



**Final Minutes
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
October 20, 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 regular session to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

George Riley, Chair
Ian Oglesby, Vice-Chair
Kate Daniels
Alvin Edwards
Rebecca Lindor (via Zoom)
Karen Paull

Board Members Absent:

District 5 - vacant

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

Jonathan Lear, Water Resources Manager
Maureen Hamilton, District Engineer
Thomas Christensen, Environmental Resources Manager
Sara Reyes, Clerk of the Board / Executive Assistant

District Counsel Present:

Michael Laredo, De Lay & Laredo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION IN APPRECIATION OF OUTGOING DIRECTORS

Amy Anderson, District 5

Chair Riley began with a presentation of appreciation for Amy Anderson, who recently resigned from the Board. Directors shared heartfelt comments recognizing Amy's contributions, leadership, wisdom, commitment to public service, and friendship, noting she will be greatly missed but wished her well in future endeavors.

Amy then addressed the Board, sharing that this was her first elected role and deciding to run took time. She found the work challenging but rewarding and was proud to serve. Resigning due to health issues, she remains optimistic, praised the organization's integrity and community focus, and expressed gratitude to staff and directors, noting she will continue to follow the Board's work.

Chair Riley then opened the Public Comment period, and the following comments were made to the Board:

- 1) Michael Baer thanked Amy for her service, recalling their work together on Measure O and the Yes on J campaign, and expressed pride in her move to elected office. He then shifted to water policy, urging the Board to request the State Water Resources Control Board to release CalAm from restrictions, referencing past discussions about sustainable water resources and the progress made since.
- 2) Melodie Chrislock thanked Amy for her service, calling her an “amazing water warrior.” She recalled working together since Measure O and expressed deep appreciation for Amy’s contributions to the community, wishing her well.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Riley opened the Oral Communications period, and the following comments were made to the Board:

- 1) Elise Weiland, Executive Director of the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, shared an update on a new partnership with Watershed Progressive to create a comprehensive watershed opportunity map. The map will integrate data on vegetation, flooding, septic systems, sewer locations, and wildfire risks, and identify solutions such as rainwater catchment and vegetation removal with measurable benefits. She noted similar efforts in Petaluma led to 120 transformative projects in five years. The goal is to complete the map by spring, engage landowners and resources, and expand this approach to other watersheds in Monterey County.
- 2) Michael Bona, owner and broker of Bonafide Properties, introduced himself and shared concerns about water availability for development. He noted he is in escrow on a vacant property in Monterey and hopes the moratorium will be lifted following Ordinance 179. He emphasized the potential benefits for housing and tax revenue and asked for guidance on whether water releases might occur soon or if delays could last several years.

SPECIAL ACTION ITEM

Chair Riley introduced this item and asked the General Manager to provide an overview.

- 1. Consider Selection of Appointee to Serve as Division 5 Director for a Term Ending November 2026**
Dave Stoldt, General Manager, reported that the Board previously reviewed three candidates for the Division 5 vacancy; one has since withdrawn, leaving two candidates. One candidate was present while the other could be interviewed at a special meeting next week if the Board chooses. A decision must be made by November 11 per legal requirements. All original candidates were well-qualified and reside in the correct division.

The Board engaged in discussion and then invited Marianne Gawain to address the Board, providing information on her interest in serving. After Ms. Gawain’s comments, the Board continued with additional questions and discussion.

Director Riley moved to appoint Marianne Gawain as Director Division 5, seconded by Director Daniels. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 Ayes (Daniels, Edwards, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, and Riley) and 0 Noes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Riley introduced the item.

Director Daniels offered a motion, seconded by Director Lindor, to approve the Consent Calendar. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 6 Ayes (Daniels, Edwards, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, and Riley) and 0 Noes.

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

- 2. Consider Adoption of the Board Minutes from the September 15, 2025 Special and Regular Meeting**
- 3. Consider Recommendation to Authorize Contract with IGM US Holdings, Inc. “Gravity” – Budget Book**

4. **Consider a Contribution of \$8,000 Towards Restoration of “Rosie’s Garden”, a Water Efficient Public Demonstration Garden in Carmel Valley**
5. **Consider Contracting with Weber Water Resources to Destroy Monitor Well FO-10**
6. **Consider Adoption of Treasurer’s Report for August 2025**
7. **Receive Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68 - Financial Reporting for Pensions**
8. **Receive Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75 - Financial Reporting for Post-Employment Benefits Other Than Pension**

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Chair Riley introduced the item.

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

General Manager Dave Stoldt highlighted October activities, including the Pure Water Monterey ribbon-cutting event on October 2, a public open house, an employee appreciation luncheon, and the Mulch Madness event promoting water-saving landscaping practices. He noted the program uses locally produced compost and chips to reduce irrigation needs and support sustainability.

He then presented a slide-deck titled “General Manager’s Report Item 9: Status Report on Cal-Am Compliance with SWRCB Orders and Seaside Basin Decision as of October 1, 2025”.

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

Chair Riley then opened the public comment period, during which the following comments were made to the Board:

- 1) Elise Weiland asked if there is any concern about the ongoing shift from septic systems to sewer connections along the river, particularly regarding its impact on basin recharge.

General Manager Stoldt noted that recent changes will have some impact, but the effect is expected to be minimal.

- 2) Michael Bona asked how are storage figures accounted for:

- well impacts and increased groundwater extraction
- seasonal drying of feeder creeks and tributaries affecting steelhead habitat

Dave Stoldt reported that the Spanos property will mostly replace historic pumping, and consumptive use rules now limit withdrawals to prior actual use. New housing reduces return flow compared to irrigated land, but county agreements require giving up some pumping rights for river benefit. Water remains in storage, yet heavy summer pumping can cause dry-up events, so timing use in spring or winter is encouraged. Individual well users are not regulated, so management depends on voluntary best practices.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL

Chair Riley introduced the item.

10. General Report of Pending Litigation

District Counsel David Laredo referenced the litigation report on page 169 of the meeting packet and provided a summary of ongoing legal matters.

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

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

AND MEETINGS)

Chair Riley introduced the item.

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

- Chair Riley reported attending the Special Districts Association of Monterey County quarterly meeting on October 7. He stated the report focused on upcoming annexations in South County, which will be LAFCO's top priority for the next few months. Three cities in South County are involved.
- Director Edwards reported attending the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster meeting on October 1, where the Seaside Seawater Intrusion Plan was approved and is moving forward.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Riley introduced the item.

12. Consider First Reading of Ordinance No. 199 – Amending Rule 142.1, Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance

Stephanie Locke, Water Demand Manager, provided information on this item through a slide-deck presentation titled "Consider First Reading of Ordinance No. 199 – Amending Rule 142.1, Water Efficient Landscape Requirements".

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

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

A motion was made by Director Daniels, seconded by Director Oglesby, to recommend that the Board advance the draft ordinance to second reading. The motion passed by a roll call vote with 6 Ayes (Daniels, Edwards, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, and Riley) and 0 Noes.

ACTION ITEM

Chair Riley introduced the item.

13. Consider Authorization to File Application for Modification of the Cease and Desist Order (CDO)

The General Manager outlined an application to the State Water Board to modify the existing cease and desist order and allow new service connections to support housing and jobs. Key points:

- No current or near-term violation; PUC data shows no supply deficit for 11–21 years.
- Proposal maintains quarterly/annual reporting and adds early warning triggers when demand reaches 80% of supply.
- Continued conservation efforts and pursuit of small supply sources; desalination remains years away.
- Lifting the moratorium now enables growth while monitoring impacts.
- Application will include supplemental data and be submitted per state request.

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

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

- 1) Michael Bona thanked the Board for their efforts, shared long-standing ties to the District, and expressed support for lifting the CPUC moratorium to allow landowners to proceed with building homes and resolving family matters.
- 2) Tom Rowley, realtor and member of MCAR and the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee, expressed concerns about lifting the moratorium, citing uncertain water supply and future consumption. He recommended revisiting mid-next year after monitoring usage before requesting modification from the State Water Resources Control Board.

- 3) Elise Weiland, Carmel River Watershed Conservancy, expressed concerns about requesting removal of the CDO without sufficient data to demonstrate an adequate water supply. She raised issues including unregulated well use, delays and legal challenges with desalination projects, and the need for long-term planning to address drought risk.
- 4) Josh Stratton, California American Water (CalAm), thanked the Board for considering public input and noted CalAm's collaboration with the Water Management District on conservation efforts. He noted progress in reducing water use and protecting the Carmel River ecosystem and expressed support for continued cooperation on lifting the CDO while balancing long-term water reliability and quality.
- 5) Rem Scherzinger, General Manager of Marina Coast Water District, voiced strong support for lifting the meter moratorium, citing sufficient supply from the Pure Water Monterey expansion and Marina Coast's role as the primary wastewater provider. He highlighted a new interconnection agreement with CalAm to help address drought and scarcity issues and recommended pursuing modification of the CDO.
- 6) Marli Melton congratulated and thanked the Board and staff for their diligent work on the request to lift the CDO, expressing appreciation for their careful and intelligent approach.
- 7) Melodie Chrislock praised the Board's decision to seek lifting of the CDO, stating there is ample water supply and disputing claims of future shortages. She expressed concern about Monterey County Water Resources Agency's efforts to influence Peninsula cities and criticized their position on water allocation. Ms. Chrislock concluded with support for the Board's action and confident the State Water Board will approve.

A motion was made by Director Edwards, seconded by Director Daniels, to recommend that the Board authorize the General Counsel to submit the Application for Modification of the CDO as provided by the General Manager. The motion passed by a roll call vote with 6 Ayes (Daniels, Edwards, Lindor, Paull, Oglesby, and Riley) and 0 Noes.

DISCUSSION ITEM

14. Update on Resolution No. 2024-13 Supporting Closure of Open Water Permits by Implementing a One-Time Amnesty Period

Stephanie Locke, Water Demand Manager reported that the amnesty program (Resolution 2024-13) concluded on September 30. Staff contacted property owners of 1,470 open or unfinalized water permits and successfully closed 84% (1,242 permits). The effort used 5.11 acre-feet from the District's reserve water allocation, which now stands at 2,086 acre-feet. Remaining open permits will require follow-up without access to District reserve water. Ms. Locke noted improved tracking with the current database and coordination with jurisdictions to prevent future backlog, and confirmed resources are adequate to maintain progress.

Following the presentation, the Board engaged in discussion.


INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/STAFF REPORTS:

- 15. Report on Activity/Progress on Contracts Over \$25,000**
- 16. Status Report on Spending – Public's Ownership of Monterey Water System**
- 17. Letters Received and Sent**
- 18. Committee Reports**
- 19. Monthly Allocation Report**
- 20. Water Efficiency Program Report**
- 21. Carmel River Fishery Report for September 2025**
- 22. 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 8:50 p.m.


Sara Reyes, Deputy District Secretary

Minutes approved by the MPWMD Board of Directors on November 17, 2025.