



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

July 23, 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, July 23, 2026. Director DAVERT led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present were:

DAVID YOUNGBLOOD	General Manager
JERRY MENDZER	Operations Manager
BOBBY YOUNG	Engineering Manager
JEFF HOSKINSON	Board Secretary/General Counsel
CHAD WANKE	Orbis Public Affairs (Consultant)
ERIN MURRAY	Member of the 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. The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by THOMS, approved the Consent Calendar by a vote of 4-0-1 (Director SEARS absent) as follows:

- 4. Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held May 28, 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;
- 6. Schedule of Disbursements:** THE BOARD RECEIVED AND FILED THE SCHEDULE OF DISBURSEMENTS;
- 7. Financial Statements:** THE BOARD RECEIVED AND FILED THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS;

8. **ISDOC Nomination:** THE BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 26.27.01; and
9. **Support for ACWA's Vision Program:** THE BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION NO. 26.27.02.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.

10. **Customer Appeal on Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Metering.** General Manager Youngblood introduced the item, explaining that the District's AMI installation is nearing completion (approximately 1,200 meters installed, roughly 20 remaining), that the meters are located in the public right-of-way and transmit a small amount of data via cellular connection for about one second, four times per day, and that the District does not currently offer an opt-out. District customer Erin Murray addressed the Board, raising health concerns regarding radio-frequency emissions and requesting that the District adopt an opt-out policy. Following discussion, while President MURDOCH requested that General Manager Youngblood bring any evidence provided back to the Board if further consideration warranted, the Board was not inclined to grant the appeal based on the location of the meter in the public right-of-way.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by MARQUEZ, by a vote of 4-0-1 (Director SEARS absent), denied the appeal and directed staff to proceed with installation of the meter.

11. **Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report on PFAS.** The Board considered the proposed response letter to the Orange County Grand Jury report on PFAS.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by THOMS, by a vote of 4-0-1 (Director SEARS absent), approved the response letter.

12. **General Manager's Report.** General Manager Youngblood highlighted key elements of his report, including that the AMI project is down to approximately 11 remaining meters and that the District's transition of banking services to Five-Star Bank is underway, with different investment strategies to be brought back as a future item.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by MARQUEZ, by a vote of 4-0-1 (Director SEARS absent), received and filed the report.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

13. **Monthly Legislative & Outreach Report.** The Board received the monthly legislative and outreach report, including the written Townsend Public Affairs report in the packet and a verbal update from Chad Wanke of Orbis Public Affairs addressing county and local city political developments, special district personnel changes, and local city financing and budget matters.



ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by MARQUEZ, by a vote of 4-0 (Director SEARS absent), received and filed the Monthly Legislative and Outreach Report.

14. Directors' reports on meetings attended at District expense (Government Code Section 53232.3) and Directors' comments.

President Murdoch

5/5-5/7 ACWA Conference, Sacramento, CA
5/19 Interview Panel – Assistant Water Utilities Director
5/20 EOCWD Engineering & Operations Committee
5/22 ACWA Projects of Statewide Significance Task Force Launch Meeting
5/28 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
6/1 ACWA Region 10 Event Planning Meeting
6/5 ACWA Board Meeting, Sacramento, CA
6/15 MWDOC Water Policy Forum & Dinner
6/16 EOCWD GM Evaluation Meeting
6/17 T.E.A.M. Presentation
6/22 ACWA Region 10 Planning Meeting

Vice President Thoms

5/1 Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO)
5/5 ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting
5/20 EOCWD Engineering & Operations Committee
5/28 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
6/5 Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO)
6/9 ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting

Director Davert

5/28 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting

Director Sears

5/1 Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO)
5/19 EOCWD Administration & Finance Committee Meeting
5/28 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
6/5 Water Advisory Committee of Orange County (WACO)
6/15 MWDOC Water Policy Forum & Dinner

Director Marquez

5/19 EOCWD Administration & Finance Committee Meeting
5/28 EOCWD Regular Board Meeting
6/15 MWDOC Water Policy Forum & Dinner

President MURDOCH reported that Karla Nemeth will take over as Executive Director of ACWA in September, with interim CEO Marwan Khalifa continuing in deputy position to support the transition. He also provided a Task Force update, noting two recent trips and that progress has been more difficult than hoped, and discussed Colorado River issues, including that Lake Mead and Lake Powell are not doing well.

No additional Director or staff comments were offered.

CLOSED SESSION.

15. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code § 54957) – Title: General Manager.
16. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code § 54957.6) – Agency Representative: George Murdoch, Board President; Unrepresented Employee: General Manager.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.

17. **Consider Approval of General Manager Contract and/or Compensation Amendments.** Following closed session, the Board considered amendments to the General Manager's contract and compensation, including a \$10,000 contribution to the General Manager's 457 plan to be incorporated into a contract amendment, retroactive to July 1, 2026.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board, on motion by DAVERT, seconded by THOMS, by a vote of 4-0-1 (Director SEARS absent), approved a 6.2% salary increase for the General Manager, effective July 1, 2026, together with the related contract amendment.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:59 p.m. to a regular meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2026, at the District Office located at 185 N. McPherson Road, Orange, California 92869.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey A. Hoskinson