



*Dedicated to
Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs*

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MESA WATER DISTRICT
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
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
Calvin Hsu, CPA, Chief Financial Officer/District Treasurer
Jacob Hester, P.E., District Engineer
Kurt Lind, Business Manager
Juan Hernandez, Water Operations Manager
Peter DeMarco, Water Policy Manager
Isabel Stevens, Administrative Services Supervisor
Brandi Chapman, Board Secretary
Andie Jacobsen, Executive Assistant to the General Manager
Kaitlyn Norris, Public Affairs Supervisor

Others Present

Kathryn Anderson, Member of the Public

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Member of the Public Kathryn Anderson addressed the Board regarding consideration of an early leak detection system.

President DePasquale thanked Ms. Anderson for her comments and proceeded with the meeting.

Public Affairs Supervisor Norris explained how Mesa Water planned to commemorate the 9/11 anniversary by honoring the community's local first responders. A video tribute recognizing the events of 9/11 and honoring those affected was presented.

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President DePasquale thanked Ms. Norris for the tribute.

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.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of August 12, 2026.
2. Approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting of August 26, 2026.
3. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
4. Board Schedule:
 - Conferences, Seminars, and Meetings
 - Board Calendar
 - Upcoming Community Outreach Events
5. Approve a four-year contract with Venture Strategic for an amount not to exceed \$240,000 to provide Orange County Advocacy Consulting Services for Mesa Water District, and authorize execution of the contract.

President DePasquale asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President Dewane, to approve Items 1 – 5 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5 – 0.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NONE.

ACTION ITEMS:

6. CUSTOMER SERVICES OPERATION GUIDES:

President DePasquale asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

MOTION

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by President DePasquale, to approve a contract with The Northridge Group, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$29,500 to develop standardized End-to-End Operations Guides for a defined set of high-volume, high-impact customer service and field processes through December 31, 2026, and authorize execution of the contract. Motion passed 5 – 0.

7. GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES:

General Manager Shoenberger provided an overview of the topic and the process that was followed by staff to recommend a firm to the Board.

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President DePasquale asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Director Atkinson, to approve a five-year contract with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo to provide General Legal Counsel Services to Mesa Water District, designate Jeffrey Hoskinson as Primary Counsel, and authorize execution of the contract.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

The motion was withdrawn.

President DePasquale asked for comments from the public.

Member of the Public Kathryn Anderson commented on the benefits of using OpenAI for researching legal counsel services.

President DePasquale thanked Ms. Anderson for her comments.

MOTION

Motion by Vice President Dewane, second by President DePasquale, to approve a one-year extension of the contract, with the option of one additional year, with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo to provide General Legal Counsel Services with a new Primary Counsel, and authorize execution of the contract. Motion passed 5 – 0.

REPORTS:

8. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
9. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

RECESS

President DePasquale declared a recess at 5:48 p.m.

The Board meeting reconvened at 5:55 p.m.

President DePasquale announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 5:55 p.m.

CLOSED SESSIONS:

11. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR:
Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6(a)
District Negotiator: General Manager
Employee Organization: Represented and Non-Represented Employees

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The Board returned to Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

General Manager Shoenberger announced that the Board conducted one Closed Session with the General Manager, Administrative Services Supervisor, and Board Secretary pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6(a). The Board received information and there was no further announcement.

ACTION ITEMS:

12. FISCAL YEAR 2027 STAFFING PLAN:

President DePasquale asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by President DePasquale, to approve the following modifications to the Fiscal Year 2027 Staffing Plan, effective October 1, 2027:

1. Adjust the compensation for the Business Manager position to Range 55, approximately 15 percent above the Information Technology Coordinator;
2. Add one Full-Time Equivalent position - Business Administrator - and affirm the position's compensation at Range 53, approximately 10 percent above the Information Technology Coordinator; and
3. Affirm the compensation for the Information Technology Coordinator position at Range 49.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

President DePasquale adjourned the meeting, in honor of the victims of 9/11, at 6:07 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

Signed by:

Marice H. DePasquale

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Marice H. DePasquale, President

Signed by:

Andie Jacobsen

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Andie Jacobsen, Assistant District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer