



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

February 20, 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, February 20, 2025. Director DOUG DAVERT led the Pledge of Allegiance. JEFFREY HOSKINSON, Secretary, recorded the minutes of the meeting.

The following Directors attended the meeting: DOUGLASS DAVERT, KARIN MARQUEZ, GEORGE MURDOCH, JOHN SEARS, and MARILYN THOMS.

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
JOHN NIELSEN	Former Director/Tustin City Council
HON. JOHN LEWIS	Lewis Consulting
PAUL MESMER	Independent Special Districts of Orange County
PAUL KAYMARK	Nigro & Nigro PC
IAN BERG	Starting Line Advisory
SCOTT NELSON	Starting Line Advisory
ROBERT SANDERS	Public
ROSE JONES	Public

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

2. Administration of Oath of Office – Karin Marquez. John Nielsen administered the oath of office before Secretary Hoskinson and the Board of Directors.

3. 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.

**** ITEM 13 WAS HEARD OUT OF ORDER**



13. Monthly Legislative & Outreach Report. Honorable John Lewis, of Lewis Consulting, provided a brief oral update on his written report, including an update on local elections, the State Senate, and politics of the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

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

***** THE BOARD RETURN TO THE BALANCE OF THE AGENDA**

4. Public Communications to the Board. Paul Mesmer of ISDOC provided an update on the agency to the Board, including an overview of current issues and upcoming meetings and speakers.

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:

5. **Minutes:** THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING AND JANUARY 23, 2025 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD WERE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED;
6. **General Manager's Report:** THE BOARD RECEIVED AND FILED THE GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT;
7. **Wholesale and Retail Water Usage Report:** THE BOARD RECEIVED AND FILED THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WATER USAGE REPORT;
8. **Schedules of Disbursements:** THE BOARD APPROVED THE SCHEDULE OF DISBURSEMENTS AS SUBMITTED;
9. **Financial Statements:** THE BOARD RECEIVED AND FILED THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS; and

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.

10. Annual Audit Presentation. General Manager Youngblood introduced Paul Kaymark who presented a summary of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit. Mr. Kaymark noted that minor issues were identified, discussed with management, and corrected, before presenting a summary on the separate audits for the wholesale, retail, and ID1 Sewer zones. The Board briefly discussed the reserve status, with potential future discussion to review and revise reserve policies and targets.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by SEARS, by unanimous vote elected to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit.



11. Committee Assignments. President MURDOCH reviewed the existing committee assignments in light of the appointment of Director MARQUEZ, noting that at this time the assignments remained generally the same, with Ms. Marquez added as the alternate representative to the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) in place of former Director Nielsen.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by THOMS, by unanimous vote received and filed the Committee Assignment report.

12. Special Counsel Transition. General Manager Youngblood introduced the item, explaining that Greg Newmark, the District's counsel in the *IRWD v. OCWD* litigation, had moved from Meyers Nave to Duane Morris.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion from THOMS, seconded by SEARS, by unanimous vote delegated authority to the General Manager to direct a determination as to representation in the *IRWD v. OCWD* litigation, with a preference for continued representation by Greg Newmark of Duane Morris subject to confirmation that the District's partners in the litigation, Mesa Water District and Yorba Linda Water District, intend to take the same action.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

14. 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

- 1/13 ACWA R10 Midterm Board Meeting
- 1/22 EOCWD Special Board Meeting
- 1/23 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
- 1/28 ACWA Region 10 Board Meeting
- 1/30 ACWA Board Workshop, Sacramento
- 1/31 ACWA Board Meeting, Sacramento

Vice President Thoms

- 1/3 Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO)
- 1/7 ISDOC Executive Committee
- 1/22 EOCWD Special Board Meeting
- 1/23 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
- 1/29 ISDOC Quarterly Luncheon

Director Davert

- 1/22 EOCWD Special Board Meeting
- 1/23 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting



Director Sears

- 1/3 Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO)
- 1/22 EOCWD Special Board Meeting
- 1/23 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
- 1/29 ISDOC Quarterly Luncheon

Director SEARS provided an overview of the WACO meeting in February.

Director DAVERT discussed the published Water Resource Reservoir levels, and welcomed Director MARQUEZ. Director DAVERT noted that wildfires are the major topic at moment, and we may want an update on how fire hardened EOCWD is, including backup power and fire hardened facilities. General Manager Youngblood noted that the water system is not designed for protecting 100 homes simultaneously, and discussed backup power options and vegetation removal efforts.

Vice-President THOMS discussed the ISDOC luncheon, providing a summary Doug Chaffey's discussions on County claims relative to the Airport Fire. Director THOMS also noted that Foothill Community Meeting is on March 3, 2025.

President MURDOCH discussed Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) involvement, including upcoming workshops. President MURDOCH noted that Marwan Khalifa has been appointed interim Executive Director, with an open recruitment to occur to locate a permanent director. President MURDOCH noted that ACWA has a new strategic plan, with key performance indicators.

It was requested that wildfire updates and ideas for messaging be scheduled as a future item for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:44 p.m., to the next Regular Meeting scheduled for **Thursday, March 27, 2025**, at 5:00 p.m., at the District Office located at 185 North McPherson, Orange, California, 92869.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Hoskinson

The signature of Jeffrey A. Hoskinson is written in black ink above a horizontal line. The signature is a cursive-style name.