



**Final Minutes
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
January 26, 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 Riley called the regular session to order at 6:02 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

Cory Hamilton, Senior Fisheries Biologist

District Counsel Present:

Michael Laredo, De Lay & Laredo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION TO GEORGE RILEY | 2025 BOARD CHAIR

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

General Manager Stoldt thanked Chair Riley for his leadership in 2025 and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. The Board offered accolades, with all members expressing their appreciation for his service.

Chair Riley reflected on postponing his initial run for the Board and emphasized the importance of agility, preparation, and balanced perspectives among Board members. He expressed appreciation for his colleagues, acknowledged both the responsibilities and limitations of the Chair role, and thanked the Board for their accolades and support. He concluded by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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

- 1) Susan Schiavone thanked Director Riley for his effective leadership, and meeting management, noting his ability to ask difficult questions and broaden discussion. She also commented on the recent general rate case hearing in Sand City and encouraged public participation in the upcoming Zoom hearing.
- 2) Melodie Chrislock representing Public Water Now, thanked Director Riley for his decades of service to the community and referenced the Public Advocates Office report criticizing Cal-Am's proposed rate methodologies. She encouraged the Board and public to review the report and noted the lower rate adjustments recommended by the Public Advocates Office.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

Director Paull offered a motion, seconded by Director Riley, to approve the Consent Calendar. 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 Special and Regular Board Meeting on December 15, 2025**
- 2. Consider Adoption of Treasurer's Report for November 2025**

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

3. General Manager's Report

General Manager Dave Stoldt presented this item using a slide-deck titled "General Manager's Report on Supply & Demand, Acquisition of Cal-Am, Water Supply Projects. He reported that increased Pure Water Monterey deliveries reduced reliance on the Carmel River and Seaside Basin during the first quarter of the water year. Overall production is 135 acre-feet below last year. Rainfall was above average through December but below average in January, and ASR injection has paused due to low river flows.

Mr. Stoldt noted that the desalination project still has many required steps unfinished, including local approvals, community meetings, financing details, and agreements needed for returning water. These delays mean the project is not yet ready to move forward. He also explained that the state's cost estimates for the project are based on older numbers, and updated information will be presented next month.

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

Chair Oglesby opened Public Comment and the following comments were received:

- 1) Melodie Chrislock questioned the logic of pursuing a large desalination plant when the CPUC's updated supply and demand report indicates only about 2,500 acre-feet of additional water would be needed 25 years from now. She expressed concern that the CPUC has not addressed this discrepancy and asked whether there is a mechanism for resolving the inconsistency.
- 2) Susan Schiavone stated that the information presented is important for the public and helps clarify claims made by Cal-Am about the desalination project. She noted inconsistencies between what is shared at public meetings and the status of regulatory requirements, describing it as "parallel realities." She emphasized the need for clear, factual information and expressed concern about the CPUC's effectiveness.

- 3) Tom Rowley, Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association, stated that his organization reviews Cal-Am’s updates every six months and noted inconsistencies between Cal-Am’s statements that the desalination project is “on target” and the continuing delays. He expressed support for the District’s detailed tracking and reporting of project conditions, stating that such transparency helps the public and Board better understand project progress. He encouraged the District to continue providing these regular updates.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

4. Report from District Counsel

District Counsel David Laredo referenced the litigation report on page 23 of the meeting packet and provided a summary of ongoing legal matters.

Chair Oglesby opened Public Comment and the following comments were received:

- 1) Tom Rowley stated that Measure J was not a mandate but provided the Board with options, and suggested the Board could choose to stop pursuing it to reduce legal costs. He expressed concerns about the cost analysis presented during the Measure J campaign and urged the Board to be accurate in its reporting.
- 2) Melodie Chrislock disagreed with the prior speaker’s characterization of Measure J, stating that it was written as a mandate requiring the District to pursue a buyout if proven feasible. She emphasized that voters supported a public option and expressed confidence that support would be even stronger today given Cal-Am’s actions since 2018.

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

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

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

- Director Paull reported on her attendance at the Quarterly Special Districts Association meeting on January 20, 2026 and noted recent Brown Act reforms and referenced a CSDA webinar explaining the changes. Staff confirmed a summary of the relevant updates, including new teleconferencing rules, will be provided to the Board.
- Director Riley reported that he also attended the Quarterly Special Districts Association meeting and reported that a new state-provided financial training program is available in early April and expressed interest in attending. Director Riley also noted upcoming changes at LAFCO, including an open public member seat due to a resignation and additional positions with terms nearing review. Applications are currently being accepted for the public member and alternate seats.
- Director Edwards reported that he attended the Seaside Groundwater Basin meeting on January 7, 2026, where an overview was provided on the Marina groundwater report that will consolidate information from all basin areas. He requested that, once completed and combined with the District’s data, the team be invited to present the full report to the Board as part of ongoing cooperative efforts.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

6. Consider First Reading of Ordinance No. 200 – Repealing Ordinance No, 152

General Manager Stoldt reported on this item and referenced the staff report on page 27. He explained that the ordinance would repeal the District’s prior water supply charge ordinance, which was invalidated through litigation. This was the first reading of the proposed ordinance, with no action required other than holding the public hearing.

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

- 1) Tom Rowley thanked the Board for their work.

Director Daniels asked for a review of the refund process and clarification on the steps eligible customers needed to take to receive their refunds. Chief Financial Officer Nishil Bali provided an update and answered questions from the Board.

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

ACTION ITEM

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

7. Ratify Board Committee Assignments for Calendar Year 2026

General Manager Stoldt note

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

A motion was made by Director Daniels, seconded by Director Edwards to ratify the appointments as presented. The motion passed by a voice vote of 7 Ayes (Edwards, Daniels, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, Gawain and Riley) and 0 Noes.

8. Consider Approval of District Legislative Advocacy Plan for 2026

General Manager Stoldt noted that the District adopts a Legislative Advocacy Plan each year to guide its engagement in legislative and regulatory matters. He stated the proposed plan is largely unchanged from the prior year.

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

A motion was made by Director Riley, seconded by Director Gawain, to adopt the proposed 2026 Legislative Advocacy Plan. The motion passed by a voice vote of 7 Ayes (Edwards, Daniels, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, Gawain and Riley) and 0 Noes.

9. Consider Approval of Amendment No. 8 to the Agreement for Employment of the General Manager

Chair Oglesby summarized the Board's December 15, 2025 performance review of the General Manager, noting that the Board was satisfied with his continued high-level performance and progress on Board goals. The proposed amendment provides a cost-of-living adjustment equal to the 3.0% COLA approved for General staff, effective July 1, 2026, with associated salary-based benefits adjusted accordingly.

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

- 1) Melodie Chrislock stated the General Manager is doing excellent work and supported the recommended salary adjustment.
- 2) Susan Schiavone thanked Mr. Stoldt for his hard work and noted the District is fortunate to have such a dedicated General Manager.

A motion was made by Director Edwards, seconded by Director Riley, to approve compensation changes as shown in Amendment No. 8 to the Agreement for Employment of General Manager. The motion passed by a voice vote of 7 Ayes (Edwards, Daniels, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, Gawain and Riley) and 0 Noes.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Chair Oglesby introduced the item.

10. Receive Draft Monitoring and Mitigation Plan for Water Extraction on the Carmel River (Ten-Year Plan)

Thomas Christensen, Environmental Resource Manager, outlined the Plan using a slide-deck titled "Draft Monitoring and Mitigation Plan for Water Extraction on the Carmel River". Following his presentation, the Board engaged in discussions and thanked Mr. Christensen and his staff for the informative report.

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

- 1) Tom Rowley referenced a question from a Board member comparing Rancho Cañada to September Ranch.

11. Receive Direction from the Board on the Formation of a Citizens Water Panel

Mike McCullough, Assistant General Manager, explained that the goal of the proposed Citizens Water Panel is to increase public engagement by involving ratepayers and local stakeholder in understanding the District's mission and policies. The Board engaged in discussions and provided input.

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

- 1) Tom Rowley, Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association encouraged including a range of viewpoints on the proposed Citizens Water Panel and suggested structuring it under Brown Act rules to allow members to receive information and provide informed feedback.
- 2) Susan Schiavone advised not to compare the proposed Citizens Water Panel to the former 152 Oversight Committee, noting it was created under legal mandate. She suggested the new panel could also support public education by participating in community events and sharing information about the District.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/STAFF REPORTS:

12. Report on Activity/Progress on Contracts Over \$25,000
13. Status Report on Spending – Public's Ownership of Monterey Water System
14. Status Report on Legal Services Activity for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
15. Letters Received and Sent
16. Committee Reports
17. Monthly Allocation Report
18. Water Efficiency Program Report
19. Carmel River Fishery Report for December 2025
20. 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 Riley adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.



Sara Reyes, Deputy District Secretary

Minutes approved by the MPWMD Board of Directors on February 23, 2026.