

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

Approved

February 5, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Board of Directors was held in person and via teleconference on February 5, 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
GAVIN CURRAN	City of Laguna Beach	Alternate Director
SCOTT GOLDMAN	South Coast Water District	Director
FRANK URY	Santa Margarita Water District	Director
MIKE DUNBAR	Emerald Bay Service District	Director

Staff Present:

AMBER BOONE	General Manager
RONI GRANT	Capital Improvement Program 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
CALEB WHEATLEY	Chief Operator
JAMES JONES	Superintendent of O&M
ROBERT CULVER	Environmental Service Manager

Also Present:

ADRIANA OCHOA	Snell & Wilmer
KARI VOZENILEK	Kidman Law, LLP
DUSTIN BURNSIDE	City of San Clemente
SHERRY WANNINGER	Moulton Niguel Water District
MATT COLLINGS	Moulton Niguel Water District
JENNIFER LOPEZ	South Coast Water District
RICK SHINTAKU	South Coast Water District
ERICA CASTILLO	South Coast Water District
JOE MUELLER	South Coast Water District
MARC SERNA	South Coast Water District
MIKE GASKINS	El Toro Water District
DENNIS CAFFERTY	El Toro Water District

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Frank Ury called the meeting to order at 8:30 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

ACTION TAKEN

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

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

(5A-5F)

- A. Minutes of Board of Directors Special Meeting for January 8, 2026
- B. Minutes of Engineering Committee Meeting for November 13, 2025
- C. Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting for November 18, 2025
- D. Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting for January 27, 2026
- E. December 2025 Operations Reports
Approved Action: Information Item; received and filed.
- F. Capital Improvement Construction Projects Progress and Change Order Report (December) [Project Committees 2 and 15]
Approved Action: Information Item; received and filed.

6. ENGINEERING MATTERS

- A. Contract Award for Coastal Treatment Plant Personnel Building Phase 2 Upgrades [Project Committee 15]

A brief discussion ensued on the contingency amount and construction management services. Director Goldman inquired on the percentage, noting 10 percent is normally the standard. Director Dunbar explained the need for 15 percent due to unknowns discussed at the recent Engineering Committee meeting. Ms. Grant clarified the additional 10 percent listed is for the design engineer and that construction management will be handled by the staff.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Curran to a) authorize execution of a construction contract with T.E. Roberts in the amount of \$649,848.00, and b) approve a contract contingency of \$97,500, to address any unforeseen conditions encountered during the work.

Motion carried: Aye 3 Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Curran Aye
Director Goldman Aye

B. ETM Reach B Techite Pipe Replacement Final Design [Project Committee 21]

A brief discussion ensued on the selection of BKF as the contractor. Director Freshley agreed on the necessity of replacing the Techite Pipe due to the risk of structural failure.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Freshley to a) authorize execution of a final design contract with BKF in the amount of \$517,713, and b) approve a contract contingency of \$51,771, for a total project authorization of \$569,484 to address any unforeseen conditions and optional tasks if needed during the work

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

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. CSRMA Pooled Liability Program Renewal

A discussion opened on the recent 13.58 percent increase in the program's cost, and the difficulty in getting a quote from JPIA. Director Ury requested market research with a brief summary to report back to the Board with. Director Goldman suggested assigning a representative.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

B. Budget Assumptions and Schedule

An open discussion ensued with Ms. Boone noting that the draft budget should be close to the CPI for the O&M expenses. Ms. Boone also stated that the draft final budget will be nearly complete and provided at the next Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Burror briefed on the current and pending CPUC utility rate requests. Ms. Grant provided details on the support staffing contracts, with Director Goldman suggesting a consideration for a full time hire in the Engineering group.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

E. Cost Allocation Policy

Ms. Boone provided a status update, including comments being brought to the upcoming Engineering Committee meeting, and possible additional language from the Finance Committee. Ms. Boone then noted any comments from the board today will be brought to these two meetings to help form a unified cost allocation structure to approve at the March board meeting. Ms. Ochoa indicated that the Public Relations portion was circulated to Director Ury and Director Whalen and their comments were incorporated into the current final draft in the agenda.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

C. General Manager’s Report

An open discussion ensued on the Master Schedule for planning efforts, with Ms. Boone offering to send placeholder invites. Director Ury suggested showing actual (completed) events next to the date to track as milestones. Director Goldman suggested further distinction in the schedule and milestone tracking in regards to specific project committees and agencies. Ms. Boone briefed on the SOCWA Draft Goals and highlighting the current progress with OCWA on a panel to cover best practices for cost estimates. The discussion concluded with Ms. Boone commending the O&M staff for their work featured in the agenda report.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

D. General Counsel’s Report

Ms. Ochoa provided an update on recent legal developments, including SB 707 and the Dreher vs. City of Los Angeles case. Ms. Ochoa noted the importance of the legal case for setting a precedent on tiered water rates. After an update on the upcoming renewed Brown Act books, a brief overview on Resolution 2026-01 followed.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Ury and seconded by Director Dunbar to approve Resolution No. 2026-1: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Authorizing Optional Teleconferencing, Remote Participation By Board Members, And Virtual Meetings Of Committees Pursuant To Government Code Sections 54953.8.7 And 54953.8.6 (Senate Bill 707).

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

Director Dunbar	Aye
Director Freshley	Aye
Director Curran	Aye
Director Ury	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Absent

F. Upcoming Meetings Schedule

- February 12, 2026 – Engineering Committee Meeting
- February 17, 2026 – Finance Committee Meeting
- March 5, 2026 – Board of Directors Regular Meeting

8. CLOSED SESSION

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

B. 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 Open Session at 9:38am. Chairman Ury stated there were no reportable actions from the Closed Session.

9. OTHER MATTERS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Director Ury adjourned the meeting at 9:39 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 February 5, 2026, and approved by the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.



Lynda May, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY