



MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE EAST ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT (EOCWD)

January 23, 2025

1. Call to Order. A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the East Orange County Water District, held at the District Office, located at 185 N. McPherson Road in the City of Orange, California, was called to order by President GEORGE MURDOCH at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2025. Vice-President MARILYN THOMS led the Pledge of Allegiance. JEFFREY HOSKINSON, Secretary, recorded the minutes of the meeting.

The following Directors attended the meeting: DOUGLASS DAVERT, GEORGE MURDOCH, JOHN SEARS, and MARILYN THOMS. KARIN MARQUEZ, who was appointed as a director the day prior while out-of-town for personal reasons, was absent from the meeting.

Also present were:

DAVID YOUNGBLOOD	General Manager
JERRY MENDZER	Operations Manager
BOBBY YOUNG	Engineering Manager
SYLVIA PRADO	Office Manager
JEFF HOSKINSON	District Secretary and Legal Counsel
HON. JOHN LEWIS	Lewis Consulting
JOHN NIELSEN	Former Director
SUE PAYNE	Public

Other staff and members of the public may have attended but are not listed above.

2. Addition of Items Arising After Posting of Agenda Requiring Immediate Action.
(Requires 2/3 vote or unanimous vote if less than 2/3 of members are present).

ACTION TAKEN: None.

3. Public Communications to the Board. None.

CONSENT CALENDAR. Director DAVERT requested that Item No. 10 be pulled from the Consent Calendar. As to the balance of the Consent Calendar, the Board, on motion from SEARS, seconded by THOMS, approved the Consent Calendar by a unanimous vote of all members present as follows:

- 4. Minutes:** THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED;
- 5. General Manager's Report:** THE BOARD RECEIVED AND FILED THE GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT;



6. **Wholesale and Retail Water Usage Report:** THE BOARD RECEIVED AND FILED THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WATER USAGE REPORT;
7. **Schedules of Disbursements:** THE BOARD APPROVED THE SCHEDULE OF DISBURSEMENTS AS SUBMITTED;
8. **Financial Statements:** THE BOARD RECEIVED AND FILED THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS; and
9. **Conference and Meeting Requests:** THE BOARD AUTHORIZED ATTENDANCE AS DESIRED AT THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES (ACWA) SPRING CONFERENCE IN MAY 2025.

The Board then considered Item No. 10 individually, as follows:

10. Commendation of John Nielsen. The Board recognized and honored former Director John Nielsen for his service for the East Orange County Water District, following his election to the City of Tustin City Council.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by MURDOCH, approved by unanimous vote of all members present Resolution No. 951, expressing appreciation to former Director John Nielsen for the outstanding service rendered to EOCWD.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.

11. Recognition Policy. General Manager Youngblood deferred to the staff report on this item, added at the request of Director SEARS. At the request of Director SEARS, President MURDOCH summarized the item before the Board. The Board discussed the item, with Director SEARS indicating specifically that he desired for former Board President William VanderWerff's picture to be hung in the EOCWD lobby not as a policy, but specific request. Director DAVERT expressed his disapproval of naming things after people who are living and his desire for a policy to not engage in extra efforts to honor former Board members beyond commendation resolutions. The Board discussed the various preferences of its members.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by THOMS, approved by a vote of 3-1, with MURDOCH, THOMS, and DAVERT voting for, and SEARS against, a policy (1) to provide no further recognition for former Director VanderWerff beyond the naming of the well and prior resolutions, and (2) to generally limit future Board member recognition to commendation resolutions.

12. Board Appointment – Division 4. President MURDOCH announced that the Board had at the January 22, 2025 Special Meeting appointed Director MARQUEZ to fill the vacancy of former Director Nielsen. Accordingly, this item was pulled for action on this Agenda.

ACTION TAKEN: None.



13. Financial Management Services. General Manager Youngblood introduced the item, which included a recommendation to transition the provision of financial services from Eide Bailly to Starting Line Advisory effective in April 2025, upon the retirement of Cindy Byerrum.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion from DAVERT, seconded by SEARS, approved by unanimous vote of all members present a professional services agreement with Starting Line Advisory for financial services.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

14. Monthly Legislative & Outreach Report. Honorable John Lewis, of Lewis Consulting, provided a brief oral update on his written report, including an overview of County politics and personal announcements. President MURDOCH commented on the Townsend Public Affairs report, and the good information within it.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion from DAVERT, seconded by THOMS, approved by unanimous vote of all members present to receive and file the presented reports.

15. Directors' reports on meetings attended at District expense (Government Code Section 53232.3) and Directors' comments. The Directors reported attendance as set forth in the agenda, as follows:

President Murdoch

- 12/3-12/5 2024 ACWA Fall Conference
- 12/4 ACWA Region 10 Membership Meeting
- 12/16 ACWA Region 10 Board Meeting
- 12/19 EOCWD Employee Recognition Holiday Lunch
- 12/19 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting

Vice President Thoms

- 12/2-12/5 2024 ACWA Fall Conference
- 12/9 Independent Special Districts of Orange County (ISDOC) Executive Board Meeting
- 12/13 Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO)
- 12/19 EOCWD Employee Recognition Holiday Lunch
- 12/19 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting

Director Davert

- 12/19 EOCWD Employee Recognition Holiday Lunch
- 12/19 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting

Director Sears

- 12/3-12/5 2024 ACWA Fall Conference
- 12/13 Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO)
- 12/19 EOCWD Employee Recognition Holiday Lunch
- 12/19 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting



Director SEARS provided an overview of the WACO meeting in January, including a summary of a presentation from a climate expert. Director DAVERT inquired as to the status of the cloudseeding pilot project at EOCWD's facility, to which General Manager Youngblood indicated the pilot project had concluded as to EOCWD's facilities, and there was not an intention to use the site again going forward. Vice-President THOMS provided an overview of the upcoming ISDOC quarterly luncheon. President MURDOCH provided an update on ACWA and his involvement.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:36 p.m., noting that the next Regular Meeting due to conflicts has been scheduled for **Thursday, February 20, 2025**, at 5:00 p.m., at the District Office located at 185 North McPherson, Orange, California, 92869.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey A. Hoskinson