

Regular Meeting  
April 21, 2026  
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 6:01 pm. The meeting was also available via teleconference.

### 2. **Roll Call**

**Present:** Board President, Mike Etchart, Board Directors: James Kentosh, Christian Oakland, Christine Cooper, and Joe Pangea. Staff Present: General Manager, Justin Martinez, and Board Secretary, Summer Ward. Attorney Present: Stuart Nielson; and Jeanne Zolezzi (closed-session only).

**Absent:** None.

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

#### **Approval of the March 17, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes.**

Director Kentosh made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2026, meeting. Director Pangea seconded the motion.

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

Kentosh/Pangea

(4) Ayes – M/S/C

(1) Abstain – Oakland (Absent 3/17/2026)

### 4. **Time Certain: Water Rate Study Updated Report and Prop 218 Preparation Presentation.**

Ms. Ward introduced Anthony Elowsky with Robert D. Niehaus (RDN). Mr. Elowsky stated that the goal of the presentation is to review updates to the rate study report based on previous feedback and to discuss the Prop 218 notice and planning. Director Kentosh requested clarification on the new rate structure, specifically the fixed-rate ratio by meter size and the ratio of fixed to variable. The GM will evaluate potential requests to size meters up or down on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, Director Kentosh recommended adding slides to the Prop 218 presentation showing the current condition of some

infrastructure, such as Tank 2. Director Cooper added that staff should consider adding figures, such as the monthly cost per customer for specific items, such as laboratory testing for water quality. Staff will work on locating a larger meeting room within the District for the public hearing scheduled for June 16, 2026.

Director Kentosh made the motion to approve the proposed rate structure, schedule, and Prop 218 notice for a public hearing on June 16, 2026. Director Cooper seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Kentosh/Cooper

(5) Ayes – M/S/C

## 5. Public Comments

One public member was present online, but did not comment.

***\*\*The Board went into closed session at 6:40 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 7:10 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, 2026, to April 15, 2026, in the amount of:**

Payables:	\$ 111,156.36
Payroll:	<u>\$ 53,180.36</u>
Total:	\$ 164,336.72

Director Pangea requested clarification on three items: 1) did the District purchase a storage container; 2) what is the EHD payment of \$1,100 for; 3) why did Granite Construction get a refund check. Mr. Martinez responded that yes, the District budgeted for a storage container and purchased a 40ft container with a roll-up door for 50% of the budgeted amount. Ms. Ward stated the EHD payment is an annual reporting expense paid to the Ventura County Environmental Health Division; the refund issued to Granite was for the hydrant meter rental. They paid a \$1000 deposit. Any final billing is retained, and if the meter and hydrant are in good repair at the end of the rental, the remaining deposit is refunded. Director Cooper asked whether the Budget Committee overestimated property tax revenue for FY26. Ms. Ward stated that funds are still pending for this FY.

Director Pangea made the motion to approve the Payroll and Payables for March 16, 2026, to April 15, 2026. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Pangea/Oakland  
(5) Ayes – M/S/C

## 8. **Board Discussion/Actions**

### a) **Discuss and provide direction regarding Riverview Trailhead culvert failure.**

Mr. Martinez reviewed the history of the culvert at the Riverview Trailhead, beginning with notifications and discussions among Ojai Land Conservancy (OVLC), Ventura County, and MOWD regarding concerns about its condition in June 2025. Mr. Martinez reported that there was a recent incident involving his daughter and their horse, causing his daughter to be thrown off the horse and badly injuring the horse. This incident was reported to OVLC and the County. The parties met at the site to inspect the area, and the County representative recommended that MOWD submit a public records request for information regarding the culvert. Staff submitted the records request, and the County reported that they had only an original diagram of the culvert from about 1987, with no installation-, maintenance-, or easement-related documents. The culvert is attached to the drainage across S. Rice Rd to help divert water flow. Staff recommends contacting the other easement holder and sending a letter to the parties regarding the status of the culvert.

Attorney Nielsen recommended sending a letter to the County of Ventura. The Board asked Mr. Martinez for a rough estimate to repair that section of pipe, and he responded with \$20,000.

The Board directed staff to contact the other easement holder, Attorney Nielsen, to send a letter to the County of Ventura, and for Mr. Martinez to obtain quotes for replacing the culvert pipe.

No Public Comment.

No Motion.

#### 9. **General Manager's Report**

Mr. Martinez reported that the Casitas Lake level is at 99.8% as of April 16, 2026. The Well 4a area is being prepped for the reinstallation of the fencing. The eAR was completed and submitted on time. The 2026 Consumer Confidence Report (2025 data) is pending. The PFAS monitoring is complete, and none were detected in the lab results. Staff is working on creating SOPs, Safety procedures, and recommended corrections based on the CalARP hazard assessment performed by Resource Compliance. There was a service leak on W. El Roblar in March, related to age. This leaking service line, which ran under part of W. El Roblar, did not connect to any existing service and has been abandoned.

No Public Comment.

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

Ms. Ward provided a summary of administrative activities. Ms. Ward reported that 100% of the annual Form 700s were submitted to the County before the April 1 deadline. The CalARP onsite compliance meeting with Resource Compliance with the District's new representative was held on March 24, 2026. The SWRCB eAR was submitted on the new state portal on March 26, 2026. The quarterly SWRCB Drought Reporting was submitted on April 17, 2026. The Water Rate Study conducted by RDN was presented earlier in the agenda; staff will be preparing to send out the Prop 218 notices. The Financial Audit for FY 25-26 pre-work meeting with the auditors is scheduled for May 4, 2026. Ms. Ward will present the updated resolutions for requesting a consolidated election and a conflict of interest policy next month, in preparation for the upcoming election requirements.

No Public Comment.

#### 11. **Board Committee Reports**

- Executive & Personnel Committee: No report.
- UVRGA: Met; routine meeting.
- Budget/Rate Committee: Ms. Ward noted that a meeting will be scheduled soon.
- Emergency Management Committee: Ms. Ward noted that a meeting will be scheduled soon.
- 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: No report.

14. **Meeting Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on May 19, 2026, at 6:00 pm. Since there was no further business to conduct, Board President Mike Etchart adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

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**Board Secretary**

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**Board President**