anniversary Programs
- Community Events
- Customer Communications

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

ACTION ITEMS:

12. FINANCIAL AUDITING SERVICES:

President DePasquale asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by President DePasquale, to award a three-year contract with Clifton, Larsen, Allen LLP to perform annual Financial Auditing Services for \$185,640 for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2027 through June 30, 2029, and authorize the execution of the contract with the option for two one-year periods with subsequent Board approval. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Vice President Dewane absent.

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13. WEBSITE MAINTENANCE CONSULTING SERVICES:

President DePasquale asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Director Atkinson, to approve a contract amendment with 360 GT LLC to extend the term through January 31, 2027 and authorize an additional \$16,500 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$110,280 to provide ongoing website maintenance consulting services, and authorize execution of the contract. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Vice President Dewane absent.

REPORTS:

14. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER:

- July Key Indicators Report

RECESS

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

The meeting reconvened at 5:35 p.m.

15. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

16. FISCAL YEAR 2026 ANNUAL SOLE SOURCE REPORT

17. FEDERAL ADVOCACY UPDATE

18. STATE ADVOCACY UPDATE

19. ORANGE COUNTY ADVOCACY UPDATE

President DePasquale adjourned the meeting at 5:47 p.m. in memory of Dolly Parton to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

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Marice H. DePasquale

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Marice H. DePasquale, President

Signed by:

Denise Khalifa

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Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer