



*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MESA WATER DISTRICT  
Tuesday, October 29, 2024  
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
3:30 p.m. Adjourned Regular Board Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by President Dewane.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Fisler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Directors Present**

Shawn Dewane, President  
Marice H. DePasquale, 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  
Marwan Khalifa, CPA, MBA, Chief Financial Officer/  
District Treasurer  
Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer  
Tyler Jernigan, Water Operations Manager  
Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager  
Kurt Lind, Business Administrator

**Others Present**

Edward Ring, Executive Director, California Policy Center  
Harry C. Lorick, P.E., Owner, LA Consulting, Inc.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

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

**ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED, OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA**

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

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF BALLOT INITIATIVES:

GM Shoenberger provided an overview of the topic and introduced California Policy Center Executive Director Edward Ring who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- The Water Infrastructure Funding Act
- What Happened?
- Lesson Learned
- Current Messages
- Current New Policy Ideas
- Current Target Audience
- Current Communications
- New Ballot Initiative – Basic Requirements
- New Ballot Initiative – Timeline
- New Ballot Initiative – Budget
- Goals

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

No action was taken on this item.

2. FISCAL YEAR 2024 DISTRICT-WIDE PERFORMANCE AUDIT:

Business Administrator Lind introduced LA Consulting, Inc. Owner Harry C. Lorick who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Annual Performance Audit: The Road to Gold
- Administrative Services & Human Resources
- Customer Services
- Engineering
- Financial Services
- Public Affairs
- Water Operations
- District Fiscal
- Overview
- Overall Score
- Conclusion

Messrs. Lorick and Lind responded to questions from the Board and they thanked them for the presentation.

## MOTION

Motion by Vice President DePasquale, second by Director Bockmiller, to eliminate the Mesa Water District Fiscal section of the District-Wide Annual Performance Audit. The Board directed staff to develop a standalone report for the AAA rating metrics and to agendaize the topic at a future Board meeting. Motion passed 5 – 0.

### 3. REGIONAL WATER ISSUES:

District Engineer Wiesner provided a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Interagency Water Transfers:
  - What is the Need?
  - Potential Regulatory Issues
  - How Much Can Mesa Water Supply?
  - Potential Savings
  - Next Steps
- New Local Water Supply Feasibility Study: “Local SIP”:
  - Potential Source Locations
  - Santa Ana River Cross Section
  - TDS Contour Map – Layer 1
  - Grant Funding and Project Partners
  - Project Update
  - 5 mgd Facility
  - Regional Pipeline
  - Regional Water Costs (Order of Magnitude)
  - Next Steps

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

No action was taken on this item.

### 4. FACILITY DEDICATIONS:

## MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President DePasquale, to direct staff to replace the Karl Kemp Reservoir plaque with one that mirrors the existing plaque, except the listed Board of Directors will be those who voted for the reservoir’s construction; and install the two existing Mesa Water Reliability Facility plaques in a new location on the west wall of the Nanofiltration Building. Motion passed 5 – 0.

### 5. FISCAL YEAR 2024 STRATEGIC PLAN STATUS:

GM Shoenberger provided a brief overview of the topic.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

GM Shoenberger responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the information.

No action was taken on this item.

**REPORTS:**

6. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
7. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

8. LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Water Policy Manager Taylor provided a brief overview of the topic.

Ms. Taylor responded to questions from the Board and they thanked her for the information.

President Dewane announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 6:12 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSIONS:**

9. CONFERENCE WITH SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL – POTENTIAL LITIGATION:  
PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 54956.9(d)(4) and 54954.5(b)

The Board will meet in Closed Session with staff to consider potential civil actions and/or regulatory proceedings which may be brought against Mesa Water District.

10. PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6:  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
TITLE: GENERAL MANAGER

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:00 p.m.

District Secretary Khalifa announced the Board conducted Closed Session Item 9 with the General Manager, District Secretary and Water Operations Manager pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(4) and 54954.5(b). The Board received information and provided direction to staff.

District Secretary Khalifa announced the Board conducted Closed Session Item 10 with the General Manager and District Secretary pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6. Action will be taken under Item 11.

**ACTION ITEMS (CONT.):**

11. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER:

Following the completion of the October 29, 2024 Closed Session, the Board approved a motion affecting the General Manager's salary and benefits; however, by motion passed by the Board at the November 13, 2024 meeting, the Board has superseded all actions previously taken at the October 29, 2024 workshop. Please see the November 13, 2024 Board meeting minutes for action taken on this matter.

*Mesa Water Adjourned Regular Board Meeting of October 29, 2024*

President Dewane adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

*Marice H. DePasquale*

Marice H. DePasquale, President

Signed by:

*Denise Khalifa*

Denise Khalifa, District Secretary