

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

November 6, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Board of Directors was held in person and via teleconference on November 6, 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:

MIKE GASKINS	El Toro Water District	Alternate Director
BOB WHALEN	City of Laguna Beach	Director
SCOTT GOLDMAN	South Coast Water District	Director
ROBB GRANTHAM	Santa Margarita Water District	Alternate Director
MIKE DUNBAR	Emerald Bay Service District	Director
DAVE REBENDS DORF	City of San Clemente	Director

Staff Present:

AMBER BOONE	General Manager
RONI GRANT	Capital Improvement Program Manager
DINA ASH	HR Administrator
BOB CULVER	Environment Services Manager
LYNDA MAY	Assistant Secretary
ANNA SUTHERLAND	Staff Accountant

Also Present:

TRACIE STENDER	Snell & Wilmer
DANITA HIRSH	Public Member
MARC SENDER	South Coast Water District
MATT COLLINGS	Moulton Niguel Water District

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Scott Goldman called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Director Scott Goldman

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBER REQUEST FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION

None.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Goldman pulled Item 5.A, 5.E, 5.F and 5.H for corrections and discussion.

ACTION TAKEN

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

Motion carried: Aye 5 Nay 0, Abstained 1, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Gaskins Abstain
Director Whalen Aye
Director Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

(5B-5D & 5G)

- B. Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting for August 19, 2025
- C. Minutes of Engineering Committee Meeting for June 12, 2025
- D. Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting for September 23, 2025
- G. Use Audit Flows and Solids FY 24-25

Approved Action: The SOCWA Board of Directors approved the Use Audit calculated results for the close of the Use Audit for disbursement or collection of additional funds for FY 2024-25

Director Goldman pulled Item 5.A to include Rick Shintaku being in attendance, and Items 5.E & F to fix a spelling typo. Director Goldman pulled 5H to inform that South Coast Water District requests Moulton Niguel Water District's flows be included in the operational reports, and requested the construction completion dates be included in the capital project status report. Roni Grant confirmed they will be included going forward.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Dunbar to approve the amendments for the 4 items.

Motion carried: Aye 5 Nay 0, Abstained 1, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Gaskins Abstain
Director Whalen Aye
Director Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

6. ENGINEERING MATTERS

- A. CTP Facility Assessment Planning Draft Request for Proposal Review
[Project Committee 15]

An open discussion ensued on updates to the Scope of Work. Clean-up suggestions were made by Director Goldman regarding the sections for Master Planning Goals, External Community Engagement, Reviewing Existing Reports, Developing Project Alternatives, and Deliverables.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

B. CTP Regional Flow Study Scope of Work [Project Committee 15]

An open discussion ensued regarding the Scope of Work's (SOW's) operational costs and relevance to the ongoing master planning process. Director Goldman emphasized the need for high-level evaluation and cost comparisons. It was also suggested that the impact on South Coast be included if coastal flows are redirected. Staff will circulate the SOW to the PC15 members for review and comment before releasing approximately 2 weeks after the Board meeting.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

C. JBL Facility Planning Assessment Staff Update [Project Committee 2]

Ms. Amber Boone confirmed that a consensus was reached on the choice of firm and the agency will bring this to the Engineering Committee meeting, and then back to the Board on December 11, 2025.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Resolution No. 2025-12: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority for A Commendation to Richard Gardner for providing Dedicated Service to the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the Residents of Southern Orange County for the period of October 1996 to October 2025.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Whalen and seconded by Director Goldman to approve Resolution No. 2025-12: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority for A Commendation to Richard Gardener for providing Dedicated Service to the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the Residents of Southern Orange County for the period of February October 1996 to October 2025.

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Gaskins Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

- B. Resolution No. 2025-13: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority for A Commendation to Danita Hirsh for providing Dedicated Service to the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the Residents of Southern Orange County for the period of September 2017 to December 2025.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Dunbar to approve Resolution No. 2025-13: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange

County Wastewater Authority for A Commendation to Danita Hirsh for providing Dedicated Service to the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the Residents of Southern Orange County for the period of September 2017 to December 2025.

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0

Director Dunbar	Aye
Director Gaskins	Aye
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Grantham	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Aye

- C. Resolution No. 2025-14: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Adopting the additional position for the Environmental Services department and Employee Salary Ranges Updated Exhibit “B” Salary Schedule and Exhibit “C” Organization Chart for October 2025

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Dunbar to approve Resolution No. 2025-14: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Adopting additional position for the Environmental Services department and Revised Employee Salary Ranges updated Exhibit “B” Salary Schedule and Exhibit “C” Organization Chart for October 2025.

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0

Director Dunbar	Aye
Director Gaskins	Aye
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Grantham	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Aye

- D. Ratification of Preferred Restoration Contract for Administration Building Repairs

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Grantham to approve the ratification of the combined contract value of \$154,564.59 to Preferred Restoration with a 10% contingency for repairs that may arise in the restoration efforts.

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0

Director Dunbar	Aye
Director Gaskins	Aye
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Grantham	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Aye

E. SOCWA & Ocean Institute Collaboration MOU

An open discussion ensued with Adriana Ochoa reviewing the MOU. Mike Gaskins stated he was in favor of Option 1, instead of Option 2.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Grantham to approve Option 2: Equal Split of \$50,000 among six (6) Board-Represented Agencies over a period of 5 years at \$10,000 per year.

Motion carried: Aye 5, Nay 1, Abstained 0, Absent 0

Director Dunbar	Aye
Director Gaskins	Nay
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Grantham	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Aye

F. WEFTEC Summary Report

An open discussion ensued on the WEFTEC Report, and suggestions were made to include vendor follow-ups. Ms. Amber Boone noted the agency will bring in WIMS in January and will include any of the member agency staff that's involved. Alternative Director Grantham noted alignment between recent collaborative discussions on SOCWA's future as a clearing hub for idea sharing and the vision of SOCWA leading regional wastewater innovation by hosting training sessions for member and external agency staff, thereby fostering knowledge exchange and collective progress.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

G. General Manager's Report

An open discussion ensued regarding SOCWA being named as a Waste Discharge Agreement, and negotiations in place with 34 cities and counties on additional fees. SOCWA staff also discussed the exfiltration task force stemming from the General Manager working group. Further discussion was made on potential alternatives to ferric chloride, and bio-solids management projects.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

H. General Counsel's Report

Ms. Tracie Stender, General Counsel, Snell & Wilmer, provided an update to the Board of Directors on legislation and the Brown Act revision. She briefed on the option for remote meetings and new disclosure requirements.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

I. Upcoming Meetings Schedule:

- December 11, 2025 – Board of Directors Regular Meeting
- November 13, 2025 – Engineering Committee Meeting
- November 18, 2025 – Finance Committee Meeting

This was an information item; no actions were taken.

9. OTHER MATTERS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Goldman adjourned the meeting at 9:40 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 November 6, 2025, and approved by the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.



Lynda May, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY