

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

Approved

June 5, 2025

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

Staff Present:

AMBER BOONE	General Manager
JIM BURROR	Deputy GM/Chief Engineer
RONI GRANT	Capital Improvement Program Manager
DINA ASH	HR Administrator
BOB CULVER	Environment Services Manager
ANNA SUTHERLAND	Accountant
JACK BECK	Staff Accountant
MATT CLARKE	Chief Technology Officer
DANITA HIRSH	Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Also Present:

ADRIANA OCHOA	Snell & Wilmer
BRAD NEUFELD	Varner & Brandt LLP
CHAD WANKE	Orbis Public Affairs
MIKE GASKINS	El Toro Water District
ERICA CASTILLO	South Coast Water District
ROGER BUTOW	Clean Water Now (CWN)
LINDSAY LEAHY	Santa Margarita Water District
RICK SHINTAKU	South Coast Water District
DENNIS CAFFERTY	El Toro Water District
MATT COLLINGS	Moulton Niguel Water District

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Scott Goldman called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Director Mike Dunbar

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBER REQUEST FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION

None.

5. CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Directors convened to Closed Session at 8:34 a.m. and reconvened to Open Session at 8:51 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.

Mr. Brad Neufeld, Labor Counsel, Varner & Brandt, LLP, reported the following out of the Closed Session:

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Freshley and seconded by Director Goldman to unanimously approve a three (3) year Memorandum of Understanding with the SOCWA Employee Association providing for a 3% cost of living increase in the first year, effective July 1, 2025. The subsequent cost of living increases to be consistent with the CIP for the Long Beach, Los Angeles, Anaheim area with a 1% floor and a maximum of 4% in year 2 and a 1% floor and 5% maximum in year 3.

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Freshley Aye
Director Curran Aye
Director Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

6. 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 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Freshley Aye
Director Curran Aye
Director Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

(6A-6G)

- A. 1. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting for April 3, 2025
- 2. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting for May 1, 2025
- B. 1. Minutes of PC 2 Meeting for April 1, 2025
- 2. Minutes of PC 2 Meeting for May 12, 2025
- C. Minutes of Engineering Committee Meeting for April 8, 2025
- D. 1. Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting for April 15, 2025
- 2. Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting for April 29, 2025
- E. Finance Reports for the Month of March 2025
Approved Action: The Board received and filed the March 2025 Financial Reports.
- F. April 2025 Operations Reports
Approved Action: Information Item; received and filed.
- G. Capital Improvement Construction Projects Progress and Change Order Report (May) [Project Committees 2 and 15]
Approved Action: Information Item; received and filed.

7. ENGINEERING MATTERS

- A. J.B. Latham Treatment Plant (JBL) Effluent Pump Station and Energy Building Upgrades Engineering Services During Construction Contract [Project Committee 2]

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Grantham and seconded by Director Goldman to approve Change Order 1 to Carollo Engineers for \$119,316. This will result in a revised total contract amount of \$294,832 for the JBL Effluent Pump Station and Energy Building improvements Engineering Services during Construction.

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

- B. J.B. Latham Treatment Plant (JBL) 2 Headworks Rehabilitation Engineering Services During Construction Contract [Project Committee 2]

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Grantham and seconded by Director Goldman to approve Change Order 1 to Dudek for \$47,858. This will result in a revised total contract amount of \$255,958 for Engineering Services during Construction for the JBL Plant 2 Headworks Rehabilitation project.

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

8. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Selection of Officers for the Board of Directors for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Dunbar to appoint Director Frank Ury as Board Chair, Director Scott Goldman and Director Kathryn Freshley as Board Co-Chairs, Ms. Amber Boone as Board Secretary/Treasurer, and Ms. Danita Hirsh as Board Assistant Secretary to service the Authority during FY 2025-26.

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Freshley Aye
Director Curran Aye
Director Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

B. Waste Disposal Agreement (WDA) Second Amendment

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Grantham and seconded by Director Dunbar to authorize the General Manager to execute the Second Amendment of the Waste Disposal Agreement (WDA).

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Freshley Aye
Director Curran Aye
Director Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

C. Chlor Alkali Products 5.25%-12.5% Sodium Hypochlorite (Bleach) and 30%-50% Sodium Hydroxide (Caustic Soda) Contract Award [Project Committees 2 and 15]

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Rebensdorf and seconded by Director Dunbar to authorize the General Manager to 1) Award a contract to JCI Jones Chemicals Inc. for sodium hypochlorite products for one (1) year with up to three (3) optional annual renewals, 2) Award a contract to NorthStar Chemical, Inc. (a DBA of Pacific Star Chemical, LLC.) for sodium hydroxide products for one (1) year with up to three (3) optional annual renewals; and 3) Initiate subsequent renewals with an increase of 10% or less.

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Freshley Aye
Director Curran Aye
Director Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

D. Approval of FY 2025-26 Final Budget

The FY 2025-26 Budget includes General Fund Expenses, Operating Expenses, and Capital Expenditures as proposed.

1. Project Committee Operating Budgets
 - a. FY 2025-26 Administration Budget

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Dunbar to approve the FY 2025-26 Administration Budget (inclusive of project committee administration expenses, residual engineering, and IT). Approval of the FY 2025-26 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 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Freshley Aye
Director Curran Aye
Director Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

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

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Grantham 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 Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye

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

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Dunbar and seconded by Director Rebensdorf 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 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Freshley Aye
Director Curran Aye
Director Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

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

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Dunbar and seconded by Director Curran 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 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Curran Aye
Director Goldman Aye

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

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Grantham 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 Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

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

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Dunbar and seconded by Director Curran 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 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Freshley Aye
Director Curran 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”) 8 Operations and Maintenance Budget

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Grantham and seconded by Director Freshley 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 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0
Director Dunbar Aye
Director Freshley Aye
Director Curran Aye
Director Grantham Aye
Director Goldman Aye
Director Rebensdorf Aye

- i. Project Committee (“PC”) 2SO (PC12) Operations and Maintenance Budget

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Grantham and seconded by Director Goldman to approve the Project Committee (“PC”) 2SO (PC12) Operations and Maintenance Budget (inclusive of Environmental Compliance, Safety, IT, UAL and OPEB). Approval of the Project Committee (“PC”) 2SO (PC12) 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. Authorization includes the redistribution of the costs of PC 2SO (PC 12) among the member agencies to exclude El Toro Water District); the Board approves the allocation of expenses with approval of the Budget.

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

- j. There was a consensus of the Board directing staff to prepare and electronically distribute a final budget consistent with any additional changes presented and approved at the June 5, 2025, meeting.

E. General Counsel's Update

Ms. Adriana Ochoa, General Counsel, reported on her attendance at the CASA Attorney’s Committee meeting and new legislation items that were discussed. She provided updates on the several active legislative items. An open discussion ensued.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

F. General Manager's Report

Ms. Amber Boone, General Manager, reported that Executive Order 14179, which is the AI call to action plan by the President, requested information at the federal level to provide input and that it was important that the public sector is represented. An open discussion ensued.

This was an information item; no actions were taken.

G. Upcoming Meetings Schedule:

- June 5, 2025 – Board of Directors Regular Meeting
- June 12, 2025 – Engineering Committee Meeting
- June 17, 2025 – Finance Committee Meeting
- July 10, 2025 – Board of Directors Regular 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 10:01 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 June 5, 2025, and approved by the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.



Danita Hirsh, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY