

Regular Meeting

April 15, 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, Joe Pangea, and Christy Cooper. Staff Present: General Manager, Justin Martinez, and Board Secretary, Summer Ward. Attornies Present: Stuart Nielson and Jeanne Zolezzi (closed session only).

**Absent:** Director James Kentosh

**\*\*Time Certain 6:05 pm – Board Action and/or Discussion\*\***

### 3. Presentation and approval of FY24 Financial Audit

Mr. Kaymark, the lead auditor for Nigro & Nigro, PC, made introductions to the audit team and Board. He then presented the FY 24 Financial Audit, which included reviewing the scope of work, responsibilities in accordance with professional standards, and audit results. Mr. Kaymark stated that an *Unmodified Opinion – Clean Opinion was issued*. No material issues were found during the audit and any minor issues were discussed orally and corrected by management.

Mr. Kaymark reviewed the financial statements, including a decrease in revenue due to eliminating the Drought Surcharge when the drought ended. He spent some time covering the pension liability schedules. He noted that the District may want to look into switching from LAIF and Ventura County for holding reserves with a low interest rate of 2.68% over to the new CA Class investment program, which is returning over 4%.

Director Cooper requested that staff look into the CA Class program.

Director Oakland asked if it is concerning that pension liabilities have doubled over the last 10 years. Mr. Kaymark stated many factors affect the liability, including market conditions, investment returns, and changes in the number of staff.

Director Cooper made the motion to receive the presentation and approve Resolution 20250415: Financial Audit FY2023-2024. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Cooper/Oakland  
(4) Ayes (M/S/C)  
(1) Absent- Kentosh

4. **Approval of the Minutes**

**Approval of the March 18, 2025, Regular Board Meeting minutes.**

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

No Public Comment.

Pangea/Cooper  
(4) Ayes – M/S/C  
(1) Absent - Kentosh

5. **Public Comments**

J. Kentosh was present by phone and had no public comment.

***\*\*The Board went into closed session at 6:35 pm.\*\****

6. **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.**

- 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 7:55 pm.\*\****

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

7. **Financial Matters**

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

Payables:	\$ 67,962.06
Payroll:	<u>\$ 51,013.15</u>
Total:	\$ 118,975.21

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

No Public Comment.

Oakland/Pangea

(4) Ayes – M/S/C  
(1) Absent - Kentosh

8. **Board Discussion/Actions**

- a) **Approve the purchase of 88 smart meters and endpoints to complete Route 5, for \$30,398.66, within the approved meter budget for FY24/25.**

Mr. Martinez stated that the current meter budget has \$39,965.54 remaining. This proposed purchase would complete the AMI meter swapouts for Route 5, which is the most difficult for staff, as they have to walk the route. Additionally, the delivery time is estimated to be 12 weeks out, as most districts are converting to smart meters, so demand is high.

No Public Comment.

Oakland/Pangea

(4) Ayes – M/S/C  
(1) Absent - Kentosh

- b) **Consider nominations for the SDRMA Board of Directors 2025 election.**

Director Etchart asked if any Directors were interested in being nominated for the SDRMA Board of Directors election. No Directors expressed interest.

No Public Comment.

No Motion.

c) **Consider nominations for the CSDA Board of Directors Seat B election.**

Director Etchart asked if any Directors were interested in being nominated for the SDRMA Board of Directors election. No Directors expressed interest.

No Public Comment.

No Motion.

9. **General Manager's Report**

Mr. Martinez reported that the Casitas Lake level is at 96.1%. Wells 1, 2, and the Treatment Plant are back online. Staff are seeking additional CalARP consultant bids. The annual CCR and eAR were submitted to the SWRCB. Well 4a Rehab work has good and bad news; during the jetting process, the upper part of the well was plugged and cleared. Before treatment, the well was about 400 gpm with 75 ft drawdown, and post-rehabilitation produces 600 gpm with 20 ft drawdown. Unfortunately, a thin wall low carbon steel column pipe was installed when the well was constructed in 2018 and then repaired in 2020. It is already splitting and has holes and an undersized motor and pump. Mr. Martinez is getting quotes to replace the column pipe with stainless steel and an appropriately sized motor and pump. Mr. Martinez also reviewed the seasonal rainfall totals for each local gauge. There was one service leak in March on N. Pueblo.

No Public Comment.

10. **Board Secretary's Report**

Ms. Ward reported that the CA Truck Regulation annual fleet inventory was submitted on March 26, and the SWRCB Electronic Annual Report was submitted on April 1. MOWD's annual Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard Compliance passed and was submitted March 25. The annual Consumer Confidence Report (Water Quality Data) has been submitted to the SWRCB and posted on the District website; the report's availability notice will be included in the April 30 bill statements. Bi-annual anti-harassment and Ethics trainings are due; Ms. Ward thanked the Directors who had already completed the required training. Ms. Ward noted that staff will be meeting with the auditors in early May to begin the FY24-25 Financial Audit.

No Public Comment.

11. **Board Committee Reports**

- Executive & Personnel Committee: No report.
- UVRGA: April meeting canceled.
- Budget/Rate Committee: No report.
- Emergency Management Committee: No report.
- Allocations, New Meters & Expansion of Services Committee: No report.

- Grants: No report.
- Treatment Plant Design Ad Hoc Committee: No report.

12. **Old Business**

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

13. **Director Announcements/Reports**

- Director Kentosh: No report
- Director Oakland: No report
- Director Pangea: No report
- Director Cooper: No report
- Director Etchart: Asked if there was any news on the private well on W. El Roblar and the abandoned house on La Luna.

14. **Meeting Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on May 20, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Since there was no further business to conduct, Board President Mike Etchart adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.

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**Board Secretary**

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**Board President**