



**Final Minutes  
Water Demand Committee Meeting  
Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.  
Meeting Location: Zoom**

**Call to Order / Roll Call**

Chair Edwards called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Committee Members Present**

Alvin Edwards  
Ian Oglesby  
George Riley (participated as an Alternate)

**Committee Members Absent**

None

**District Staff Members Present**

David 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  
Fran Farina, De Lay & Laredo

**Additions and Corrections to the Agenda**

None

**Comments from the Public**

Chair Edwards opened the public comment period, and the following comment was made to the committee:

- 1) Melodie Chrislock asked whether residents are currently allowed to add a bathroom without requiring a new water meter.

General Manager David Stoldt explained that water allocations have been in the hands of local jurisdictions since March, but responses have varied. Some cities, like Monterey, are withholding releases of the allocation until the CDO is lifted, while others, like Carmel, are moving forward to allow remodels and additional bathrooms. All jurisdictions have water available for such uses at their discretion, but not all are ready to release it. Staff has been encouraging cities to avoid prioritizing single categories and to support growth by releasing available water.

**Action Items**

Chair Edwards introduced the item.

**1. Consider Adoption of Committee Meeting Minutes from June 5, 2025**

Chair Edwards opened public comment; however, no comments were received.

On a motion by Edwards, seconded by Riley, the minutes of the August 7, 2025, committee meeting were approved by a roll call vote of 2 Ayes (Oglesby and Edwards), 0 Noes and 1 Absent (Oglesby).

**2. Consider a Contribution of \$8,000 Towards Restoration of “Rosie’s Garden” a Water Efficient Public Demonstration Garden in Carmel Valley**

Water Demand Manager Stephanie Locke presented an overview of this item and reported that a funding request from the Rosie’s Garden Advisory Committee for \$8,000 to support restoration of the water-efficient public demonstration garden in Carmel Valley. The garden, located on county-owned land in a high-visibility area, features low-water plants, educational signage, and four irrigation zones.

Sherie Dodsworth, chairperson of the advisory committee and Carmel Valley native, shared that planting for Rosie’s Garden is planned for mid-November, timed with the rainy season to support plant establishment. The garden will include educational signage, benches, and feature low-water plants near the Carmel River. Located in Robles Del Rio, a 310-home subdivision, the site is highly visible to visitors heading to Garland Park and nearby businesses, making it a valuable public demonstration space.

Chair Edwards opened public comment; no comments were received.

On a motion by Edwards, seconded by Riley, the Committee voted to recommend waving the \$250 Landscape Water Permit fee and approving an \$8,000 grant for landscape rehabilitation, with optional support from the District’s outreach contractor for signage development. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3 Ayes (Oglesby, Riley, and Edwards); 0 Noes.

**3. Consider Recommendation on First Reading of Ordinance No. 199 – Amending Rule 142.1, Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance**

Stephanie Locke presented a proposed revision to Rule 142.1, replacing the current landscape ordinance with the state’s updated, more simplified version. The new ordinance includes District-specific enhancement and adds permit requirements for smaller or previously unpermitted landscape projects.

Chair Edwards opened public comment, and the following comment was made to the committee:

- 1) Andy Myrick with the City of Seaside expressed support for discussing landscape challenges and emphasized the need to front-load water demand planning for new projects. He also urged consideration for minimizing burdens on homeowners during minor or interior remodels, especially regarding landscaping requirements.

On a motion by Oglesby, seconded by Riley, the Committee voted to approve the first reading of the draft Ordinance and to circulate it to the Technical Advisory Committee prior to presentation to the Board.

**Discussion Items**

Chair Edwards introduced this item.

**4. Overview of Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD) Discussion Regarding Water for Teacher Housing**

David Stoldt reported on five potential MPUSD development sites, with two (Del Rey Woods and Del Monte Elementary) located within Cal-Am’s service area and suitable for housing. He noted MPUSD expressed concern over delays in water release from the City of Monterey and asked about accessing the District’s Reserve. The District currently holds over 2,000 acre-feet in reserve. Mr. Stoldt noted while previous policy allowed local jurisdictions to manage their own water allocations, this approach may now be contributing to project delays, citing the Garden Road project as an example. He noted the

City of Monterey’s delay in releasing water, despite having received allocations in March 2025.

Mr. Stoldt proposed allowing cities to request water from the District reserve for multi-family housing projects ready to proceed, including those with affordable units. He requested committee feedback on recommending this approach to the Board, with a staff report to be presented at a future meeting if supported.

Chair Edwards opened public comment, and the following comment was received:

- 1) Melodie Chrislock emphasized the need to inform the public that water is now available through their cities for certain uses. She noted that most residents are unaware, which limits public pressure on cities to release water. She suggested clear communication to clarify that cities are responsible for allocations and that sufficient water is available, which could help prompt action.

## 5. Update on AMBAG 2026 Regional Growth Forecast

David Stoldt presented a comparison between the previous AMBAG regional growth forecast (to 2045) and the new draft final forecast (to 2050). He noted that the updated forecast shows generally dampened population and job growth across most jurisdictions, with exceptions in Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Sand City. Carmel, for example, is projected to lose population despite being assigned 349 new housing units under RHNA, highlighting a continued disconnect between housing allocations and population forecasts.

The updated forecast will inform the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy and will be used by the District to update its Urban Water Management Plan. Based on the new data, future water demand projections—both residential and non-residential—are expected to be lower than previously forecasted. Mr. Stoldt emphasized that while the District is contractually bound to deliver a set amount of water, the revised forecasts will still be developed to guide planning.

### Suggest Items to Be Placed on a Future Agenda

Director Edwards requested updates on the following item to be included on a future agenda:

- Cease and Desist Order

### Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Edwards adjourned the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

/s/ Sara Reyes

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Sara Reyes, Board Clerk to the  
*MPWMD Water Demand Committee*

Approved by the MPWMD Water Demand Committee on April 2, 2026.

Received by the MPWMD Board of Director’s on April 20, 2026.