

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
Board of Directors**

Approved

May 1, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Board of Directors was held in person and via teleconference on May 1, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. at their Administrative Offices located at 34156 Del Obispo Street, Dana Point, California. The following members of the Board of Directors were present:

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| KATHRYN FRESHLEY | El Toro Water District | Director |
| BOB WHALEN | City of Laguna Beach | Director |
| SCOTT GOLDMAN | South Coast Water District | Director |
| DAVE REBENDS DORF | City of San Clemente | Director |

Absent:

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| FRANK URY | Santa Margarita Water District | Director |
| MIKE DUNBAR | Emerald Bay Service District | Director |

Staff Present:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| AMBER BOONE | General Manager |
| JIM BURROR | Deputy GM/Chief Engineer |
| RONI GRANT | CIP Manager |
| DINA ASH | HR Administrator |
| ANNA SUTHERLAND | Accountant |
| JACK BECK | Staff Accountant |
| JAMES JONES | Superintendent of O&M |
| MATT CLARKE | Chief Technology Officer |
| DANITA HIRSH | Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board |

Also Present:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| ADRIANA OCHOA | Snell & Wilmer |
| BRAD NEUFELD | Varner & Brandt LLP |
| MIKE GASKINS | El Toro Water District |
| CHARLES BARFIELD | Orange County Employee Assoc. |
| SAM RICE | Orange County Employee Assoc. |
| ERICA CASTILLO | South Coast Water District |
| ROGER BUTOW | Clean Water Now (CWN) |
| KARI VOZENILEK | Kidman Gagen Law LLP |
| RICK SHINTAKU | South Coast Water District |
| DENNIS CAFFERTY | El Toro Water District |
| MATT COLLINGS | Moulton Niguel Water District |
| MARC SERNA | South Coast Water District |

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Scott Goldman called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Director Kathryn Freshley

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBER REQUEST FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION

None.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Ms. Danita Hirsh, Clerk of the Board, pulled agenda item 5a to be brought back to the Board in June, and agenda item 5b lacked a quorum for approval.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Whalen and seconded by Director Freshley to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar.

Motion carried: Aye 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 2
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Absent
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

(5C-5H)

- C. Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting for April 8, 2025
- D. Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting for March 18, 2025
- E. Finance Reports for the Month of February 2025 and Updated Quarterly Billings
Approved Action: The Board received and filed the February 2025 Financial Reports.
- F. March 2025 Operations Reports
Approved Action: Information Item; received and filed.
- G. Capital Improvement Program Status Report (March)
Approved Action: Information Item; received and filed.
- H. Capital Improvement Construction Projects Progress and Change Order Report (March) [Project Committees 2 and 15]
Approved Action: Information Item; received and filed.

6. ENGINEERING MATTERS

- A. J.B. Latham Treatment Plant (JBL) Flare System and Underground Piping Replacement Final Design [Project Committee 2]

This agenda item was pulled due to a lack of quorum; no action was taken.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Open Public Hearing on (AB2561): Agency Workforce Vacancies, Recruitment and Retention Trends

Director Goldman opened the public hearing on AB2561 to allow for public comments. There being no public comments, Director Goldman closed the public hearing.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

B. MOU for Use of Countywide Mass Notification System (AlertOC)

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Rebensdorf and seconded by Director Freshley to authorize the General Manager to execute the MOU to allow for SOCWA's continued use of Countywide Mass Notification System through December 30, 2029.

Motion carried: Aye 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 2
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Absent
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

C. Resolution No. 2025-08, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Adopting the 2025 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP).

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Whalen and seconded by Director Freshley to approve Resolution No. 2025-08, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Adopting the 2025 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP).

Motion carried: Aye 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 2
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Absent
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

D. CalOES Request for Assignment for Coastal Fire

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Freshley to authorize the execution of the Assignment Agreement with Cal OES.

Motion carried: Aye 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 2
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Absent
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

B. General Counsel's Update

Ms. Adriana Ochoa, General Counsel, reported that she would be attending the CASA Attorney's Committee quarterly meeting and would report back on any legislative items affecting SOCWA at the next Board meeting.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

C. General Manager's Report

Ms. Amber Boone, General Manager, updated the Board on the status of preparing the FY2025-26 Budget. She stated that the Finance Committee is meeting on May 20 to review and discuss the final proposed budget and provide recommendations to the Board.

Ms. Boone also gave an update on the Coastal Treatment Plant (PC 15) RFP process for the master plan.

This was an information item; no actions were taken.

D. Upcoming Meetings Schedule:

- May 1, 2025 – Board of Directors Regular Meeting
- May 8, 2025 – Engineering Committee Meeting
- May 20, 2025 – Finance Committee Meeting
- May 22, 2025 – Board of Directors Budget Workshop (Canceled/Reschedule)
- June 5, 2025 – Board of Directors Regular Meeting

This was an information item; no actions were taken.

8. CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Directors convened to Closed Session at 9:10 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 10:09 a.m..

- A. A Closed Session Conference occurred with the Labor Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code § 54957.6.
- B. A Closed Session Conference occurred with Legal Counsel regarding anticipated litigation/Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Government Code § 54956.9: One Potential Case.
- C. There were no reportable actions.

9. OTHER MATTERS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Goldman adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are a true and accurate copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Board of Directors on May 1, 2025, and approved by the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.



Danita Hirsh, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY