



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

February 19, 2026

**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 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026. Director KARIN MARQUEZ led the Pledge of Allegiance. JEFF 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
BOBBY YOUNG	Engineering Manager
SYLVIA PRADO	Office Manager
JEFF HOSKINSON	District Secretary and Legal Counsel
CHAD WANKE	Orbis Public Affairs (Consultant)
PAUL KAYMARK	Nigro & Nigro (Consultant)
IAN BERG	Starting Line Advisory

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.** At the request of Director THOMS, Item 6 was pulled from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion before consideration. The Board, on motion from DAVERT, seconded by MARQUEZ, approved the balance of the Consent Calendar by a unanimous vote as follows:

- 4. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held January 22, 2026:** THE BOARD APPROVED THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED;
- 5. Wholesale and Retail Water Usage Report:** THE BOARD RECEIVED AND FILED THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WATER USAGE REPORT;
- 7. Financial Statements:** THE BOARD RECEIVED AND FILED THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS; and



**6. Schedule of Disbursements.** Director THOMS inquired as to whether EOCWD provided the option for employees to purchase life insurance, and whether EOCWD was banking with Umpqua Bank. It was confirmed that employees have life insurance through ACWA-JPIA and Standard Insurance Company, and that while EOCWD did bank with Umpqua, that bank has now merged with Columbia Bank, assuming the name of Columbia Bank.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion from DAVERT, seconded by MARQUEZ, approved the schedule of disbursements as submitted.

#### **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.**

**8. Annual Audit.** General Manager Youngblood introduced the item, noting auditor Paul Kaymark of Nigro & Nigro previously presented to the Admin/Finance Committee, which recommended approval.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by THOMS, by unanimous vote received and filed the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit.

**9. Public Hearing and Consideration for Approval of Ordinance 2026-01.** President MURDOCH opened the public hearing, invited public comment and confirmed that no written comments had been received, and closed the hearing with no public in attendance. Thereafter, the Board engaged in a brief discussion over the proposed compensation.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by MARQUEZ, by unanimous vote adopted Ordinance 2026-01.

**10. Financial Services.** General Manager David Youngblood introduced the item, involving a Professional Services Agreement with Starting Line Advisory for a subsequent 3-year term with a retainer of \$9,600 per month, and amount significantly less than the prior financial management firm before Starting Line Advisory.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by SEARS, seconded by MARQUEZ, by unanimous vote to approve the 3-year professional services agreement with Starting Line Advisory for financial services as presented.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.**

**11. Monthly Legislative & Outreach Report.** Chad Wanke of Orbis Public Affairs provided some brief comments beyond his written report, including an update on leadership changes at the City of Anaheim and potential sewer flow modifications implemented by the City of Laguna Beach, including potential impacts on representatives at Orange County Sanitation District.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion duly seconded, by unanimous vote determined to receive and file the Monthly Legislative and Outreach Report.



**12. General Manager's Report.** General Manager Youngblood gave an update on the Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) installations, which started on February 18 and were expected to take a few months. General Manager Youngblood also provided a brief overview of the benefits, including hydrologic modeling benefits and water use data, associated with such installations. His report likewise included an update on boardroom Zoom installations and the state of the Crown Castle cellular phone lease at the 6MG Reservoir.

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

**13. 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

- 1/7 ACWA Video Conference Board of Directors Meeting
- 1/14 ACWA State Legislative Committee – Region 10 Prep
- 1/15 EOCWD Engineering & Operations Committee
- 1/19 ACWA Video Conference Board of Directors – Executive Recruitment
- 1/22 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
- 1/26 MWDOC Water Policy Dinner
- 1/29 ACWA Board Workshop, Sacramento
- 1/30 ACWA Board Meeting, Sacramento

Vice President Thoms

- 1/6 ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting
- 1/9 Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO)
- 1/15 EOCWD Engineering & Operations Committee
- 1/22 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
- 1/26 MWDOC Water Policy Dinner
- 1/29 ISDOC Quarterly Lunch

Director Davert

- 1/22 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
- 1/26 MWDOC Water Policy Dinner

Director Sears

- 1/9 Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO)
- 1/22 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
- 1/26 MWDOC Water Policy Dinner

Director Marquez

- 1/22 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
- 1/26 MWDOC Water Policy Dinner

Director SEARS provided an update on the topic discussed at the WACO meeting, including spending on water infrastructure.



President MURDOCH discussed recent ACWA-related events, including a Region 10 meeting in Oceanside that included discussion as to potential topics of discussion for a program to meet with gubernatorial candidates to provide briefings on the issues facing water infrastructure.

Vice-President THOMS discussed the ISDOC meeting, including encouragement from Supervisor Don Wagner, who is chairing the USA 250 events for Orange County for directors to share historical items impacting Orange County. In response to such encourage, Vice-President THOMS researched, prepared, and read at the meeting a 250-word essay on EOCWD's prior General Counsel, Joan Arneson, of Bowie, Arneson, Wiles & Giannone.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

The Board adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:36 p.m. to a Regular Meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m. on **Thursday, March 26, 2026**, at the District Office located at 185 North McPherson, Orange, California, 92869.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jeffrey A. Hoskinson", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive in style.

Jeffrey A. Hoskinson