



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MESA WATER DISTRICT
Wednesday, November 12, 2025
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President DePasquale.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Atkinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Directors Present

Marice H. DePasquale, President
Shawn Dewane, Vice President
Jim Atkinson, Director
Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Director
James R. Fisler, Director

Directors Absent

None

Staff Present

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager
Denise Khalifa, Chief Administrative Officer/
District Secretary
Tyler Jernigan, Water Operations Manager/
Acting District Treasurer
Kurt Lind, Business Manager
Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
Anthony Phou, Controller
Kaitlyn Norris, Public Affairs Supervisor
Rob Anslow, General Legal Counsel

Others Present

Jeffrey D. Corless, President & CEO, Venture Strategic
Peter B. Dorsch, Vice President, Community Engagement,
Venture Strategic
Rodulfo Castro, Senior Consultant, Industrial Hygiene and
Safety, Citadel EHS
Joseph Smith, Senior Information Security Consultant, Nth
Generation
James Gonzalez, Senior Account Executive, Nth Generation
Ryan Cislo, Senior Manager, Forensic & Valuation Services,
Plante Moran

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President DePasquale asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

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There was no public present and President DePasquale proceeded with the meeting.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA

General Manager Shoenberger reported there were no items to be added, removed or reordered on the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of October 8, 2025.
2. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of October 22, 2025.
3. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
4. Board Schedule:
 - Conferences, Seminars and Meetings
 - Board Calendar
 - Upcoming Community Outreach Events
5. Acknowledge the delay of the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit and affirm the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Financial Report will be presented to the Board of Directors in March 2026.
6. Approve a two-year contract renewal with Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$135,000 annually to provide Federal Government Advocacy Consulting Services through December 31, 2027, with up to two additional 1-year renewals available, and authorize execution of the contract.

MOTION

Motion by Director Atkinson, second by Director Fidler, to approve Items 1 – 6 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

7. ORANGE COUNTY ADVOCACY CONSULTING SERVICES:

Water Policy Manager Taylor introduced Venture Strategic President & CEO Jeffrey Corless and Vice President of Community Engagement Peter Dorsch. Mr. Corless proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Firm Overview
- Mesa Water District Team
- Scope of Work for Mesa Water
- Key Updates - October

Mr. Corless and Mr. Dorsch responded to questions from the Board and they thanked them for the presentation.

8. FISCAL YEAR 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM AUDIT:

Business Manager Lind provided an overview of the topic and introduced Citadel EHS Senior Consultant of Industrial Hygiene and Safety Rodolfo Castro who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

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- The Road to Excellence
- Scorecard
- 2025 Significant Improvements
- Experience Modification Rate (EMR)
- 2025 Opportunities for Improvement
- Next Steps

Mr. Castro responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the presentation.

9. CUSTOMER PROJECT – C0681-25-01 – 1400 BRISTOL STREET:

District Engineer Wiesner provided a presentation that highlighted the following:

- 1400 Bristol Street – Existing Site
- 1400 Bristol Street – Water Improvement Plan

Mr. Wiesner responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the presentation.

MOTION

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by President DePasquale, to approve a quitclaim of Mesa Water District's easement for the six-inch distribution line, an easement for access to the new three-inch meter and double check detector assembly, and modification of the easement for the six-inch distribution line and two fire hydrants on the southwest property line located at 1400 Bristol Street. Motion passed 5 – 0.

ACTION ITEMS:

10. HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM:

District Engineer Wiesner provided an overview of the topic.

Mr. Wiesner responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the information.

MOTION

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by Director Fisler, to authorize the General Manager to accept Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds, if awarded, for the Mesa Water Reliability Facility Emergency Backup Power Project and commit a Mesa Water District cost share for an amount not to exceed \$960,500 (25% of total project cost). Motion passed 5 – 0.

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11. NEWPORT BEACH INTERAGENCY WATER TRANSFERS:

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Director Atkinson, to authorize the General Manager to approve contracts for an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the construction, construction management and engineering services necessary to proceed with a new interconnection between Mesa Water District and the City of Newport Beach. Motion passed 5 – 0.

12. TRAVEL AND BUSINESS EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY:

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President Dewane, to adopt Resolution No. 1607 Revising the Travel and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy Superseding Resolution No. 1579, with modifications to limit reimbursement for travel by a personal vehicle to within the state of California and to define the de minimis use threshold for mileage as travel that takes place within the boundaries of Orange County. Motion passed 5 – 0, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Bockmiller, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	None

REPORTS:

13. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

14. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

15. ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENT

16. FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL REIMBURSEMENT REPORT

17. FEDERAL ADVOCACY UPDATE

18. STATE ADVOCACY UPDATE

19. ORANGE COUNTY ADVOCACY UPDATE

20. DIRECTORS' REPORTS (AB 1234) PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.3 (D)

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RECESS

President DePasquale declared a recess at 5:50 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 5:59 p.m.

CLOSED SESSIONS:

President DePasquale announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 5:59 p.m.

21. CONFERENCE REGARDING CYBER SECURITY PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(A):
The Board will meet in Closed Session regarding cybersecurity risks and protections.
22. PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6:
Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: General Manager

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:37 p.m.

District Secretary Khalifa announced the Board conducted Closed Session Item 21 with the General Manager, District Secretary, Business Manager and General Legal Counsel pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957(A). The Board received information and provided direction to staff.

District Secretary Khalifa announced the Board conducted Closed Session Item 22 with the Business Manager pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6. The Board received information and there was no further announcement.

President DePasquale adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m. to an Adjourned Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

Marice H. DePasquale

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Marice H. DePasquale, President

Signed by:

Denise Khalifa

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Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer