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**WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
OF APRIL 2, 2025**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Laura Roughton called the regular meeting of the Western Municipal Water District (Western Water) Board of Directors to order at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, in the Western Board Room, 14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, California.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call of the Board of Directors was taken by Board Secretary Tammi Ford. The following board members were in attendance:

**Directors Present**

Laura Roughton, President  
Fauzia Rizvi, Vice President  
Brenda Dennstedt, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mike Gardner

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Jake Arballo, Operations Technician I, Production/Distribution - Operations Department, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

It was noted that any member of the public who wished to comment on any item within the jurisdiction of the District, or any item on the agenda, and written comments received by April 1, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. would become part of the Board Meeting record, or any member of the public may provide comment telephonically by calling the number listed on the agenda.

None.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Consent calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial and are to be acted upon by the Board at one time, without discussion. If any Board member, staff member, or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, it will be moved to the first item on the Action Agenda.

**Item 5B was pulled and will be considered at the April 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.**

**Motion: Dennstedt**

**Second: Gardner**

- A. Approve the Minutes of the March 13, 2025, Special Board Meeting
- B. Approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- C. Receive and File the January 2025 Cash Disbursement Report
- D. Receive and File the Operating Budget to Actual Report through December 31, 2024
- E. Approve the Option to Extend the Appointment of the Audit Firm Selected by the Board of Directors in May 2022 to Provide Independent Audit Services for an Additional Two Fiscal Years
- F. Receive and File the State Legislative Update from KP Public Affairs
- G. Receive and File the March 2025 Government Affairs and Legislative Update
- H. Authorize the General Manager to Execute the Third Amendment to Water Conservation Funding Agreement No. 66664 and No. 75352 between the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Western Municipal Water District

**The Motion passed 4-0 to Approve Items 5A and 5C through 5H**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: Torres**

**6. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA**

(If any) In accordance with Section 54954.2 of the Government Code, upon determination by a two-thirds vote of the legislative body, or, if less than two thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present that there is a need to take action, and the need to take action arose after the agenda was posted.

None.

## **7. ACTION AGENDA**

The following items on the Action Agenda call for discussion and action by the Board. All items are placed on the Agenda so that the Board may discuss and take action on the item, if the Board is so inclined.

### **A. Approve a Capital Budget Increase for the Planned Replacement of 10 Light-Duty Vehicles and Modification of the Lease Financing Approach with Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc.**

This item was presented by: Richard Aragon, Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer

**Motion: Rizvi**

**Second: Gardner**

As to the following:

1. Approve a capital budget in the amount of \$470,000 to replace 10 light-duty vehicles from Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc. through the \$1 Delivered Cost Open-End Equity Lease Program by amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Board adopted Capital Improvement and Facilities Plan under the Asset Replacement Reserve RES05 of Fleet Fund 14.
2. Authorize the General Manager to acquire light-duty vehicles through Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc. \$1 Delivered Cost Open-End Equity Lease Program as an alternative to the current traditional Fair Market Value Open-end Equity Lease Program.

**The Motion Passed 4-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: Torres**

### **B. Adopt Resolutions 3343 and 3344 Designating Authorized Agents for Grant Awards with the Federal Emergency Management Agency/California Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the United States Bureau of Reclamation for Western Municipal Water District**

This item was presented by: Ryan Shaw, Director of Water Resources

**Motion: Gardner**

**Second: Dennstedt**

As to the following:

1. Adopt Resolution 3343 Designating Authorized Agents for Federal Emergency Management Agency and California Governor's Office of Emergency Services; and
2. Adopt Resolution 3344 Designating Authorized Agents for Grants with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the Western Municipal Water District.

**The Motion Passed 4-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: Torres**

**C. Approve a Capital Project Budget Increase and Award Construction and Professional Services Contract for Permanent Generators at Mockingbird Pump Station (W-319)**

This item was presented by: Derek Kawaii, Director of Engineering

**Motion: Dennstedt**

**Second: Rizvi**

As to the following:

1. Approve a budget increase of \$2,043,300 from \$731,000 to \$2,774,300 for the Permanent Generators at Mockingbird Pump Station Improvements (W-319) Project (Project) by amending the Board adopted Capital Improvement and Facilities Plan for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 accordingly under System Improvement Reserve RES04 of the Riverside Potable Water Fund 20; and
2. Award a construction contract for the project, in the amount of \$1,352,170 to Southern Contracting Company of San Marcos, California for construction of the project.

**The Motion Passed 4-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: Torres**

**D. Approve a Capital Project Budget and Award a Pump Rebuild Contract for the Sterling Pump Station Natural Gas Engines (W-338)**

This item was presented by: Derek Kawaii, Director of Engineering

**Motion: Dennstedt**

**Second: Rizvi**

As to the following:

1. Approve a capital project budget of \$800,000 for the Sterling Pump Station Natural Gas Pump Rebuild (W-338) Project (“Project”) by amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Board adopted Capital Improvement and Facilities Plan under the Asset Replacement Reserve RES05 of the Combined Desalter Fund 41; and
2. Award a contract for the Project in the amount of \$580,985 to Waukesha-Pearce Industries LLC from Bakersfield, California for a pump rebuild contract.

**The Motion Passed 4-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: Torres**

## **8. REPORTS**

### **A. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

#### **A. Report of General Counsel**

Jeff Ballinger, General Counsel, stated he had nothing to report.

### **B. GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS**

#### **1. General Manager’s Report**

Craig Miller, General Manager, announced that due to ongoing challenges with the District’s current agenda management software program, Information Services staff members will be observing the meeting. He also noted that staff is diligently looking into the issues and working to resolve any challenges as quickly as possible. He then reported on recent activity concerning Senate Bill 72 (SB 72), noting that there is a hearing on April 8, 2025 in the Senate Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill. He said there is currently a massive call for partners and others to support the bill and express their “me too” support positions. He reviewed his recent activities over the past two weeks, and discussed upcoming items, including a presentation regarding heli-hydrants targeted for the June 2025 Engineering, Operations, and Water Resources Committee Meeting and the upcoming Special Board Meeting on April 9, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., for the purpose of requesting Board approval to set a public hearing concerning rate adjustments. He closed out his comments with a remark about

the most recent water supply update, noting that water allocation has increased to 40%, which means Metropolitan Water District will get an additional 760,000 acre feet of water. He said a small increase equals a lot of water.

## **C. DIRECTORS REPORTS AND REQUESTS**

### **1. Report of SAWPA Commissioner**

Director Gardner reported that the SAWPA Project Agreement (PA) Committees and Commission met, noting that the PA 23 Committee had adopted its Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and agreed to ask for an extension of time to complete Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP) projects with the belief that the Department of Water Resources will approve the request for an extension. He also reported that the Commission approved a contract for lobby security and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) renovations, as well as taking a support position on SB 72. Lastly, he reported that the PA 24 Committee approved an updated sewer system management plan.

### **2. Report of MWD Representative**

Director Dennstedt stated that there was no update for MWD, however there was a recent tour of the Pure Water Project noting that several Western Water board members attended. Directors Rizvi, Gardner and Dennstedt gave brief comments about the tour.

### **3. Report of CBWM Representative**

Director Gardner stated there was nothing to report.

### **4. Report of CDA Representative**

Director Roughton stated there was nothing to report.

### **5. Report of WRCRWA Representative**

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

### **6. Report of WRCOG Representative**

Director Dennstedt commented on the recent Riverside County Water Task Force program that focused on the recent fires and information gathering going on. She said it was a really good program and included discussions on heli-hydrants and after action reports from the recent Los Angeles fires.

### **7. Report of SRRRA Representative**

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

## **8. Report of ACWA Representatives**

Director Dennstedt reported that she attended the ACWA Legislative Symposium in Sacramento, California, and a common topic was again wildfires. She also reported that she attended the ACWA JPIA Liability Committee, noting that they received an audit report concerning the liability program, which was a clean, unmodified opinion. She said they discussed an estimate for the current situation and feel that it will result in a favorable renewal rate.

## **9. Directors' Comments**

Comments were made by:

Director Dennstedt  
President Roughton

## **10. Request for Future Agenda Items**

None.

## **9. CLOSED SESSION**

At 10:39 a.m., General Counsel, Jeff Ballinger, announced that the Board would be entering Closed Session.

### **A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

(Gov. Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1)

Name of Case: Pacific Hydrotech Corporation, Inc. v. Western  
Municipal Water District, et al. (Riverside County Superior Court)  
Case No. CVRI2303954

### **B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2)

Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9:

One (1) Potential Case

### **C. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2)

Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9:

One (1) Potential Case

The Board of Directors returned to open session at 11:49 a.m. Director Dennstedt was not present.

General Counsel, Jeff Ballinger, stated there was one reportable item. He reported that a motion was made by Director Dennstedt and seconded by Director Rizvi to

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initiate litigation. He followed up stating more details will be available once service of process for the case has been effectuated.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board of Directors, President Laura Roughton adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

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LAURA ROUGHTON  
President

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BRENDA DENNSTEDT  
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes were prepared by Board Secretary, Tammi Ford.