

Regular Meeting
March 18, 2025
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 Administrative Assistant, Leslie McCleary. Attorney Present: Stuart Nielson.

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

Approval of the February 18, 2025, Regular Board Meeting minutes.

Director Cooper made the motion to approve the February 18, 2025 meeting minutes. Director Pangea seconded the motion.

Director Kentosh corrected the number of Aye votes noted in the draft minutes; the correction will be made.

No Public Comment.

Cooper/Pangea

(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.**

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- 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 7:08 pm.****

Attorney Nielson reported that the Board discussed pending litigation, and there are no actions to report.

6. **Financial Matters**

a) **Approval of Payroll and Payables from February 16, 2025, to March 15, 2025, in the amount of:**

Payables:	\$ 94,560.89
Payroll:	<u>\$ 46,895.00</u>
Total:	\$ 141,455.89

Director Pangea made the motion to approve the Payroll and Payables from February 16, 2025, to March 15, 2025. Director Kentosh seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Pangea/Kentosh

(5) Ayes – M/S/C

7. **Board Discussion/Actions**

a) **Approval of Catastrophic Leave Policy**

Director Oakland made the motion to approve the new Catastrophic Leave Policy proposed by Mr. Martinez, allowing District employees to transfer accrued sick time to another employee in the event of an emergency or hospitalization. Director Cooper seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Oakland/Cooper

(5) Ayes – M/S/C

8. **General Manager's Report**

Mr. Martinez reported that the Casitas Lake level is at 96.2%. At MOWD Wells 1 & 2, new plumbing, valves, and meters are installed; staff will be working to bring the Treatment Plant back online in the coming weeks.

No Public Comment.

9. **Board Secretary's Report**

The SWRCB Electronic Annual Report is being worked on and is due by April 1, 2025. Quarterly and Annual SWRCB Drought Reports were submitted on January 28. The quarterly PCI compliance scan was completed and passed for the online payment portal.

10. **Board Committee Reports**

- Executive & Personnel Committee: No report.
- UVRGA: No report.
- Budget/Rate Committee: No report.
- Emergency Management Committee: No report.
- Allocations, New Meters & Expansion of Services Committee: No report.
- Grants: Director Cooper shared that initial funding has been approved. We are looking at a 100% funding possibility. The final outcome is still to be determined.
- Treatment Plant Design Ad Hoc Committee: No report.

11. **Old Business**

- State Water: No report.
- Matilija Dam Removal Update: No report.

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 April 15, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Since there was no further business to conduct, Board President Mike Etchart adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Board Secretary

Board President