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## WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2026

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Laura Roughton called the regular meeting of the Western Municipal Water District (Western Water) to order at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 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

Director Torres left the dais at 10:46 a.m. and returned at 10:49 a.m.

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mason Wilcox, 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. PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Understanding the Delta Islands: A Metropolitan Water District Briefing**

Randall Nuedeck, Metropolitan Water District, presented an overview of the Delta Islands, which focused on 4 areas including where they are located, why the original purchase was made, strategic purposes and the process to value the islands. He provided graphics of the islands that showed where the islands are located within the Delta, and how water runs through the Delata into the State Water Project aqueduct. He discussed a proposed tunnel and also reviewed critical challenges that have been addressed by the completion of projects in the area that addressed flood & seismic activity, sea-level rise, ecosystem control, fisheries, and subsidence. He also discussed the need for a modern levee design that would withstand earthquakes and mitigate floods and other issues.

### **B. Annual Year-End State Legislative Update from KP Public Affairs**

Ed Manning and Brenda Bass, KP Public Affairs, provided a year in review for state legislative activities. They started by congratulating Western Water and the Board on the recent passing of Senate Bill 72 (SB 72), which they characterized as a Herculean effort. State legislative leadership changes were reviewed, and a brief discussion was had regarding budget challenges facing the Governor. They reviewed bills of interest to Western Water and talked about Western Water's state legislative priorities for 2026.

### **C. Board of Directors Milestone Service Awards**

Craig Miller, General Manager and Laura Roughton, Board President, recognized Directors Gardner, Torres, Dennstedt and Rizvi for their service as Board members for Western Water.

## **6. 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: Gardner**

**Second: Rizvi**

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- A. Approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2026, Regular Board Meeting
- B. Approve Quitclaims of Western Municipal Water District's Interest in Water Easements

**The Motion Passed 5-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

**7. 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.

**8. 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. Adopt Western Municipal Water District's Legislative Policy Platform and Principles and the Updated State and Federal Priorities for 2026

This item was presented by: Michael Hadley, Government Affairs Officer II

**Motion: Gardner**

**Second: Rizvi**

As to the following:

- 1. Adopt Western Municipal Water District's legislative policy platform and principals, and the updated state and federal priorities for 2026.

**The Motion Passed 5-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

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- B. Award a Professional Services Contract to Water Systems Consulting, Inc. for the Feasibility Study for Recharging Recycled Water and Groundwater Desalter Expansion Project

This item was presented by: Mallory O'Connor, Water Resources Manager

**Motion: Dennstedt**

**Second: Torres**

As to the following:

1. Award a professional services contract, in the amount of \$399,254, to Water Systems Consulting, Inc. for the Feasibility Study for Recharging Recycled Water and Groundwater Desalter Expansion Project.

**The Motion Passed 5-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

- C. Receive and File the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Western Municipal Water District

This item was presented by: Rick Aragon, Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer and Daphnie Munoz, Clifton Larson Allen

**Motion: Dennstedt**

**Second: Torres**

As to the following:

1. Receive and file the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which includes the Independent Auditors' Report prepared by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for Western Municipal Water District.

**The Motion Passed 5-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

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- D. Confirm Western Municipal Water District's Representatives to Outside Organizations; Receive and File Board Director Committee Appointments

This item was presented by: Craig Miller, General Manager

**Motion: Roughton**

**Second: Gardner**

As to the following:

1. Confirm the current year 2025 representatives for an additional year, through 2026, with one change for Chino Desalter Authority to appoint Mike Gardner as the representative and Laura Roughton as the alternate representative.

**The Motion Passed 5-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

- E. Appoint Western Municipal Water District's Representative to the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

This item was presented by: Craig Miller, General Manager

**Motion: Rizvi**

**Second: Torres**

As to the following:

1. Appoint Director Brenda Dennstedt to the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

**The Motion Passed 5-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

**9. 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 would be bringing an item to a future board meeting to consider teleconferencing options, as provided for in the Brown Act.

**B. GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS**

1. General Manager's Report

Craig Miller, General Manager, provided a brief update on recent activities and reminded the Board that the Retail Agency Roundtable event would be held January 29, with featured speaker Shivaji Deshmukh, the new General Manager at MWD. He also reported that SAWPA would be holding its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and congratulated them on this milestone achievement.

**C. DIRECTORS COMMENTS AND REQUESTS**

1. Report by SAWPA Representative

Director Gardner, reiterated Mr. Miller's announcement about SAWPA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which will be held at the Crestmore Manor. He stated that the recent commission meeting took care of routine items and also recognized SAWPA's Employee of the Year, noting that the recent change in General Manager has resulted in an increase of employee morale and staff stating they now had an interest in remaining at the agency.

2. Report by MWD Representative

Director Dennstedt announced that Eastern MWD board member Phil Pauley has joined the MWD Board of Directors. She also reported that the board awarded a contract for the Sepulveda feeder, and there were ongoing discussions regarding PURE Water

3. Report by CBWM Representative

Director Gardner stated there was nothing to report.

4. Report by CDA Representative

Director Roughton stated the recent meeting was mainly routine items, along with the appointment of the CDA Board for 2026. She also stated

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one of the CDA wells will need to undergo wellhead treatment to take care of a PFAS issue.

5. Report by WRCRWA Representative

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

6. Report by WRCOG Representative

Director Dennstedt reported that the recent strategic planning session was very successful, and the Commission was able to set goals, talk about fundamentals, and possible bylaw amendments. She commented that the Board is reviewing the General Assembly event relative to cost of the event.

7. Report by SRRRA Representative

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

8. Report by ACWA Representative

Director Dennstedt stated there was nothing to report.

9. Directors' Comments

Comments made by:

Director Dennstedt

Director Rizvi

Director Roughton

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

None.

General Counsel, Jeff Ballinger called the Board into closed session at 12:07 p.m.

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

A. 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

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**B. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**  
Title: Special Legal Counsel

The Board of Directors returned to open session at 12:25 p.m.

General Manager Craig Miller, stated there was no reportable action regarding the first Closed Session

As to the second Closed Session item, General Manager, Craig Miller, reported that the Board of Directors unanimously voted to hire the law firm of Barnes and Thornburg, to provide legal services related to PFAS and groundwater basin issues on the Santa Ana River.

**11. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Investment Report – November 2025

**12. NEXT MEETING**

A. Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board of Directors, President Roughton adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

  
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LAURA ROUGHTON  
President

  
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BRENDA DENNSTEDT  
Secretary-Treasurer