



**Final Minutes
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
February 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location: District Office, Main Conference Room
5 Harris Court, Building G, Monterey, CA 93940 AND
By Teleconferencing Means - *Zoom*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Oglesby called the regular session to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Ian Oglesby, Chair
Rebecca Lindor, Vice-Chair
Alvin Edwards
George Riley
Karen Paull
Marianne Gawain
Kate Daniels

Board Members Absent:

None

District Staff Members Present:

David Stoldt, General Manager
Mike McCullough, Assistant General Manager
Nishil Bali, Chief Financial Officer/Administrative
Services Manager
Stephanie Locke, Water Demand Manager
Sara Reyes, Clerk of the Board / Executive Assistant

Jonathan Lear, Water Resources Manager
Maureen Hamilton, District Engineer
Thomas Christensen, Environmental Resources Manager

District Counsel Present:

Michael Laredo, De Lay & Laredo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Oglesby opened the Oral Communications period, and the following comments were received:

- 1) Tom Rowley referenced a recent *Monterey Herald* editorial by Jeff Davi of the Coalition of Peninsula Businesses, stating it argued against withdrawing from the CDO until the desalination project is clearly progressing. He noted community views remain divided and emphasized the need for clear public information, expressing interest in the Board's proposed citizens panel.

- 2) Michael Baer criticized Cal-Am and the CPUC, noting that CPUC reports show the desalination project nearing \$250 million in spending despite no groundbreaking and no budget update since 2018. He questioned the feasibility of the proposed plant size and referenced a 2016 State Water Resources Control Board hearing that framed supply planning as a “three-legged stool.” He stated that current conditions—where supply exceeds demand—support lifting the CDO and urged the District to press Cal-Am to explain rising costs and lack of progress.
- 3) Susan Schiavone, noted that she submitted a letter previously sent to the CPUC, explaining that its limited word-count requirements resulted in shortened or “choppy” grammar. She also encouraged the Board to read a recent guest editorial by LandWatch Director Michael DeLapa, which she offered as an alternative perspective to other editorials referenced during the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

Director Edwards requested Item 5 be pulled for discussion and asked that information from the recent Finance and Administration committee meeting be shared publicly to show how the District is performing with its investments. Chief Financial Officer Nishil Bali provided a brief overview as requested.

Chair Ogelsby opened Public Comment, and the following comment was received:

- 1) Susan Schiavone expressed appreciation for the positive investment results, noting the significant improvement since 2022 and thanking staff for the update.

Director Daniels offered a motion, seconded by Director Lindor, to approve Consent Calendar items 1 through 4. The motion passed by a voice vote of 7 Ayes (Edwards, Daniels, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, Gawain and Riley) and 0 Noes.

Director Edwards offered a motion, seconded by Director Lindor, to approve Item 5. The motion passed by a voice vote of 7 Ayes (Edwards, Daniels, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, Gawain and Riley) and 0 Noes.

The following agenda items were accepted as part of the Consent Calendar:

1. **Consider Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on January 26, 2026**
2. **Consider Adoption of Treasurer’s Report for December 2025**
3. **Receive and File Second Quarter Financial Activity Report for Fiscal Year 2025-2026**
4. **Consider Approval of Annual Update on Investment Policy**
5. **Consider Approval of the Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Investment Report**

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

6. General Manager’s Report

General Manager Dave Stoldt reported that Table 13 winter water rights are active, Carmel River use remains low, Sand City desalination production was strong, and Pure Water Monterey deliveries continue to increase. Demand is about 153 acre-feet below last year, and ASR storage is rising due to sustained injection supported by above-normal rainfall.

Mr. Stoldt summarized Cal-Am’s SEC Form 10-K, noting \$324 million in total desalination-project costs, including \$107 million in AFUDC. About \$217 million is associated with previously approved pipeline and well projects, leaving roughly \$94 million in plant-related expenditures and about \$99 million in AFUDC tied to the desalination facility. He noted the project budget has not been updated since 2017, but the SEC-reported figures are current.

The General Manager also reported that the District’s acquisition case is expected to be bifurcated, with a bench trial on activation of latent powers anticipated for the summer, followed later by the eminent-domain right-to-take phase.

Following the presentation, the Board engaged in discussion. A copy of the presentation is available on the

District website.

Chair Oglesby opened Public Comment; however, no comments were received.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

7. Report from District Counsel

District Counsel David Laredo referenced the litigation report on page 49 of the meeting packet and provided a summary of ongoing legal matters.

Chair Oglesby opened Public Comment; however, no comments were received.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS (INCLUDING AB 1234 REPORTS ON TRIPS, CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AND MEETINGS)

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

8. Oral Reports on Activities of County, Cities, Other Agencies/Committees/Associations

- Director Edwards thanked District staff, the General Manager, and others who participated in the recent CPUC event in Sand City, as well as Susan Schiavone for her submitted letter. He expressed appreciation for their efforts to keep the public informed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

9. Consider Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 200 – Repealing Ordinance No, 152

General Manager Stoldt reported on this item and referenced the staff report on page 53. He explained that there have been no changes from the first reading and staff is recommending adoption of the ordinance.

Chair Oglesby opened Public Comment; however, no comments were received.

A motion was made by Director Gawain, seconded by Director Paull, to recommend that the Board adopt Ordinance No. 200. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 7 Ayes (Edwards, Daniels, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, Gawain and Riley) and 0 Noes.

ACTION ITEM

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

10. Consider Request by All Saints Day School for District Reserve Water for its Field House Project at 8060 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel (APN 169-181-057)

Director Daniels announced she would be recusing herself from this item since her son is a current student at the school.

Stephanie Locke, Water Demand Manager, provided an overview of this item and answered questions from the Board. The applicant Sara Brown, Head of School, and Joel Panzer with Maureen Wruck Planning Consultants, were invited to answer questions from the Board.

Chair Oglesby opened the Public Comment period, and the following comment was received:

- 1) A Carmel Valley resident living across from All Saints Day School expressed concerns that the school's current operations—including expanded hours, increased traffic, weekend and evening events, portable floodlights, and broader public use—exceed the conditions originally approved for the athletic facilities. She urged the Board to review whether these expanded uses represent a change in purpose that should undergo public review before additional water is granted.

A motion was made by Director Riley, seconded by Director Edwards to recommend that the Board approve 0.204 AF of District Reserve for All Saints Day School. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5 Ayes (Edwards, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, and Riley), 1-recusal (Daniels), and 1abstention (Gawain).

11. Consider Adoption of Mid-Year Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Adjustment

Nishil Bali, Chief Financial Officer/ASD Manager, provided an overview of this item through a slide-deck presentation titled "Consider Adoption of Mid-Year Budget Adjustments for Fiscal Year 2025-2026." He reviewed key components of the budget and answered questions from the Board.

Chair Oglesby opened the public comment period; however, no comments were received.

A motion was made by Director Lindor, seconded by Director Paull, to adopt the proposed mid-year budget adjustment for FY 2025-2026. The motion passed by a voice vote of 7 Ayes (Edwards, Daniels, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, Gawain and Riley) and 0 Noes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/STAFF REPORTS:

12. Report on Activity/Progress on Contracts Over \$25,000
13. Status Report on Expenditures – Public’s Ownership of Monterey Water System
14. Letters Received and Sent
15. Committee Reports
16. Monthly Allocation Report
17. Water Efficiency Program Report
18. Carmel River Fishery Report for January 2026
19. Monthly Water Supply and California American Water Production Report

These items were informational only and no action was taken. Copies of these reports are available at the District office and can be found on the District website.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Oglesby adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.



Sara Reyes, Deputy District Secretary

Minutes approved by the MPWMD Board of Directors on March 16, 2026.