



**Final Minutes
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
March 17, 2025 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 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present

Amy Anderson
Kate Daniels
Alvin Edwards
Rebecca Lindor
Karen Paull – via Zoom
George Riley, Chair

Board Members Absent

Ian Oglesby, Vice Chair

District Staff Members Present

David Stoldt, General Manager
Nishil Bali, Chief Financial Officer / Administrative Services Manager
Jonathan Lear, Water Resources Manager
Stephanie Locke, Water Demand Manager
Thomas Christensen, Environmental Resources Manager
Maureen Hamilton, District Engineer
Sara Reyes, Clerk of the Board / Executive Assistant

District Staff Members Absent

None

District Counsel Present

Michael Laredo, De Lay & Laredo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

General Manager David Stoldt reported that there were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Riley opened the Oral Communications period; however, no comments were made to the Board.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Riley introduced the item.

Director Anderson offered a motion, seconded by Edwards, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 Ayes (Anderson, Daniels, Edwards, Lindor, Paull, 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 February 24, 2025 and the Special Meeting/Board Workshop on February 28, 2025**
- 2. Consider Adoption of Treasurer’s Report for January 2025**

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Chair Riley introduced the item.

General Manager Stoldt made two announcements:

- “Fix A Leak Week” begins today and runs through March 23, 2025. Ads will appear later this week in the Monterey County Weekly. The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (District) encourages the replacement of leaky or old devices, such as toilet flappers.
- The District has hired an Assistant General Manager. A press release was sent out today, and Mr. Stoldt read from it: “The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District announces the arrival of Mike McCullough as the new Assistant General Manager”. Mr. McCullough will start with the District on April 3, 2025.

3. Status Report on California American Water Compliance with State Water Resources Control Board Order 2016-0016 and Seaside Groundwater Basin Adjudication Decision

General Manager Stoldt provided information on the status of this agenda item through a slide-deck presentation titled “Status Report on Cal-Am Compliance with SWRCB Orders and Basin Decision as of March 1, 2025”. The board engaged in discussions. *A copy of the presentation is available at the District office and can be found on the District website.*

Chair Riley opened the public comment period, and the following comment was made to the Board:

- 1) Michael Baer, expressed concern about CalAm’s management of the water budget, noting that there are still 2,000 acre-feet of water available with seven months remaining. He hopes CalAm can be encouraged to use the available water before summer.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL

Chair Riley introduced the matter.

4. Report From District Counsel

- District Counsel Michael Laredo referenced the litigation report on page 23 of the meeting packet and provided a brief overview.

Chair Riley opened the public comment period; however, no comments were made to the Board.

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

Chair Riley introduced the matter.

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

- Chair Riley referenced an article from the Monterey Herald on March 16, 2025, titled Responsible Water Management written by the Director of Engineering for CalAm. Chair Riley asked the General Manager and Board if they read the article and whether the District should respond to it or leave it unaddressed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chair Riley introduced the matter.

6. Consider Adoption of 2024 MPWMD Annual Report

General Manager Dave Stoldt referred to the staff report on page 31 and reviewed the draft outline of the Annual Report. Mr. Stoldt reported staff identified a few minor edits that will be made which may shift the look of the

paragraphs. The Board engaged in discussion and provided suggestions.

Chair Riley opened the public comment period, and the following comments were made to the Board:

- 1) Michael Baer praised the document but noted a discrepancy on page 2 regarding surplus rain leading to record injections into the Seaside Basin. He pointed out that it mentions 3,829 acre-feet from the Carmel River, which exceeds the allowed limit. He questioned how this amount was possible and suggested it might be an error.
- 2) Margaret Anne Coppernoll, praised the annual report but expressed concern about a paragraph mentioning groundwater as a bridge until a desalination plant is built. She questioned whether this statement was political or had a specific rationale.
- 3) Tom Rowley, Vice-President of the Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association, noted that tourism has not yet returned to 2019 levels, impacting water usage, especially in hotels. He also mentioned that the Board needs to be aware of upcoming water demands for new hotels and apartments being built on Garden Road.

A motion was made by Director Edwards, seconded by Director Lindor, to adopt the 2024 MPWMD Annual Report and the suggestions/edits as presented by the Board. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 Ayes (Anderson, Daniels, Edwards, Lindor, Paull and Riley), and 0 Noes.

7. Consider Adoption of April through June 2025 Quarterly Water Supply Strategy and Budget

Jonathan Lear, Water Resources Manager, provided information on the status of this agenda item through a slide-deck presentation titled “Consider Adoption of Apr – Jun 2025 Quarterly Water Supply Strategy and Budget for California American Water”. The board engaged in discussion. *A copy of the presentation is available at the District office and can be found on the District website.*

Chair Riley opened the public comment period; however, no comments were made to the Board.

A motion was made by Director, seconded by Director Edwards, to adopt the April through June 2025 Quarterly Water Supply Strategy and Budget. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 Ayes (Anderson, Daniels, Edwards, Lindor, Paull, and Riley) and 0 Noes.

ACTION ITEMS

Chair Riley introduced the matter.

8. Consider Approval of Additional Budget for Legal Services from Shute Mihaly & Weinberger

General Manager Stoldt provided an overview of this item and referenced his report on page 47. The board engaged in discussions.

Chair Riley opened the public comment period; however, no comments were made to the Board.

A motion was made by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Edwards, to approve an additional budget of \$100,000 for Shute Mihaly & Weinberger. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 Ayes (Anderson, Daniels, Edwards, Lindor, Paull, and Riley) and 0 Noes.

9. Consider Adoption of District Strategic Goals and Objectives for 2025

Chair Riley commented on the great participation by the Board and the positive outcomes developed. General Manager Stoldt also discussed the process and referenced the Draft Goals on page 51, highlighting some new areas of focus for the Board. The board engaged in discussions.

Chair Riley opened the public comment period, and the following comments were made to the Board:

- (1) Susan Schiavone praised the Board and staff for their goal setting, emphasizing the importance of purchasing the water system. She appreciated their involvement with the Seaside Watermaster Group and their focus on mitigation efforts and responsible stewardship of the river.
- (2) Margaret Anne Coppernoll praised the Board for their hard work and dedication, highlighting the achievement of injecting half a billion gallons of rainwater into the storage. She expressed appreciation for the Board's efforts and high standards.

A motion was made by Director Daniels, seconded by Director Edwards, to adopt the proposed District Strategic Goals and Objectives for 2025. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 Ayes (Anderson, Daniels, Edwards, Lindor, Paull, and Riley) and 0 Noes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chair Riley introduced the matter.

10. Consider Repeal of Ordinance No. 152

General Manager Stoldt reviewed his report and outlined options under Ordinance No. 152. He requested the Board's guidance on whether to repeal, reduce, or suspend the Ordinance. The board engaged in discussions.

Chair Riley opened the public comment period, and the following comments were made to the Board:

- (1) Tom Rowley, Vice President of the Monterey Peninsula Taxpayers Association, emphasized the need for a new, inclusive stakeholders committee to represent key organizations in Monterey County. He thanked the Board for considering the repeal and urged a fresh start with broader representation.
- (2) Marc Kelley complimented the Board on their elegant solution to a challenging ongoing litigation, praising their approach. He expressed his gratitude for their efforts.

11. Discuss Seaside Subbasin Groundwater Divide Technical Memorandum

General Manager Stoldt reported that the Water Supply Planning Committee requested this item be discussed by the Board. Mr. Stoldt reviewed the technical memorandum and stated that the goal is to get direction from the Board on whether the District should communicate these findings with the watermaster. The board engaged in discussions.

Chair Riley opened the public comment period, and the following comments were made to the Board:

- (1) Susan Schiavone emphasized the importance of providing complete information to ensure recipients can respond appropriately. She supported sending the letter, expressing approval and appreciation for sharing the information.
- (2) Marc Kelley discussed the need for collaboration between the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster, and the District to address water movement and boundaries. He emphasized the urgency of balancing the valley's water by 2040 and noted that adjusting political boundaries to align with actual water movement would be a significant achievement.

Counsel Laredo suggested that the Board make a motion to authorize the District to send a letter as discussed by the group.

A motion was made by Director Daniels, seconded by Director Edwards, to authorize the District to send a letter to the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 Ayes (Anderson, Daniels, Edwards, Lindor, Paull, and Riley) and 0 Noes.

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

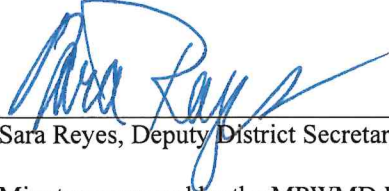
14. Letters Received and Sent

- 15. Committee Reports
- 16. Monthly Allocation Report
- 17. Water Conservation Program Report for January 2025
- 18. Carmel River Fishery Report for January 2025
- 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

Chair Riley adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.



Sara Reyes, Deputy District Secretary

Minutes approved by the MPWMD Board of Directors on April 21, 2025