

Regular Meeting  
November 18, 2025  
6:00 pm

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

## **Minutes**

### 1. **Call to Order**

The Board President, Mike Etchart, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The meeting was also available via teleconference.

### 2. **Roll Call**

**Present:** Board President, Mike Etchart, Board Directors: James Kentosh, Christy Cooper, and Joe Pangea. Staff Present: General Manager, Justin Martinez, and Board Secretary, Summer Ward. Attorney Present: Stuart Nielson; Jeanne Zolezzi – Closed Session only (via teleconference).

**Absent:** Director, Christian Oakland.

### 3. **Approval of the Minutes**

#### **Approval of the October 21, 2025, Regular Board Meeting minutes.**

Director Kentosh made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2025, meeting. Director Cooper seconded the motion.

#### **No Public Comment.**

Kentosh/Cooper

(4) Ayes – M/S/C

(1) Absent - Oakland

### 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.**

- 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 6:32 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 October 16, 2025, to November 15, 2025, in the amount of:**

Payables:	\$ 190,368.91
Payroll:	<u>\$ 57,380.23</u>
Total:	\$ 247,749.14

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

No Public Comment.

Pangea/Kentosh

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

7. **Board Discussion/Actions**

a) **Approve Amendments to the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement and direct staff to prepare written approval for submission to the UVRGA.**

Director Kentosh introduced the summary of the proposed UVRGA JPA amendments. The UVRGA members have been working on these revisions for a few months; agendas are typically routine, and it is an appropriate time to revisit the meeting guardrails. Director Kentosh noted that the UVRGA representatives unanimously approved sending the proposed amendments to each member agency for approval. Director Cooper stated she appreciated the MOWD staff report summarizing the amendments.

Director Cooper made the motion to approve the UVRGA JPA amendments and authorize staff to submit the written approval. Director Kentosh seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Cooper/Kentosh

(4) Ayes – M/S/C

(1) Absent - Oakland

**b) Approve the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan.**

Mr. Martinez presented the updated 10-year Capital Improvement Project Plan, as recommended by the Budget & Rate Committee. He noted that a few projects were removed and that some project timelines had been shifted. The most significant cost is attributed to the FY2027-2028 for the storage tank replacement, which the committee recommends be covered by a loan.

Director Kentosh recommended that the District consider upgrading the Fairview vault in the next 5-10 years.

Director Cooper stated that the Committees have reviewed and made edits to the projects and recommends that the Board approve the 10-year Capital Improvement Project Plan. The approved plan will be provided to the Water Rate Consultants for inclusion in the rate study.

No Public Comment

Cooper/Pangea

(4) Ayes – M/S/C

(1) Absent - Oakland

**8. General Manager's Report**

Mr. Martinez reported that the Casitas Lake level is at 93.8%, and the lake was diverting during the recent storm. Well 4a temporary equipment is still in place. Curtis Hopkins will be reviewing possible options for the permanent equipment. Staff upgraded the manifold where wells 4a and 7 come together, as well as a stub out for the old well 4, to increase production and reduce pressure. Mr. Martinez noted that with the upgraded manifold and Well 4a rehab, production has increased by 10% and almost 20% since 2022, when the water table was at a similar level. Well 1 inspection revealed a section of low-carbon steel with holes; he is unsure why it wasn't all stainless steel during the 2019 rehab under the previous GM. Mr. Martinez will report back with updates on Well 1 repair and, if applicable,

Well 2. The CalARP process is underway. Staff anticipate an AMI meter delivery in the next week. Mr. Martinez reviewed the water levels, drawdown, and specific capacity figures, noting the changes in Well 4a.

No Public Comment.

#### 9. **Board Secretary's Report**

Ms. Ward noted that changes to the Brown Act requirements are coming in 2026. Ms. Ward will attend a CSDA training on the changes on December 10, 2025. Ms. Ward will present any applicable document updates for board approval. Staff have scheduled a Tyler Technologies payroll specialist to perform a payroll compliance assessment. Work will begin in early December. SDRMA Risk Control Assessment site visit is scheduled for November 19, 2025. The Water Rate Study with RDN continues to make progress. Ms. Ward noted that Directors need to complete their biennial training and that, starting in 2026, the State will also require Financial Responsibility training, in addition to Ethics and Anti-Harassment.

No Public Comment.

#### 10. **Board Committee Reports**

- Executive & Personnel Committee: No report.
- UVRGA: No meeting.
- Budget/Rate Committee: Met, provided recommendations for 10-year capital improvement plan.
- 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.

#### 11. **Old Business**

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

#### 12. **Director Announcements/Reports**

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

13. **Meeting Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on December 16, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Since there was no further business to conduct, Board President Mike Etchart adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.

---

**Board Secretary**

---

**Board President**