



AGENDA
Public Outreach Committee

Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. | *Virtual Meeting*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS		<u>Mission Statement</u>
<i>Rebecca Lindor – Chair</i>	<i>Staff:</i>	Sustainably manage and augment the water resources of the Monterey Peninsula to meet the needs of its residents and businesses while protecting, restoring, and enhancing its natural and human environments.
<i>Alvin Edwards</i>	<i>David J. Stoldt, General Manager</i>	
<i>Marianne Gawain</i>	<i>Mike McCullough Assistant General Manager</i>	<u>Vision Statement</u> Model ethical, responsible, and responsive governance in pursuit of our mission.
<i>Alternate:</i>	<i>Stephanie Locke, Water Demand Manager</i>	
<i>George Riley</i>		<u>Board’s Goals and Objectives</u> Are available online at https://www.mpwmd.net/who-we-are/mission-vision-goals/

Join the meeting at:

<https://mpwmd-net.zoom.us/j/81083042858?pwd=cnH5WD0L2FzKZlt4DEMI0Sj4e5vrY.1>

Webinar ID: **810 8304 2858** | Password: **022426** | To Participate by Phone: **(669) 900-9128**

For detailed instructions on how to connect to the meeting, please click the link below:

<https://www.mpwmd.net/instructions-for-connecting-to-the-zoom-meetings/>

Copies of the agenda packet are available for review on the District website (www.mpwmd.net) and at 5 Harris Court, Bldg. G, Monterey, CA.

Call to Order / Roll Call

Additions and Corrections to the Agenda

Comments from Public – *The public may comment on any item within the District’s jurisdiction. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes in length.*

Action Items – *Public comment will be received. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes per item.*

1. Consider Adoption of Committee Meeting Minutes from November 24, 2025
2. Adopt 2026 Meeting Schedule

Discussion Items – *Public comment will be received. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes per item.*

3. Status of Public Outreach Projects / WellmanAd (*Verbal Report*)
4. Status of Annual Report / General Manager (*Verbal Report*)
5. Update on Formation of Citizens Water Panel / Assistant General Manager (*Verbal Report*)

Suggest Items to be Placed on Future Agendas

Adjournment

Accessibility
In accordance with Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), MPWMD will make a reasonable effort to provide written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings. MPWMD will also make a reasonable effort to provide translation services upon request. Please send a description of the requested materials and preferred alternative format or auxiliary aid or service at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date/time. Requests should be forwarded to Sara Reyes by e-mail at sara@mpwmd.net or at (831) 658-5610.
Options for Providing Public Comment
Submission of Written Public Comment Send written comments to District Office, 5 Harris Court, Building G, Monterey, CA or online at comments@mpwmd.net . Include the following subject line: "PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #" (insert the agenda item number relevant to your comment). Written comments must be received by 12:00 PM on the day of the meeting. All submitted comments will be provided to the Committee, compiled as part of the record, and placed on the District's website as part of the agenda packet for the meeting. Correspondence is not read during public comment portion of the meeting.
Instructions for Connecting to the Zoom Meeting can be found at https://www.mpwmd.net/instructions-for-connecting-to-the-zoom-meetings/
<i>Refer to the Meeting Rules to review the complete Rules of Procedure for MPWMD Board and Committee Meetings:</i> https://www.mpwmd.net/who-we-are/board-of-directors/meeting-rules-of-the-mpwmd/

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

ITEM: ACTION ITEM

1. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF NOVEMBER 24, 2025 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

**From: David J. Stoldt,
General Manager**

Prepared By: Sara Reyes

SUMMARY: Exhibit 1-A contains the draft minutes from the Public Outreach Committee meeting held on November 24, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Public Outreach Committee review and adopt the draft minutes by motion.

EXHIBIT

1-A Draft Minutes of the November 24, 2025 Public Outreach Committee Meeting



EXHIBIT 1-A

**Draft Minutes
Public Outreach Committee Meeting
Monday, November 24, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Zoom**

Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Edwards called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Alvin Edwards, Chair
Karen Paull
Rebecca Lindor (arrived at 2:05 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent

None

District Staff Members Present

Dave Stoldt, General Manager
Mike McCullough, Assistant General Manager
Stephanie Locke, Water Demand Manager
Sara Reyes, Board Clerk

District Staff Members Absent

None

District Counsel Present

Michael Laredo, De Lay & Laredo

Additions and Corrections to the Agenda

None

Comments from the Public

None; no members of the public were present.

Action Items

1. Consider Adoption of September 29, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Paull and seconded by Edwards, the minutes of September 29, 2025, committee meeting were approved on a roll call vote of 2 Ayes (Edwards and Paull), 0 Noes, and 1 Absent (Lindor).

Discussion Items

2. Status of Public Outreach Projects

Phil Wellman, Public Outreach Consultant with WellmanAd, presented a slide-deck titled, "MPWMD Public Outreach Report/October 1 – November 24." A copy of the presentation is available at the District office and can be found on the District website. Mr. Wellman highlighted the following:

Oct

- Brand Ad, Newsletter and social media highlighting: Mulch Madness event, the launch of Pure

Water Monterey Expansion project, and efforts to modify the Cease and Desist Order

Nov

- Brand Ad, Newsletter and social media highlighting the reduction of water use on the peninsula

3. Status of Letters of Support for Modification of the Cease & Desist Order

Dave Stoldt reported that it has been one month since the application was submitted and outreach for letters of support continues. About 25% of requests have resulted in letters so far, including a neutral letter from the City of Monterey. Additional outreach is planned after the holiday with a goal of reaching 50%. Some housing advocates require further explanation of local conditions. He also noted that the City of Monterey is currently declining to release water until the State takes action on the CDO, despite having approved similar releases in the past. Staff is working with LandWatch to address concerns regarding intensification of use versus change in use.

Staff is seeking a meeting with the new CalAm president, Sarah Leeper, to reinforce ongoing collaboration and highlight the unique conditions on the Monterey Peninsula compared with other CalAm service areas.

4. Update on Citizens Water Panel Concepts

Mike McCullough presented the concept of a Citizen Water Panel to improve public understanding of District policies and local water resource management. The proposal is a one-year pilot with 2–4 informal meetings that remain transparent but outside Brown Act requirements.

Potential participants may come from chamber government affairs groups, realtors, business coalitions, board member nominations, or public interest applicants.

Planned topics include District department overviews, advocacy and outreach efforts, major collaborative projects (e.g., Seaside Groundwater Basin, Pure Water Monterey), and Measure J. Meetings may combine presentations with site visits to District and partner facilities such as river sites, fish facilities, the ASR site, and stormwater diversion projects.

Suggest Items to Be Placed on a Future Agenda

No items were presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Edwards adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

/s/ Sara Reyes

Sara Reyes, Board Clerk to the
MPWMD Public Outreach Committee

Approved by the MPWMD Public Outreach Committee on _____.

Received by the MPWMD Board of Director's on _____.

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

ITEM: ACTION ITEM

2. ADOPT 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

**From: David J. Stoldt,
General Manager**

Prepared By: Sara Reyes

SUMMARY: Below is the proposed Public Outreach Committee meeting schedule for calendar year 2026. Committee members are asked to review the dates and notify the Board Clerk of any scheduling conflicts. Meetings may be canceled if there is no business requiring committee attention.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Public Outreach Committee review and adopt the proposed meeting schedule for 2026.

Day of Week	Date	Time
Tuesday	February 24, 2026	2:00 p.m.
Monday	April 27, 2026	2:00 p.m.
Monday	June 29, 2026	2:00 p.m.
Monday	August 31, 2026	2:00 p.m.
Monday	October 26, 2026	2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

ITEM: DISCUSSION ITEM

5. UPDATE ON FORMATION OF CITIZENS WATER PANEL

Meeting Date:	February 24, 2026	Budgeted:	N/A
From:	Mike McCullough, Assistant General Manager	Program/ Line Item No.:	Public Outreach GM Outreach Budget
Prepared By:	Mike McCullough	Cost Estimate:	\$6,000

General Counsel Review: N/A

Committee Recommendation: The Public Outreach Committee discussed this item on February 24, 2026 and recommended _____.

CEQA Compliance: This action does not constitute a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15378.

SUMMARY: Staff proposes establishing a Citizens Water Panel in 2026. The purpose of the Panel is to educate appointed stakeholders on the District’s policies, regulatory framework, and strategic approach to managing local water resources efficiently.

BACKGROUND: At last years (2025) Strategic Planning Session, the Board highlighted Goal #4 – Increase Public Engagement and Maintain Leadership Role on Water Issues. To help meet one of the four Objectives listed under this Goal – Consider forming a Citizens Panel – District staff developed a conceptual overview of the panel’s structure, participation and operations as outlined in Exhibit 5-A.

RECOMMENDATION: The Public Outreach Committee should recommend that the Board authorize the formation of the Citizens Water Panel and approve expenditures not to exceed \$6,000 for facilitation, materials, logistics, and outreach necessary to launch the inaugural panel.

EXHIBITS

5-A Citizens Water Panel Overview

EXHIBIT 5-A

Citizens Water Panel – Overview

Objective

Provide citizens, ratepayers, and stakeholders with a clear understanding of the District's policies, regulations, and strategies for managing local water resources efficiently.

Meetings

Designed to be transparent and informative, while not requiring formal Brown Act compliance.

Program Duration

A 6-month pilot program consisting of three meetings. A field trip may replace one meeting or occur immediately following a scheduled meeting.

Panel Size

Maximum of 10 members

Candidate Identification

Potential recruitment approaches include:

- Board members soliciting interested candidates from their respective districts and selecting one representative each (7 total).
- Requesting recommendations from local stakeholder organizations with Government Affairs Committees (up to 3 total).

Topics

Staff will prepare agendas and presentations covering:

- District departments: Water Demand, Water Supply, and Environmental Resources.
- Advocacy and public outreach efforts.
- Collaborative projects: including:
 - Seaside Groundwater Basin management
 - Pure Water Monterey
 - Local water projects
- Measure J

Meeting Format

Meetings will begin at the District's Administrative Office with topic discussions. One field trip will be included to visit District water-related infrastructure sites, which may include:

- Fish Weir
- Riverbank stabilization mitigation projects
- Sleepy Hollow Fish Rearing Facility
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery sites
- Local stormwater diversion projects

Cost

Program expenses include shuttle transportation for the field trip. Development of program materials will not exceed \$6,000.