
WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 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, February 18, 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 arrived at the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Josh Aguilar, Deputy Director of Water Resources, Water Resources 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.

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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: Rizvi

Second: Dennstedt

- A. Approve the Minutes of the February 4, 2026, 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. Adopt a Resolution Approving a Water Supply Assessment for the Westmont Village Residential Project

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

Motion: Torres

Second: Gardner

As to the following:

1. Adopt Resolution 3370 approving a Water Supply Assessment for the proposed Westmont Village Residential Project.

The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- B. Adopt a Resolution Confirming Board Representatives to the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission

This item was presented by: Craig Miller, General Manager

Motion: Torres

Second: Dennstedt

As to the following:

1. Adopt Resolution 3372, confirming the appointment of Director Mike Gardner as the Representative, and Director Brenda Dennstedt as the Alternate Representative to the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority governing board, effective January 21, 2026; and
2. Confirm the appointment of Derek Kawaii, Director of Engineering, as an additional Alternate Representative to the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Project Agreement 24 Committee.

The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- C. Adopt Resolution Confirming Representatives to the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority Board of Directors

This item was presented by: Craig Miller, General Manager

Motion: Dennstedt

Second: Torres

As to the following:

1. Adopt Resolution 3373, appointing a Representative and Alternate Representatives to the Board of Directors of the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority, effective January 21, 2026.

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The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- 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. Appoint Director Laura Roughton and Director Fauzia Rizvi as the Representatives and Director Mike Gardner as the Alternate Representative to the joint committee meetings with Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District.
2. Appoint Director Laura Roughton and Director Fauzia Rizvi as the Representatives and Director Mike Gardner as the Alternate Representatives to the joint committee meetings with Rancho California Water District.

The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- E. Discuss and Provide Direction Regarding Teleconferencing Pursuant to Recent Brown Act Amendments (Senate Bill 707)

This item was presented by: Jeff Ballinger, General Counsel

Motion: Roughton

Second: Gardner

As to the following:

1. Adopt and implement Senate Bill 707 (SB 707) as it relates to the Brown Act alternative public meeting attendance options.

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 there was nothing to report.

B. GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Report

Craig Miller, General Manager, reported that at the recent MWD meeting, a significant action was heard at the committee and board level to certify an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for PURE Water. He stated that Western Water raised its voice and attempted to bring attention to the item, noting that it is a good project but is being brought forward at the wrong time. He further stated the District's opinion was voiced at the caucus meeting and the Engineering Committee, and that Western Water and others communicated that they would like MWD's focus right now to be on the budget and paying costs for reliable projects. He said PURE Water is still in the budget but has not been a board-approved project as yet and there is a concern that other long term viable projects, such as Sites Reservoir are not included in the budget. He discussed some MWD budget issues and said that Staff is working closely with Director Dennstedt to address the concerns and hope for the budget process. Mr. Miller discussed his recent activities, including his continued leadership at the California Municipal Water Association (CMUA) as its President, a phone call with Congressman Takano regarding Congressionally Directed Spending that the Congressman supported for Western Water, and Strategic Planning Sessions he and staff are engaged.

2. Water Supply Conditions Update

Josh Aguilar, Deputy Director of Water Resources, provided a water supply conditions update, stating that surface storage reservoirs and snow reservoirs levels look good. He reviewed the snow survey, noting that the snowpack is 60% of average and that the February and March snowfall will be important. He discussed hydrologic conditions in the Northern Sierra and Upper Colorado River and reviewed reservoir storage throughout the state and also locally. He announced that at the end of December 2025, for the first time in 25 years, the entire state was out of drought condition, however cautioned that the beginning of the year was dry and reminded the board that drought conditions will return but this is the time to prepare for those dry years. He talked about the State Water Project water allocation, saying it had been increased to a 30% allocation, and closed his report by discussing World Wetlands Day.

C. DIRECTORS COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

1. Report by SAWPA Representative

Director Gardner reported that the Commission authorized a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a building security project to provide fencing around the perimeter of SAWPA, as there has been an increase in theft events and property destruction by unhoused individuals. He also stated approval was given to compensate SAWPA board members for attendance at the recent 50th anniversary event and stated that the Board received a presentation from Orange County Sanitation District regarding a potential new method to break down PFAS and other contaminants in the water.

2. Report by MWD Representative

Director Dennstedt reported that MWD has set a public hearing for March 10, 2026, on proposed water rates and charges. She thanked Western Water staff for their support in making sure she is prepared for the upcoming budget cycle. She reiterated Craig Miller's comments regarding the Pure Water EIR and stated she was in agreement with him.

3. Report by CBWM Representative

Director Gardner reported that there was a special meeting held to kick off a strategic planning process and said the meeting ended with some agreement on how to approach the process.

4. Report by CDA Representative

Director Gardner reported that the Board approved a 5% cost of living increase for CDA employees and also approved the purchase of a spare reverse osmosis pump and motor.

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.

7. Report by SRRRA Representative

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

8. Report by ACWA Representative

Director Dennstedt reported that she will be in Washington DC for ACWA's Legislative Conference next week, and that Region 9 is developing a regional program for the August timeframe.

9. Directors' Comments

Comments were made by:

Director Torres

Director Rizvi

Director Gardner

Director Dennstedt

President Roughton

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

None.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Budget vs. Actual Report – November 2025

B. Investment Report – December 2025

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General Counsel, Jeff Ballinger, called the Board of Directors into closed session at 11:15 a.m.

10. CLOSED SESSION

- A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)
One (1) potential case

- 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

- C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
Initiation of litigation pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)
One (1) potential case

Director Roughton called the Board of Directors back into open session at 12:42 p.m.

General Counsel, Jeff Ballinger, stated there was no reportable action coming out of Closed Session.

11. NEXT MEETING

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Directors, President Roughton adjourned the meeting at 12:42 p.m.



LAURA ROUGHTON
President



BRENDA DENNSTEDT
Secretary-Treasurer