



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

**AGENDA
MESA WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

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 the minutes of the regular Board meeting of August 12, 2026.
2. Approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of August 26, 2026.
3. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
4. Board Schedule:
 - Conferences, Seminars and Meetings
 - Board Calendar
 - Upcoming Community Outreach Events
5. Approve a four-year contract with Venture Strategic for an amount not to exceed \$240,000 to provide Orange County Advocacy Consulting Services for Mesa Water District, and authorize execution of the contract.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NONE

ACTION ITEMS:

6. CUSTOMER SERVICES OPERATION GUIDES:

Recommendation: Approve a contract with The Northridge Group, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$29,500 to develop standardized End-to-End Operations Guides for a defined set of high-volume, high-impact customer service and field processes through December 31, 2026, and authorize execution of the contract.

7. GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES:

Recommendation: Take action as the Board of Directors desires.

REPORTS:

8. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

9. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

CLOSED SESSIONS:

11. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR:

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6(a)

District Negotiator: General Manager

Employee Organization: Represented and Non-Represented Employees

ACTION ITEMS:

12. FISCAL YEAR 2027 STAFFING PLAN:

Recommendation: Take action as the Board of Directors desires.



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. If materials are distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior or during the meeting, the materials will be

**ADJOURN TO A REGULAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 AT 4:30 P.M.**



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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MESA WATER DISTRICT
Wednesday, August 12, 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 4:30 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, Assistant General Manager/District Secretary
Calvin Hsu, CPA, Chief Financial Officer/District Treasurer
Jacob Hester, P.E., District Engineer
Juan Hernandez, Water Operations Manager
Peter DeMarco, Water Policy Manager
Brandi Chapman, Board Secretary
Nadia Boutros, P.E., Civil Engineer
Karyn Igar, Principal Engineer
Kaitlyn Norris, Public Affairs Supervisor
Rob Anslow, General Legal Counsel

Others Present

Karl Seckel, P.E., Director, Municipal Water District of Orange County
Harvey De La Torre, General Manager, Municipal Water District of Orange County

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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

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. Approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of July 8, 2026.
2. Approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of July 22, 2026.
3. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
4. Board Schedule:
 - Conferences, Seminars and Meetings
 - Board Calendar

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

MOTION

Motion by Director Atkinson, second by Director Bockmiller, to approve Items 1 – 4 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

5. MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY BRIEFING:

GM Shoenberger introduced MWDOC Director Karl Seckel and General Manager Harvey De La Torre who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- MWDOC' Partnership with Mesa Water District in FY 25 – 26
- Metropolitan Adopted Rates and Projections
- Metropolitan Key Rate Drivers
- San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)/Metropolitan (MET) Water Exchanges
 - o Metropolitan Rate Increases
 - o A New Era with Metropolitan
 - o SDCWA Partnership in Riverside County
- Southern California Exchange
- Interstate Exchange Framework

Messrs. Seckel and De La Torre responded to questions from the Board and they thanked them for the presentation.

6. LOCAL GROUNDWATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

GM Shoenberger introduced Civil Engineer Boutros who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Local Supply Improvement Project (SIP)
 - o Local SIP Project Status
 - o Grant Considerations
 - o Recommended Grant Pursuit

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

7. BOARD WORKSHOP PLANNING:

GM Shoenberger reviewed the proposed agenda topics on the agenda for the October 28, 2026 Board Workshop.

The Board offered staff an additional topic to add to the workshop agenda.

RECESS

President DePasquale declared a recess at 5:14 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 5:19 p.m.

8. INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICTS OF ORANGE COUNTY (ISDOC) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION:

Water Policy Manager DeMarco provided a brief overview of the upcoming ISDOC election, including the offices available for election. He noted that any candidate nominations are due by Friday, September 4, 2026.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

There were no nominations.

ACTION ITEMS:

9. NEWPORT BEACH INTERAGENCY WATER TRANSFER PROJECT:

MOTION

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by President DePasquale, to approve a contract amendment with T.E. Roberts, Inc. for \$275,324.45 and a 10% contingency of \$27,532.45 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$1,127,282.90 for construction of the Newport Beach Interagency Water Transfer Project, and authorize execution of the contract. Motion passed 5 – 0.

10. REGULATORY WATER POLICY CONSULTING SERVICES:

MOTION

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by President DePasquale, to approve a sole source contract to Edward Ring for an amount not to exceed \$35,000 to provide Regulatory Water Policy Consulting Services through January 31, 2027, and authorize execution of the contract. Motion passed 5 – 0.

REPORTS:

11. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

12. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

13. RATE ADJUSTMENT COMMUNICATION

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

RECESS

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

The meeting reconvened at 5:42 p.m.

President DePasquale announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 5:42 p.m.

CLOSED SESSIONS:

15. CONFERENCE WITH GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL – POTENTIAL LITIGATION:
Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(1) & (2) and 54954.5(b) –
significant exposure to litigation.

The Board returned to Open Session at 5:54 p.m.

Attorney Anslow announced the Board conducted one Closed Session with the General Manager, District Secretary, District Engineer, Principal Engineer, and General Legal Counsel pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(1) & (2) and 54954.5(b). The Board received information and there was no further announcement.

President DePasquale adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

Marice H. DePasquale, President

Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer



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**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.

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:

- 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.

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:

Marice H. DePasquale, President

Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Denise Khalifa, Assistant General Manager
DATE: September 9, 2026
SUBJECT: Attendance at Conferences, Seminars, Meetings, and Events

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 July 8, 2026 meeting, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2027 attendance at conferences, seminars, meetings, and events, with modifications.

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.

2026 CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND MEETINGS:

September 15 - 18, 2026	
CAJPA Annual Conference	
South Lake Tahoe, CA	
September 25, 2026	
OC Water Summit	
Costa Mesa, CA	
September 26 - 30, 2026	
Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC)	<i>Atkinson</i>
New Orleans, LA	
October 14 , 2026	
ACWA Region 10 Event	<i>DePasquale</i>
Carlsbad, CA	
October 14 - 15, 2026	
Membrane Technology USA 2026	<i>DePasquale, Dewane</i>
Miami, FL	
October 21, 2026	
CALAFCO Annual Conference	
Sacramento, CA	
November 18 - 19, 2026	
SWMOA Annual Symposium	
Pico Rivera, CA	
November 30 - December 1, 2026	
ACWA JPIA Fall Fall Membership Summit	<i>Bockmiller</i>
Anaheim, CA	
December 1 - 3, 2026	
ACWA '26 Fall Conference	<i>Bockmiller, DePasquale, Fisler</i>
Anaheim, CA	
December 9 - 11, 2026	
Colorado River Water Users Association Conference	<i>DePasquale, Dewane</i>
Las Vegas, NV	

2027 CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS:

February 1, 2027	
CMUA Annual Capitol Day	
Sacramento, CA	
February 10, 2027	
ACWA Legislative Symposium	
Sacramento, CA	
February 16 - 17, 2027	
Annual AGWT - AGWA CA Groundwater Conference	
Ontario, CA	
February 16 - 17, 2027	
CalDesal Annual Conference	
Sacramento, CA	
February 23 - 25, 2027	
ACWA Washington D.C. Conference	
Washington, D.C.	

September 2026

September 2026							October 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 30	31	Sep 1 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting 1:30pm R/S from 9/2 Executive Committee 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In	2 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD Workshop (IN PERSON & 12:00pm R/S to 9/1 Executive Committee 5:30pm Festival of Children 5:30pm OCWD Board	3 Pay Period Ends 12:00pm OCWD Communications/Legislative Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	4 7:30am R/S to 9/11 WACO Meeting (Virtual)	5
6	7 District Holiday 8:30am R/S to 9/8 - MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	8 8:30am R/S from 9/7 - MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee 4:00pm Newport Beach City Council Meeting (100 Civic Center Drive,	9 Payday 8:15am LAFCO Meeting (400 W Civic Center Drive 8:30am MWDOC Admin and 12:00pm OCWD Water 4:30pm Board Meeting	10 12:00pm OCWD Admin & Finance Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	11 7:30am R/S from 9/4 WACO Meeting (Virtual)	12
13	14 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	15 7:30am WACO Planning Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In Person & Virtual)	16 8:30am MWDOC Board Meeting (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL) 5:30pm OCWD Board Meeting (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	17 Pay Period Ends 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	18	19
20	21	22 4:00pm Newport Beach City Council Meeting (100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660)	23 Payday 4:30pm Board Meeting (Boardroom)	24	25 7:30am 18th Annual OC Water Summit (686 Anton Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA 92626)	26 Water Environment Federation's 1
27 Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC) 99th (Chicago, IL)	28 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	29	30	Oct 1	2	3

October 2026

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 27	28	29	30	Oct 1 Pay Period Ends 12:00pm OCWD Communications/Legislative Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	2 7:30am WACO Meeting (Virtual)	3
4	5 8:30am MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	6 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting 8:00am OCBC Infrastructure Committee Meeting (350) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In	7 Payday 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD Workshop (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL) 12:00pm Executive Committee Meeting 5:30pm OCWD Board	8 12:00pm OCWD Admin & Finance Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	9	10
11	12 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual) 5:00pm OCWD GWRS Steering Committee Meeting	13 4:00pm Newport Beach City Council Meeting (100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660)	14 8:15am LAFCO Meeting (400 W. Civic Center Drive) 8:30am MWDOC Admin and Finance Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL) 12:00pm OCWD Water Board Meeting 4:30pm Board Meeting	15 Pay Period Ends	16 8:00am City/Districts Liaison Committee Meeting (City of Costa Mesa)	17
18	19	20 7:30am WACO Planning Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In Person & Virtual)	21 CALAFCO Annual Conference Payday 8:30am MWDOC Board Meeting (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL) 5:30pm OCWD Board	22 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	23	24
25	26 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	27 4:00pm Newport Beach City Council Meeting (100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660)	28 7:00am Newport-Mesa Unified School District 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/OCWD Planning Meeting (In Person & Virtual) 1:00pm Board Workshop Meeting (Boardroom)	29 Pay Period Ends 11:30am ISDOC Quarterly Meeting (MWDOC/OCWD Boardroom)	30	31

November 2026

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 1	2 8:30am MWDOC Planning and Operations Committee Meeting (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	3 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting (Virtual) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (In Person & Virtual)	4 Payday 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD 12:00pm Executive Committee Meeting 5:30pm OCWD Board	5 12:00pm OCWD Communications/Legislative Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	6 7:30am WACO Meeting (Virtual)	7
8	9 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	10 4:00pm Newport Beach City Council Meeting (100 Civic Center) 4:30pm Board Meeting (Boardroom)	11 District Holiday 8:30am R/S to 11/12 - MWDOC Admin and Finance Committee 12:00pm OCWD Water Issues (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	12 Pay Period Ends 8:30am R/S from 11/11 - MWDOC Admin and Finance Committee 12:00pm OCWD Admin & Finance Committee	13	14
15	16	17 7:30am WACO Planning Committee Meeting 4:00pm R/S from 11/24 - Newport Beach City Council Meeting 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting	18 Payday 8:15am LAFCO Meeting (400 W Civic Center) 8:30am MWDOC Board 5:30pm OCWD Board	19 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (IN PERSON & VIRTUAL)	20	21
22	23 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (In Person and Virtual)	24 4:00pm R/S to 11/17 - Newport Beach City Council Meeting (100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA)	25	26 District Holiday Pay Period Ends	27 District Holiday	28
29	30 JPIA Conference (Anaheim)	Dec 1	2	3	4	5



UPCOMING COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

Event	Date & Time	Location
Newport-Mesa Unified School District State of the Schools Breakfast	Wednesday, October 28, 2026 7:00 a.m.	Newport Harbor High School 600 Irvine Avenue Newport Beach, CA 92663



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Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Peter DeMarco, Water Policy Manager
DATE: September 9, 2026
SUBJECT: Orange County Advocacy Consulting Services

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a four-year contract with Venture Strategic for an amount not to exceed \$240,000 to provide Orange County Advocacy Consulting Services for Mesa Water District, and authorize execution of the contract.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
Goal #4: Increase public awareness of Mesa Water.
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION

At its June 11, 2025 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) approved the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget, including \$60,000 for Orange County Advocacy Consulting Services to supplement staff's governmental relations activities for the Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®).

At its September 24, 2025 meeting, the Board awarded 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.

At its August 26, 2026 meeting, the Board received a presentation from Jeffrey Corless, President and CEO of Venture Strategic, who provided the Board with a verbal update on the firm's governmental relations activities, work, and accomplishments over the past year.

DISCUSSION

Mesa Water actively participates in water/utility advocacy -- on legislative, administrative, and regulatory issues -- at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. Staff has supplemented these advocacy efforts with support services provided by the following consulting firms: Bolland and Associates (2020-present), California Advocates (2014-present), Venture Strategic (2025-2026), Ohlund Strategic Services (2021-present), Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. (2022-present), West Yost (2024-present), and Yorke Engineering (2020-present).

Staff also actively participates in advocacy engagement in collaboration with local/regional water wholesalers -- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Municipal Water District of Orange County and Orange County Water District -- as well as with water/utility coalitions and/or associations such as the Association of California Water Agencies, California Municipal Utilities Association, California Special Districts Association, Community Water Systems Alliance, etc.



In its first year, Venture Strategic has delivered effective consulting services which align with the Board's Strategic Plan, including providing support with Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OC LAFCO), outreach with Orange County's 27 special districts, the "Special District Dialogue" newsletter, and monitoring actions of the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Staff recommends the Board approve a four-year contract with Venture Strategic for an amount not to exceed \$240,000 to continue providing Orange County Advocacy Consulting Services for Mesa Water, and authorize execution of the contract.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2027, \$396,500 is budgeted for Water Policy Support Services; \$21,695 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Kurt Lind, Business Manager
DATE: September 9, 2026
SUBJECT: Customer Services Operational Guides

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a contract with The Northridge Group, Inc. for \$29,500 to develop standardized End-to-End Operations Guides for a defined set of high-volume, high-impact customer service and field processes through December 31, 2026, and authorize execution of the contract.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.
Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its April 8, 2026 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) approved a contract with The Northridge Group for \$102,600 to provide readiness support to prepare the Customer Services and Public Affairs departments for the SpryCIS go-live. The work included Public Affairs messaging and campaigns, Customer Services Representative coaching and mock-call training, and structured go-live customer care support.

BACKGROUND

Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) staff is requesting assistance from The Northridge Group, Inc. to develop standardized End-to-End Operations Guides for a defined set of high-volume, high-impact customer service and field processes. These guides will document the complete lifecycle of each process—from initiation through execution, validation, handoffs, completion, and closure—and will support consistent execution, agent training, knowledge transfer, compliance, and operational efficiency. This will assist Customer Services to institutionalize current-state knowledge, reduce process variation, and strengthen readiness for agent-assisted and future technology-supported operations.

DISCUSSION

Scope of Work

The Northridge Group will partner with Customer Services staff through facilitated process review and walkthrough sessions to identify, validate, and document current-state processes, exceptions, operational requirements, and key dependencies. The resulting Operations Guides will provide clear, standardized documentation of workflows, business rules, decision points, roles and responsibilities, system interactions, and operational procedures.

The processes included in this first stage of documentation are:

- Reports related to payment plans, same-day stops and starts, service orders, and

- payments
- SpryEngage, including multi-account and email updates, removals, and a complete how-to guide for the system
- Shut-offs
- Temporary construction meter move-in
- Temporary construction meter move-out
- Payment plans and promise-to-pay arrangements
- Escalation processes

For each process, the documentation will address initiation requirements and data validation; work assignment, routing, and prioritization; detailed execution steps and system interactions; applicable business rules and compliance considerations; decision points, exception handling, and escalation paths; any related financial or administrative activities; and clear completion and closure criteria. Supporting materials will include process flow diagrams, relevant system screenshots, and decision matrices where appropriate.

Schedule & Deliverables

The engagement is structured as an eight-week effort tied to completion milestones in September and October 2026. Deliverables include End-to-End Operations Manuals, detailed Process Work Instructions, Process Flow Diagrams with screenshots, and Business Rules/Decision Matrices. All materials will be developed collaboratively and validated through structured stakeholder review.

Benefits

This engagement delivers three primary benefits:

1. Establishes consistent, standardized processes that reduce variation and errors, resulting in more reliable and efficient execution of customer service and field activities such as payment plans, shut-offs, construction meter moves, service orders, and escalations.
2. Strengthens training, knowledge transfer, and workforce resilience by capturing institutional knowledge in clear documentation, which supports faster onboarding, reduces reliance on individual expertise, and helps attract, develop, and retain skilled employees.
3. Creates a solid foundation for continuous improvement and operational efficiency by documenting workflows, business rules, decision points, and exception paths, thereby enabling future streamlining, stronger compliance, and potential technology enhancements.

Alignment with Mesa Water's Strategic Plan

These outcomes align directly with Mesa Water's Fiscal Year 2027 Strategic Plan.

- The work advances *Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service* by promoting excellent customer service through consistent, high-quality handling of customer-facing processes.
- It also advances *Goal #8: Practice continual business improvement* by contributing to continual business improvement, consistent with the District's emphasis on streamlining



core processes. Collectively, the effort reinforces Mesa Water's vision of being a top-performing public water agency and its core values of excellence and the perpetual agency philosophy.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve a contract with The Northridge Group, Inc. for \$29,500 to develop standardized End-to-End Operations Guides for a defined set of high-volume, high-impact customer service and field processes through December 31, 2026, and authorize execution of the contract.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2027, no funds were budgeted for this integration; the requested funds will come from Cash on Hand.

ATTACHMENTS

None.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager
DATE: September 9, 2026
SUBJECT: General Legal Counsel Services

RECOMMENDATION

Take action as the Board of Directors desires.

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 February 11, 2021 meeting, the Board received information that staff was preparing a Request for Proposals for General Legal Counsel Services.

At its April 27, 2021 Committee meeting, the Board directed staff to move forward with conducting in-person interviews for General Legal Counsel Services.

At its May 25, 2021 Committee meeting, the Board directed staff to schedule interviews with the three highest ranked firms (listed here in alphabetical order): Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR); Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP; and Rutan & Tucker, LLP.

At its July 6, 2021 meeting, the Board conducted interviews with three firms and retained the firm of AALRR as Mesa Water District's (Mesa Water®) General Legal Counsel.

At its September 8, 2021 meeting, after an extensive selection process, the Board approved a five-year contract with AALRR to provide General Legal Counsel Services to Mesa Water.

At its February 11, 2026 meeting, the Board received information that staff was preparing a Request for Proposals for General Legal Counsel Services. The Board directed staff to bring the topic to a future meeting for discussion.

At its March 11, 2026 meeting, the Board directed staff to conduct a thorough and complete Request for Proposal process and return to the Board with a strong recommendation for the most qualified firm to provide Mesa Water with General Legal Counsel Services.



BACKGROUND

First included in the 2013 Strategic Plan, one of the five components of Goal #3, Objective D stated, "Prohibit evergreen contracts." Upon further discussion at its March 21, 2015 workshop, the Board delved more deeply into the review of Mesa Water's support services' contracts. The Board directed staff to administer a competitive selection process for services that had not been competitively selected up to that time, including: Legal Services, Water Industry Advocates, Electrical Maintenance/Repair and Electrical Maintenance.

In 2017, the Board directed staff to prepare a resolution establishing and documenting the selection processes for General Legal Counsel and Independent Auditor to further solidify the best practice of prohibiting evergreen contracts. On June 8, 2017, the Board adopted Resolution No. 1501 Establishing a Policy for the Selection Process for the Appointment of General Legal Counsel and Independent Auditor.

In 2021, the Board approved a five-year contract with AALRR to provide Mesa Water's General Legal Counsel Services through October 31, 2026. As written, the contract has two 1-year extensions available that the Board could consider approving, if desired.

DISCUSSION

Mesa Water uses a robust business model that focuses on managing the District's core processes with internal staff while using supplemental support services for activities that are not performed on a routine basis or that require expertise that internal staff cannot provide. General Legal Counsel is one such example. Since January 1, 2018, AALRR has represented Mesa Water as General Legal Counsel; their contract is set to expire on October 31, 2026.

Mesa Water is seeking qualified law firms to serve as contracted General Legal Counsel whose primary role is to independently represent the District while providing expert legal advice to the Board, General Manager, and other designated staff. Attendance at a variety of meetings will be required, including Board meetings, workshops, etc., as specified.

The selected law firm will be expected to provide a broad range of general legal services, including but not limited to Brown Act compliance, ethics, environmental law, eminent domain, contract law, public works contracts, bidding and construction law, special district operations, legislative and regulatory advocacy, recycled and desalinated water regulation and permitting, operations and procedure of Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), regulation of groundwater (and associated pumping charges), and general litigation. An operational knowledge of the roles and functions of the following organizations is essential to performing the role as General Legal Counsel to the District: Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), State Water Project (SWP), Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC), Orange County Water District (OCWD), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the SWRCB Drinking Water Division.



In addition, the successful firm shall possess sufficient resources to ensure that the demands of the District's legal needs will be met on a timely basis. This relationship will be on a consulting or contractual basis, as opposed to a staff position.

In July 2026, staff sent out a Request for Proposal (RFP) through PlanetBids to competitively select a vendor for General Legal Counsel Services following the procurement process outlined below:

- Upon receipt, the Selection Panel will review and rank the proposals;
- Selection Panel will interview the highest ranked firms; and
- Selection Panel will return to the Board with a strong recommendation for a firm to provide Mesa Water with General Legal Counsel Services.

The following five firms submitted proposals:

- Aleshire & Wynder, LLP
- AALRR
- Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP
- Kidman Gagen Law
- Woodruff & Smart APC

Each of the firms provided a qualified proposal based on the scope of work requirements. Staff ranked the five firms, in order: AALRR; Kidman Gagen Law, LLP; Aleshire & Wynder, LLP; Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP; and Woodruff & Smart APC. Staff scheduled in-person interviews with the four highest ranked firms.

Interviews took place on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 after which the Selection Panel – comprised of both internal and external panelists -- reviewed the firm's individual cost proposals. Staff will provide the Board, at its September 9, 2026 meeting, a strong recommendation for a firm to provide the District with General Legal Counsel Services.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In Fiscal Year 2026, \$300,000 is budgeted for Legal Services; \$64,925 has been spent to date.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

REPORTS:

08. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

REPORTS:

9. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

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

In accordance with CA Government Code Section 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
8/6/26	City District Liaison Committee Meeting, 7/24
8/6/26	Meeting with General Manager, 7/29

Marice H. DePasquale

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
8/6/26	Mesa Water Education and Carre Center Event, 8/6
8/20/26	Mesa Water Education and Carre Center Event, 8/12

Shawn Dewane

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
8/6/26	Meeting with General Manager, 7/21
8/6/26	Mesa Water Education and Career Center Event, 7/23
8/6/26	Meeting with Mesa Water Director, 7/23
8/6/26	Mesa Water Education and Career Center Event, 8/6
8/20/26	Meeting with Mesa Water Director, 8/5
8/20/26	Meeting with Mesa Water Director, 8/10
8/20/26	Meeting with Mesa Water Director, 8/12

James R. Fisler

Meetings Attended

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
8/6/26	Sunset Beach Sanitary District Board Meeting, 6/11
8/6/26	ISDOC Quarterly Meeting, 7/30

CLOSED SESSION:

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



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager
DATE: September 9, 2026
SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2027 Staffing Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Take action as the Board of Directors desires.

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 April 29, 2026 workshop, the Board of Directors (Board) approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Staffing Plan.

At its June 10, 2026 meeting, the Board adopted the FY 2027 Budget, which authorized a staffing level of 63 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

BACKGROUND

In 2000, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) had 72 FTE positions in the budget. Over the past 25 years, as Mesa Water has gone from a construction and building phase to an operational efficiency phase, and with some reorganization and reassignment of functions, the District had reduced -- at its lowest point -- the number of budgeted employees by 17 FTEs, or 23.6%, to 55 FTEs (plus two Limited-Term positions to support the Capital Improvement Program Renewal).

In FY 2024, the Board approved an increase of one additional FTE to the staffing plan, taking the District's total personnel amount to 56 FTEs. In FY 2025, the Board approved an increase of five additional FTEs, taking the District's total personnel amount to 61 FTEs.

At its April 29, 2026 workshop, the Board approved adding two additional FTE positions, one part-time intern, and four limited-term positions, promoted the Chief Administrative Officer to Assistant General Manager, and extended one limited-term Customer Service Representative position through December 31, 2026. These actions brought the District's total staffing level to 63 FTEs.



DISCUSSION

At its September 9, 2026 meeting, the Board will review and discuss, in Closed Session, possible modifications to the FY 2027 Staffing Plan. Senate Bill 707 and California Government Code Section 54957.1 require that subsequent Open Session announcements of such items be made at a regular or adjourned regular meeting of the Board; action may or may not take place at the regular Board meeting of September 9, 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact for the discussion of this item unless action is taken by the Board.

ATTACHMENTS

None.