



**Final Minutes
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
March 16, 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

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

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Rebecca Lindor, Vice-Chair
Alvin Edwards
George Riley
Karen Paull
Marianne Gawain

Board Members Absent:

Ian Oglesby, Chair
Kate Daniels

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

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

- 1) Tom Rowley, thanked District staff for issuing a refund check and expressed appreciation that refund payments are being sent to all affected property owners.
- 2) Susan Schiavone commented on conflicting public advertisements regarding the health of steelhead populations in the Carmel River watershed and asked how the District should respond to the differing messages.
- 3) Anna Thompson echoed concerns about recent public statements regarding steelhead conditions and requested a response from the District.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice Chair Lindor introduced the item.

Director Riley requested that Item 3 be pulled for discussion.

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

Director Paull offered a motion, seconded by Director Gawain, to approve Consent Calendar items 1 and 2. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5 Ayes (Edwards, Lindor, Paull, Gawain and Riley), 0 Noes and 2 Absent (Oglesby and Daniels).

Director Riley offered a motion, seconded by Director Edwards, to approve Item 3. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5 Ayes (Edwards, Daniels, Lindor, Paull, Gawain and Riley), 0 Noes and 2 Absent (Oglesby and Daniels).

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

- 1. Consider Adoption of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on February 23, 2026**
- 2. Consider Adoption of Treasurer’s Report for January 2026**
- 3. Consider Partnering with the Seaside Watermaster to Install a New Seawater Intrusion Monitoring Well on the Fort Ord Dunes State Park**

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Vice Chair Lindor introduced the item.

Audio issues began during the General Manager’s report, preventing two-way communication between the Board and the Zoom audience. The issues continued intermittently for a portion of the meeting.

4. General Manager’s Report

General Manager Dave Stoldt presented an overview of water supply and demand, including year-to-date production from all sources. The Board engaged in discussion following the presentation. A copy of the presentation is available on the District’s website.

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

5. Fix a Leak Week –March 16 through 22, 2026

Stephanie Locke, Water Demand Manager presented information on Fix a Leak Week, including leak detection tips and available District rebates. The Board engaged in discussion following the presentation. A copy of the presentation is available on the District’s website.

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

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL

Vice Chair Lindor introduced the item.

6. Report from District Counsel

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

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

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

Vice Chair Lindor introduced the item.

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

- Director Riley reported on a well-attended League of Women Voters water-related presentation and noted strong public interest and engagement on water issues. Directors Lindor and Gawain were also in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING

Vice Chair Lindor introduced the item.

8. Consider First Reading of Ordinance No. 201 – Amending Rules 10, 11, 23, 24, 25.5, 33, 141, 142, 160, 163, 164, 165, and 167

Stephanie Locke presented the first reading of Ordinance No. 201, proposing amendments to multiple District rules to clarify and update regulations in support of the Board’s strategic goals. The Board engaged in discussion following the presentation. A copy of the presentation is available on the District’s website.

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

- 1) Andrew Myrick asked whether proposed changes reflected in Table 1, related to fixture unit assumptions for existing plumbing fixtures, were included in the current ordinance or deferred to a later action. He also requested the opportunity to provide suggestions on Table 1 depending on how Rule 142 is addressed.

A motion was made by Director Riley, seconded by Director Gawain, to recommend that the Board approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 201 as amended, removing Rule 142 and incorporating suggested edits from the Board. The motion also directed staff to bring the draft ordinance to the Technical Advisory Committee prior to the second reading. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 5 Ayes (Edwards, Riley, Paull, Lindor, and Gawain), 0 Noes, and 2 Absent (Oglesby and Daniels).

9. Consider Adoption of 2025 MPWMD Annual Report

General Manager Stoldt referenced the draft Annual Report included in the meeting packet and recommended that the Board adopt the report with any changes or edits as directed by the Board.

Vice Chair Lindor opened the Public Comment period; however, no comments were received:

A motion was made by Director Paull, seconded by Director Gawain to recommend that the Board adopt the 2025 MPWMD Annual Report and incorporate suggested edits from the Board. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5 Ayes (Edwards, Riley, Paull, Lindor, and Gawain), 0 Noes, and 2 Absent (Oglesby and Daniels).

10. Consider Adoption of April through June 2026 Quarterly Water Supply Strategy and Budget

Jonathan Lear, Water Resources Manager, presented the April through June 2026 Quarterly Water Supply Strategy, developed in coordination with California American Water and state and fisheries agencies. The presentation summarized projected water supply and demand and regulatory considerations, noting that Upper Valley wells are expected to be unavailable beginning in May due to low-flow conditions, requiring reliance on Lower Valley sources and other supply projects. The Board engaged in discussion following the presentation. A copy of the presentation is available on the District’s website.

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

A motion was made by Director Riley, seconded by Director Paull, to adopt the proposed quarterly water supply budget. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5 Ayes (Edwards, Riley, Paull, Lindor, and Gawain), 0 Noes, and 2 Absent (Oglesby and Daniels).

ACTION ITEM

Vice Chair Lindor introduced the item.

11. Consider Development of a Pilot Citizens Water Panel for 2026

Mike McCullough, Assistant General Manager, presented an overview of the proposed 2026 Pilot Citizens Water Panel, noting that the concept had been previously discussed through public outreach, the Public Outreach Committee, and prior Board meetings. Mr. McCullough described the proposed panel composition of up to 12 members, including Board-appointed representatives and local stakeholders, and outlined a tentative timeline for appointments and kickoff.

Vice Chair Lindor opened the Public Comment period, and the following comments were made:

- 1) Melodie Chrislock asked how “stakeholders” were defined for the proposed Citizens Water Panel, expressed concern that residents and community groups be adequately represented, and requested clarification on the purpose of the panel.
- 2) Susan Schiavone expressed concern that the proposed stakeholder representation for the Citizens Water Panel could be weighted toward business interests and suggested including broader community and educational organizations. She also asked whether the panel’s goals and objectives would be established by the Board or developed by the committee itself.

A motion was made by Director Riley, seconded by Director Edwards, to authorize the formation of the Citizens Water Panel and approve expenditures not to exceed \$10,000 for facilitation, materials, logistics, and outreach necessary to launch the inaugural panel. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5 Ayes (Edwards, Riley, Paull, Lindor, and Gawain), 0 Noes, and 2 Absent (Oglesby and Daniels).

12. Consider Adoption of District Strategic Goals and Objectives for 2026

General Manager Stoldt provided an overview of the District’s draft 2026 Strategic Goals and Objectives, building on the Board workshop held on March 6, 2026. The presentation reviewed the Board’s role in strategic planning and outlined proposed goals and associated objectives, including regulatory compliance, public ownership of the Monterey Water System, protection of water supply assets, conservation and reporting obligations, optimization of aquifer storage and recovery, updates to District rules and regulations, advancement of Los Padres Dam alternatives, financial stability, and ratepayer advocacy. The Board engaged in discussion following the presentation. A copy of the presentation is available on the District’s website.

Vice Chair Lindor opened the Public Comment period, and the following comment was made:

- 1) Susan Schiavone commended District staff and the Board for their work on the proposed Strategic Goals and Objectives, expressing support for the goals related to optimizing aquifer storage and recovery and ratepayer advocacy.

A motion was made by Director Gawain, seconded by Director Riley, to adopt the District Strategic Goals and Objectives for 2026. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5 Ayes (Edwards, Riley, Paull, Lindor, and Gawain), 0 Noes, and 2 Absent (Oglesby and Daniels).

13. Consider Approval of Additional Budget for Legal Services from Shute Mihaly & Weinberger and Richards Watson Gershon (RWG Law)

General Manager Stoldt briefly reported on the need for additional legal services authorizations due to increased litigation activity. Mr. Stoldt explained that existing authorizations for Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger and Richards, Watson & Gershon (RWG Law) had been expended as a result of work related to LAFCO proceedings, eminent domain matters, and the Coastal Commission appeal.

Vice Chair Lindor opened the Public Comment period, and the following comment was made:

- 1) Tom Rowley, Vice President of the Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association, commented on the appeal of the Coastal Commission matter and suggested that the District discontinue the appeal to avoid additional legal costs.

A motion was made by Director Paull, seconded by Director Riley, to approve an additional authorization for Shute Mihaly & Weinberger of \$130,000 and approve an additional budget for RWG Law of \$40,000. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5 Ayes (Edwards, Riley, Paull, Lindor, and Gawain), 0 Noes, and 2 Absent (Oglesby and Daniels).

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/STAFF REPORTS:

14. Report on Activity/Progress on Contracts Over \$25,000

- 15. Status Report on Expenditures – Public’s Ownership of Monterey Water System**
- 16. Letters Received and Sent**
- 17. Committee Reports**
- 18. Monthly Allocation Report**
- 19. Water Efficiency Program Report for February 2026**
- 20. Carmel River Fishery Report for February 2026**
- 21. 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, Vice Chair Lindor adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Sara Reyes, Deputy District Secretary

Minutes approved by the MPWMD Board of Directors on April 20, 2026.