

Regular Meeting
December 19, 2023
6:00 pm

Meiners Oaks Water District
202 W. El Roblar Drive
Ojai, CA 93023-2211

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

1. Call to Order

The Board President, Mike Etchart, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The meeting was also available via teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Present: Board President, Mike Etchart, Board Directors: Christian Oakland, James Kentosh, Joe Pangea, and Christy Cooper. Staff Present: General Manager, Justin Martinez, and Board Secretary, Summer Ward. Attorney Present: Stuart Nielson.

Absent: None.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of November 21, 2023, Regular Board Meeting minutes.

Director Kentosh made the motion to approve the November 21, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Kentosh/Oakland

(5) Ayes- M/S/C

4. Public Comments

- None

*****The Board went into closed session at 6:03 pm.*****

5. Closed Session: The Board of Directors held a closed session to discuss litigation, pursuant to the attorney/client privilege, as authorized by Government Code Sections §54957 & 54956.8, 54956.9, and 54957.

- PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE/DISMISSAL/RELEASE (Gov. Code § 54957)
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Gov. Code § 54956.9)
Name of case: *Santa Barbara Channelkeeper v. State Water Resources Control Board, et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 19STCP01176

*****The Board ended closed session at 6:20 pm.*****

Attorney S. Nielson reported that the Board discussed the two closed-session items, and there are no actions to report.

6. **Financial Matters**

Approval of Payroll and Payables from November 16, 2023, to December 15, 2023, in the amount of:

Payables:	\$ 58,885.89
Payroll:	<u>\$ 53,390.21</u>
Total:	\$ 122,276.10

Director Cooper made the motion to approve the Payroll and Payables from November 16, 2023, to December 15, 2023. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Cooper/Oakland

(5) Ayes – M/S/C

7. **Board Discussion/Actions**

No items.

8. **General Manager's Report**

Mr. Martinez reported that the Casitas Lake level is 70.7%. Seasonal rainfall totals, as of 12/13/2023: M.O. Fire Station 0.34”, Casitas Dam 0.39”, Matilija Dam 0.65” and Nordhoff Ridge 1.26.” Staff is working with Ziptility to finalize setup and training for creating and completing service orders via the online platform. The Chlorine Alarms have been installed at each well building. Field staff continue to install the AMI smart meters as they arrive, including Commercial and Agriculture accounts; staff will soon start on Residential meters. Caltrans approved the MOWD design plans for the Highway 33 slide repair; the mainline will stay in its current location. The Replacement Treatment Plant design plans are complete and have been provided to SWRCB for input; work continues on the grant application. There was one service line repair on Meiners Rd; line broke due to poor initial installation. Mr. Martinez provided baseline Nitrate levels for Well 8 and Ranchitos. Mr. Martinez will be tracking and comparing Nitrate and water levels with the goal of bringing Well 8 back online, pending SWRCB approval.

No Public Comment.

9. **Board Secretary's Report**

Ms. Ward presented the monthly Board Secretary report. The District participated in a C.A. Water & Wastewater Arrearage Assistance Program in 2021, assisting customers with arrearages incurred between March 2020 – June 15, 2021; the State announced they are extending the program to include arrearages between June 16, 2021 – December 31, 2022. MOWD has submitted the state application, with potential funding of \$17,804, which will directly assist the 40 customer accounts that meet eligibility. The District should know the award decision in January 2024. Ms. Ward created the District's CA CEQASubmit profile, and all CEQA documents for the Replacement Treatment Plant were submitted online and to Ventura County on December 6, 2023. Annual Ventura County CERS reports are in progress and will be submitted by the December 31, 2023 deadline. Office staff finishing up the documents and analysis for the F.Y. 22-23 Financial Audit.

No Public Comment.

10. **Board Committee Reports**

- Executive & Personnel Committee: No report.
- UVRGA: Cancelled; Field trip to Foster Park November 30.
- Budget/Rate Committee: No report.
- Emergency Management Committee: No report.
- Allocations, New Meters & Expansion of Services Committee: Met, three ADU will-serve letters approved and discussed potential policy revision.
- Grants: No report.
- Treatment Plant Design Ad Hoc Committee: No report.

11. **Old Business**

- State Water: No report.
- Matilija Dam Removal Update: No report.
- Casitas MWD water rates: A letter of protest was submitted, and a response from Casitas MWD General Manager was received by Mr. Martinez; Casitas MWD is open to discussions regarding rates.

12. **Director Announcements/Reports**

- Director Kentosh: No report.
- Director Oakland: No report.
- Director Pangea: No report.
- Director Cooper: No report.
- Director Etchart: No report.

13. **Meeting Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on January 16, 2024 at 6:00 pm. There being no further business to conduct at this time, Board President Mike Etchart adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Board Secretary

Board President