
WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Laura Roughton called the regular meeting of the Western Municipal Water District (Western Water) and the Western Municipal Water District Facilities Authority (Facilities Authority) Boards of Directors to order at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, in the Western Water Board Room, 14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call of the Board of Directors was taken by Board Secretary Tammi Ford. The following Board members were in attendance:

Directors Present:

Laura Roughton, President
Fauzia Rizvi, Vice President
Brenda Dennstedt, Secretary-Treasurer
Gracie Torres
Mike Gardner

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Robert McClure, Operations Technician I, Operations-Mechanical Services Department, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address the Board regarding any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board; however, no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Comments will be limited to matters not listed on the agenda. Members of the public may comment on any matter listed on the agenda at the time that the Board considers that matter. Each individual's comment will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes; however, the Presiding Officer reserves the right to reduce the amount of time each individual can speak to ensure all members of the public have an opportunity to comment.

None.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent Calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial and are to be acted upon by the Board by one motion, without discussion. If any Board member, staff member, or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar for further discussion, it will be moved to the first item on the Action Agenda.

Motion: Dennstedt

Second: Gardner

- A. Approve the Minutes of the December 17, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA

(If any) In accordance with Section 54954.2 of the Government Code, upon determination by a two-thirds vote of the legislative body, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present that there is a need to take action, and the need to take action arose after the agenda was posted.

None.

7. ACTION AGENDA

The following items on the Action Agenda call for discussion and action by the Board. All items are placed on the Agenda so that the Board may discuss and take action on the item if the Board is so inclined.

- A. Authorize Execution of Memorandum of Understanding with Jurupa Community Services District for Temporary Assignment and Purchase of Water Produced from the Chino Basin Desalter Authority

This item was presented by: Josh Aguilar, Deputy Director of Water Resources

Motion: Torres

Second: Rizvi

As to the following:

1. Authorize the General Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Jurupa Community Services District for the temporary assignment and purchase of Western Water's Chino Basin Desalter Authority water allocation; and

**Western Water | Regular Board Meeting
January 21, 2026**

2. Authorize the General Manager to administratively execute annual extensions as provided for in the terms of the MOU.

The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- B. Increase Project Budget and Award a Professional Services Contract for the Markham Street Waterline Relocations

This item was presented by: Derek Kawaii, Director of Engineering

Motion: Torres

Second: Rizvi

As to the following:

1. Approve a capital budget of \$283,700 for the Markham Street Waterline Relocation Project (W-346) Project ("Project") and amend the Board adopted Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Capital Improvement and Facilities Plan accordingly to include funding for this project under the System Improvement Reserve RES04 of the Riverside Water Fund 20; and
2. Authorize the General Manager to execute a professional service contract with HDR, Inc. in the amount of \$207,900 for design and bidding services.

The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- C. Election of Board Officers; Discuss Appointments to Committees and Board Assignments

This item was presented by: Jeff Ballinger, General Counsel

Motion: Gardner

Second: Dennstedt

As to the following :

**Western Water | Regular Board Meeting
January 21, 2026**

1. Maintain the current officers of the Board of Directors for the upcoming year (2026), and reaffirm the appointment of the General Manager as Deputy Secretary-Treasurer.

The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

8. WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FACILITIES AUTHORITY-ACTION AGENDA

The following items on the Action Agenda call for discussion and action by the Board. All items are placed on the Agenda so that the Board may discuss and take action on the item if the Board is so inclined.

- A. Affirm Board Members and Officers of the Western Municipal Water District Facilities Authority

This item was presented by: Craig Miller, General Manager

Motion: Gardner

Second: Dennstedt

As to the following:

1. Affirm the Board Members and Officers of the Western Municipal Water District Facilities Authority for 2026.

The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

8. REPORTS

The following agenda items are reports. They are placed on the agenda to provide information to the Board and the public. There is no action called for regarding these matters.

- A. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

1. Report of General Counsel

Jeff Ballinger, General Counsel, stated he had nothing to report.

B. GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Report

Craig Miller, General Manager, provided an update on recent activities, including the recent employee appreciation event, which was a huge success, thanks to the committee who put in enormous effort and planning. He reported that we conducted a legislative briefing at the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority (WRCRWA) for local legislative staffers, which was also a great success. He said the tour went very well and there was a lot of meaningful and engaged conversation. He also announced that Western's Operations team successfully secured 100% of the lower cost Western-owned and leased water rights from the San Bernardino Basin and a small portion of Riverside Public Utilities water.

He also reported that he had a productive dinner meeting with Shivaji Deshmukh, the new Metropolitan General Manager, along with local water district managers Joe Mouawad (Eastern MWD) and Dan Denham (San Diego CWA). He noted they have a long and good working relationship, and it was great to discuss Mr. Deshmukh's strategies and priorities for the coming years. Lastly, he reported that he submitted a recommended advisory committee to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the inclusion of Senate Bill 72 (SB 72) requirements in the California Water Plan. He closed by stating he, along with Director Rizvi and staff will be attending the CMUA Capitol Day at the end of January.

C. DIRECTORS COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

1. Report by SAWPA Representative

Director Gardner reported that a committee made up of the General Manager and a Board member from Valley District, and SAWPA's General Manager and Director Gardner, will be meeting to evaluate proposals for consultants to help create SAWPA's strategic Plan. He also reminded the board of the upcoming 50th anniversary celebration for SAWPA.

2. Report by MWD Representative

Director Dennstedt stated there was nothing to report,; however did note that MWD is preparing for the upcoming budget discussions.

3. Report by CBWM Representative

Director Gardner reported that the Board approved interim assessments of water produced, which is what funds watermaster's operations. It is interim due to the appellate court decision requiring watermaster to change the way assessments are made.

4. Report by CDA Representative

Director Roughton stated there was nothing to report.

5. Report by WRCRWA Representative

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

6. Report by WRCOG Representative

Director Dennstedt stated there was nothing to report, but that the strategic planning session for the next year will take place on January 10, 2026.

7. Report by SRRRA Representative

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

8. Report by ACWA Representative

Director Dennstedt stated there is a board meeting scheduled for the end of January 2026 to discuss programming for the year.

9. Directors' Comments

Comments were made by:

Director Torres

Director Rizvi

Director Gardner

Director Dennstedt

President Roughton

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

Directors Torres, Dennstedt and Roughton requested that General Counsel bring an item to a future Board meeting to reconsider how the Board follows The Brown Act with consideration to teleconferencing.

**Western Water | Regular Board Meeting
January 21, 2026**

Director Torres requested that County of Riverside Chief Executive Officer, Jeff Van Wagenen be invited to present at a future Western Water Board meeting.

Jeff Ballinger, General Counsel, entered the Board into Closed Session at 10:23 a.m.

9. CLOSED SESSION

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)
Name of Cases: City of Camden, et al., v. 3M Company, Civil Action No.: 2-23-cv-03147-RMG; City of Camden v. E.I. duPont de Nemours & Company, Civil Action No.: 2-23-cv-03230-RMG; City of Camden, et.al. v. BASF Corporation, Civil Action No.: 2-24-cv-03174-RMG; and City of Camden et.al. v. Tyco Fire Products LP, Civil Action No.: 2-24-cv-02321-RMG

- B. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS
(Gov. Code Section 54956.8)
Property: Water Purchase
Agency Negotiator: Craig Miller, General Manager
Negotiating Partners: San Diego County Water Authority
Under Negotiation: Agreement Terms

The Board returned to open session at 11:56 a.m. All Board members were in attendance.

Jeff Ballinger, General Counsel, stated there was no reportable action on either item in Closed Session.

10. NEXT MEETING

- A. Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Directors, President Roughton adjourned the meeting at 11: 56 a.m.

**Western Water | Regular Board Meeting
January 21, 2026**



LAURA ROUGHTON
President



BRENDA DENNSTEDT
Secretary-Treasurer