

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY**

Approved

Board of Directors

May 14, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Board of Directors was held in person and via teleconference on May 14, 2026, 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
FRANK URY	Santa Margarita Water District	Director
DAVE REBENS DORF	City of San Clemente	Director

Absent:

MIKE DUNBAR	Emerald Bay Service District	Director
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Staff Present:

AMBER BOONE	General Manager
JIM BURROR	Deputy GM/ Chief Engineer
DINA ASH	Human Resources Administrator
LYNDA MAY	Assistant Secretary
ANNA SUTHERLAND	Staff Accountant
JACK BECK	Accountant
MATT CLARKE	Chief Technology Officer
JAMES JONES	Superintendent of O&M
ROBERT CULVER	Environmental Service Manager
JOSHUA PAPAS	Lead Operator, SEA President

Also Present:

ADRIANA OCHOA	Snell & Wilmer
CHAD THURSTON	Snell & Wilmer
KARI VOZENILEK	Kidman Law, LLP
BRAD NEUFELD	Varner & Brandt
CHAD WANKE	Orbis Public Affairs
MARC SERNA	South Coast Water District
RICK SHINTAKU	South Coast Water District
JENNIFER LOPEZ	South Coast Water District
ERICA CASTILLO	South Coast Water District
JOE MUELLER	South Coast Water District
DENNIS CAFFERTY	El Toro Water District
DUSTIN BURNSIDE	City of San Clemente
RODNEY WOODS	Moulton Niguel Water District
CHARLES BARFIELD	OCEA
RYAN GALLAGHER	MKN

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Frank Ury called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Director Scott Goldman

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

JOSHUA PAPAS Lead Operator, SEA President
CHARLES BARFIELD OCEA

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Goldman pulled agenda items 4.E. and 4.G. for clarification.

ACTION TAKEN

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

Motion carried: Aye 5 Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

(4A-4D, and 4F)

- A. Minutes of Board of Directors Regular Meeting for April 2, 2026
Minutes of Board of Directors Special Meeting for April 7, 2026
- B. Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting for March 17, 2026
- C. Minutes of Engineering Committee Meeting for March 19, 2026
- D. Minutes of Project Committee 2 Meeting for April 13, 2026
- F. Capital Improvement Construction Projects Progress and Change Order
Report (April) [Project Committees 2 and 15]
Approved Action: Information Item; received and filed.
- E. March 2026 Operations Report

An open discussion ensued on the electrical costs difference due to the servicing of the Co-Generation Engine.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Freshley to receive and file the report as an information item.

Motion carried: Aye 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

- G. Financial Reports for the Third Quarter FY 25-26

An open discussion ensued on the capital expenditures and budgeted amounts, with Ms. Amber Boone, General Manager, clarifying that additional billings are not yet reflected in the report.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Ury to receive and file the report as an information item.

Motion carried: Aye 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

5. ENGINEERING MATTERS

A. CTP Regional Draft Flow Study

A presentation was provided by Ryan Gallagher of MKN and Associates covering the three alternatives of the project. The feasibility, potential cost implications, and infrastructure of each of the project alternatives were discussed.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

B. SOCWA CIP Workplan

An update on the CIP Workplan was provided by Ms. Boone, with the Board providing positive feedback on tracking project budgets. The Board requested staff include in the workplan when each project was approved by the Board and when the project is anticipated to be completed.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

Public Speakers: Charles Barfield, General Manager of OCEA
Joshua Papas, Lead Operator/ President of SOCWA Employee Association

Director Ury opened the public hearing on AB2561 at 9:29am to allow for public comments. Joshua Papas provided public comment, thanking the Board and Executive staff on filling vacancies. Charles Barfield, provided a second comment, commending the leadership of the agency. Director Ury closed the public hearing at 9:36am

This was an information item; no action was taken.

B. San Bernardino Municipal Water District Phase II Biosolids Facility Study

After an open discussion on the Phase II Biosolids study, the Board Decided not to commit to the project at this time, preferring to focus on local solutions and ongoing evaluations.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

C. FY 26-27 Budget

The FY 2026-27 Budget includes General Fund Expenses, Operating Expenses, and Capital Expenditures as proposed.

1. Project Committee Operating Budgets

a. FY 2026-27 Administration Budget

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Freshley and seconded by Director Goldman to approve the FY 2026-27 Administration & General Fund Budget (inclusive of project committee administration expenses, residual engineering, and IT). Approval of the FY 2026-27 Administration Budget authorizes the General Manager to expend up to and not more than the total budget funds per the purchasing and/or emergency services policy; funding in excess of the authorized budget requires additional Board action; the Board approves the allocation of expenses with approval of the Budget.

Motion carried: Aye 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

b. Project Committee (“PC”) 2 Operations and Maintenance Budget

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Ury and seconded by Director Goldman to approve the Project Committee (“PC”) 2 Operations and Maintenance Budget (inclusive of Environmental Compliance, Safety, IT, UAL, and OPEB) as proposed and PC 2 Capital Expenditures Budget (inclusive of large capital, non-capital/misc. engineering and small capital). Approval of the Project Committee (“PC”) 2 Operations and Maintenance Budget and PC 2 Capital Expenditures Budget authorizes the General Manager to expend up to and not more than the total budget funds per the purchasing and/or emergency services policy; funding in excess of the authorized budget requires additional Board action; the Board approves the allocation of expenses with approval of the Budget.

Motion carried: Aye 2, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Ury Aye
Director Goldman Aye

c. Project Committee (“PC”) 5 Operations and Maintenance Budget

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Ury and seconded by Director Rebensdorf to approve the Project Committee (“PC”) 5 Operations and Maintenance Budget (inclusive of Environmental Compliance, Safety, IT, UAL, and OPEB) and PC 5 Capital Expenditures Budget (inclusive of large capital and non-capital/misc. engineering). Approval of the Project Committee (“PC”) 5 Operations and Maintenance Budget and PC 5 Capital Expenditures Budget authorizes the General Manager to expend up to and not more than the total budget funds per the purchasing and/or emergency services policy; funding in excess of the authorized budget requires additional Board action; the Board approves the allocation of expenses with approval of the Budget.

Motion carried: Aye 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Ury Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

d. Project Committee (“PC”) 8 Operations and Maintenance Budget

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Whalen and seconded by Director Goldman to approve the Project Committee (“PC”) 8 (Pretreatment) Operations and Maintenance Budget (inclusive of Environmental Compliance, Safety, UAL and OPEB). Approval of the Project Committee (“PC”) 8 (Pretreatment) Operations and Maintenance Budget authorizes the General Manager to expend up to and not more than the total budget funds per the purchasing and/or emergency services policy; funding in excess of the authorized budget requires additional Board action; the Board approves the allocation of expenses with approval of the Budget.

Motion carried: Aye 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

e. Project Committee (“PC”) 12 Operations and Maintenance Budget

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Ury and seconded by Director Goldman to approve the Project Committee (“PC”) 12 Operations and Maintenance Budget (inclusive of Environmental Compliance, Safety, IT, UAL and OPEB). Approval of the Project Committee (“PC”) 12 Operations and Maintenance Budget authorizes the General Manager to expend up to and not more than the total budget funds per the purchasing and/or emergency services policy; funding in excess of the authorized budget requires additional Board action. The Board approves the allocation of expenses with approval of the Budget.

Motion carried: Aye 2, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Ury Aye
Director Goldman Aye

f. Project Committee (“PC”) 15 Operations and Maintenance Budget

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Whalen and seconded by Director Goldman to approve the Project Committee (“PC”) 15 Operations and Maintenance Budget (inclusive of Environmental Compliance, Safety, IT, UAL, and OPEB) and PC 15 Capital Expenditures Budget (inclusive of large capital, non-capital/misc. engineering and small capital). Approval of the Project Committee (“PC”) 15 Operations and Maintenance Budget and PC 15 Capital Expenditures Budget authorizes the General Manager to expend up to and not more than the total budget funds per the purchasing and/or emergency services policy; funding in excess of the authorized budget requires additional Board action; the Board approves the allocation of expenses with approval of the Budget.

Motion carried: Aye 2, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Whalen Aye
Director Goldman Aye

g. Project Committee (“PC”) 21 Operations and Maintenance Budget

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Freshley to approve the Project Committee (“PC”) 21 (ETM) Operations and Maintenance Budget, UAL and OPEB, and PC 21 Capital

Expenditures Budget (inclusive of large capital and non-capital/misc. engineering). Approval of the Project Committee (“PC”) 21 (ETM) Operations and Maintenance Budget and PC 21 Capital Expenditures Budget authorizes the General Manager to expend up to and not more than the total budget funds per the purchasing and/or emergency services policy; funding in excess of the authorized budget requires additional Board action; the Board approves the allocation of expenses with approval of the Budget.

Motion carried: Aye 1, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Freshley Aye

h. Project Committee (“PC”) 23 Operations and Maintenance Budget

ACTION TAKEN

This item was held due to lack of quorum and will be brought back to a Special PC 23 meeting.

i. Project Committee (“PC”) 24 Operations and Maintenance Budget

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Whalen and seconded by Director Freshley to approve the Project Committee (“PC”) 24 Operations and Maintenance Budget (inclusive of Environmental Compliance, Safety, IT, UAL, and OPEB) and PC 24 Capital Expenditures Budget (inclusive of large capital and non-capital/misc. engineering). Approval of the Project Committee (“PC”) 24 Operations and Maintenance Budget and PC 24 Capital Expenditures Budget authorizes the General Manager to expend up to and not more than the total budget funds per the purchasing and/or emergency services policy; funding in excess of the authorized budget requires additional Board action; the Board approves the allocation of expenses with approval of the Budget.

Motion carried: Aye 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Goldman Aye

j. Laboratory Services provided to Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD)

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Ury and seconded by Director Whalen to approve the Laboratory Services provided to Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) Operations and Maintenance Budget (inclusive of Environmental Compliance, Safety, IT, UAL, and OPEB) and Capital Expenditures Budget (inclusive of large capital, non-capital/misc. engineering and small capital). Approval of the Laboratory Services provided to MNWD Operations and Maintenance Budget and Capital Expenditures Budget authorizes the General Manager to expend up to and not more than the total budget funds per the purchasing and/or emergency services policy; funding in excess of the authorized budget requires additional Board action; the Board approves the allocation of expenses with approval of the Budget.

Motion carried: Aye 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

- k. Director Ury directed staff to prepare and electronically distribute the final budget for all items except those without quorum.

Motion carried: Aye 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

D. Cost Allocation Policy

The Board provided feedback related to the budgeted line items vs the Cost Allocation Policy. The General Counsel suggested a change in the last paragraph of the policy and an update to the expense authorization in alignment with the Uniform Purchasing Policy. Staff agreed to bring the item back to the next Board meeting on July 9th, 2026, for further review.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

E. Policy Handbook

Ms. Boone briefed the Board on the Policy Handbook and requested to move the resolution for approval.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Ury and seconded by Director Goldman to approve Resolution No. 2026-02, approving the updated SOCWA Policy Handbook.

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

F. FY 26-27 Use Audit Update

Ms. Boone provided an update on the current actuarial analysis on the UAL and OPEB liabilities.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Freshley and seconded by Director Whalen to approve disbursement of the Use Audit funds as presented at the April 21, 2026, Finance Committee meeting, with the understanding that further actuarial analysis is needed to reconcile adjustments of the UAL and OPEB liabilities post reorganization.

Motion carried: Aye 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Director Dunbar Absent
Director Freshley Aye
Director Whalen Aye
Director Ury Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

G. FY 25-26 Budget Adjustment for Laboratory Services provided to Moulton Niguel Water District for 3A Treatment Plant

An open discussion ensued with Ms. Adriana Ochoa, Legal Counsel, providing suggestions

on revising the Cost Allocation policy to include a \$100,000 threshold for lab services which will be included in the updated Cost Allocation Policy.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Freshley and seconded by Director Whalen to approve a FY 2025-26 budget amendment in the amount of \$60,923 to the Laboratory Services Budget (coded as PC-17, Department 02) to account for lab services provided by the SOCWA lab to MNWD for its 3A Treatment Plant pursuant to the December 12, 2024 Moulton Niguel Water District SOCWA Continued Services Agreement (Agreement #9)

Motion carried:	Aye 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1
Director Dunbar	Absent
Director Freshley	Aye
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Ury	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Aye

H. General Manager's Report

Ms. Boone provided an update on the CTP Regional Flow Study, the rollout of SOCWA Saige, and the ongoing website redesign.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

I. General Counsel's Report

Ms. Ochoa provided an update on the cash flow allocation for capital improvement costs post-reorganization, and explained the consensus reached with member agencies on how to handle the cash balances.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

J. Government Affairs Report

Guest speaker Chad Wanke, from Orbis Public Affairs gave the Government Affairs report with an emphasis on the Coastal Treatment Access Road, and the efforts to amend or replace the Joint Use agreement for the road.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

K. Upcoming Meetings Schedule:

- May 19, 2026 – Finance Committee Meeting
- May 21, 2026 – Engineering Committee Meeting
- June 4, 2026 – Board of Directors Regular Meeting

This was an information item; no action was taken.

The Board of Directors convened to Closed Session at 10:53 a.m.

8. CLOSED SESSION

- A. A Closed Session Conference was held for the Public Employee Appointment Pursuant to Government Code § 54957(b)(1)
Title: General Manager

The Board of Directors reconvened to the Open Session at 11:00 a.m. Director Ury stated there were no reportable actions from the Closed Session.

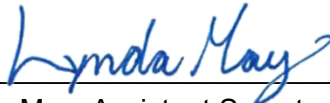
9. OTHER MATTERS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Goldman adjourned the meeting at 11:00 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 14, 2026, and approved by the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.



Lynda May, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY