

A. Approve the Minutes of the April 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

## **WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 16, 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  
Gracie Torres  
Mike Gardner

Director Rizvi arrived to the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Hudson Berni, 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 15, 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.

**President Roughton pulled Item 5C from the Consent Calendar to be considered separately by the Board of Directors.**

**Motion: Dennstedt**

**Second: Gardner**

- A. Approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
- B. Approve the Minutes of the April 2, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- C. Receive and File the 2025 Regional Water Management Plan for the San Bernardino Basin Area
- D. Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Cost Sharing Letter Agreement with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and Approve a Professional Services Contract for the San Bernardino Basin Optimization and Stewardship Program

**The Motion passed 4-0 to Approve Items 5A, 5B and 5D**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: Rizvi**

Item 5C was presented by: Mallory O'Connor, Water Resources Manager

**Motion: Torres**

**Second: Rizvi**

**The Motion passed 5-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

**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. Adopt Resolution No. 3336 Approving the 2025 Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21000 et seq.)**

This item was presented by: Sonia Huff, Deputy Director of Water Resources

**Motion: Torres**

**Second: Gardner**

As to the following:

1. Adopt Resolution No. 3336 approving the 2025 Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Western Municipal Water District.

**The Motion Passed 5-0**

**Voting No: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: None**

### **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: Chris Fike, Director of Operations

**Motion: Gardner**

**Second: Torres**

As to the following:

1. Amend Purchase Order for TDI Refrigeration from \$90,009 to \$128,724.14; and
2. Authorize a total expenditure, if necessary and subject to the General Manager's review and approval, not to exceed \$148,000 to allow for unforeseen contingencies during repair.

**The Motion Passed 5-0**  
**Voting No: None**  
**Abstain: None**  
**Absent: None**

## **8. REPORTS**

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

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

Holland Steward, Deputy 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 Senate Bill 72 (SB 72) was approved by the Senate natural resources committee with a unanimous vote. He thanked all those working on the effort and discussed the bill's next steps, noting that it will be moved to the Senate Appropriations Committee next, and then will move to the Assembly. He reported that it has been an extremely busy month with numerous meetings related to the upcoming proposed rate increase and preparing for the Proposition 218 hearing in June. He reported out regarding the recent Southern California Air Show and reminded the Board and the public about the Water Works Wonders Open House event to be held on Saturday, April 26. He then asked Rick Aragon, Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer to announce that Western Water and its Finance Team were recognized and awarded with 2 federal and 1 state awards for financial reporting and practices. Next, Sarah Macdonald, Assistant General Manager/Communications and Customer Experience, announced that Western Water's Communications and Customer Experience Team had been recognized with 2 prestigious awards at the recent CAPIO Conference.

#### **2. Water Supply Conditions Update**

Josh Aguilar, Deputy Director of Water Resources, provided a water supply update, stating it was another "good news" report. He reviewed the April Snow Survey, noting it was a critical benchmark, and the survey was completed ahead of schedule. He said 40" of snow depth and 17" of precipitation were measured. He also reported that despite a dry January, the hydrologic conditions update was encouraging, and levels remain above average. He provided an overview of the Big 6 state reservoir levels, as well as local reservoir levels. He also reported that Metropolitan Water District had reached a balanced state between supply and

demand, and he closed with recent water related highlights, including World Water Day, the Annual ACWA Year in Review and Earth Day, which falls on April 22.

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

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

Director Gardner reported that the SAWPA Project Agreement (PA) Committees and Commission met and had a very efficient meeting. He said the Commission approved a general services agreement with a contractor who will provide strategic support for the SAR pathogen task force. He also noted they received a briefing on the Santa Ana River Watershed Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, and discussed how the member agencies can work together. He also noted that a grant had been awarded, which will be dispersed among member agencies.

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

Director Dennstedt reported that the recent earthquake that occurred in Southern California had not affected any Metropolitan facilities and there was no report of damage or disruption to water service. She announced that the CAMP4W committee had adopted a 5-year implementation strategy developed by the member agency General Managers, which will now move to the full Board of Directs for consideration. She also reported that the Board considered support for Assembly Bill 523, which would allow for a proxy vote to be made should a board member be unable to attend a meeting, however noted that the motion to support failed and did not move forward.

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

Director Gardner stated there was nothing to report.

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

Director Roughton reported that she was able to attend the meeting remotely at Norco City Hall. She said that the Board had passed the budget, and approved two contract amendments. She also reported that the Board had a discussion about stipends, noting that this topic would be brought back to the board in the future for consideration.

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

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

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

Director Dennstedt reported that the Commission approved an increase to the bond capacity for commercial PACE programs and also approved service awards for the upcoming General Assembly. She also noted that the annual budget had been approved by the Executive Committee and will be voted on at the General

Assembly in June. She also reported that after some debate, she will be moved forward to serve again as the Chair of the Commission as this year she stepped in to the Chair seat mid-year to fulfill another member's term as Chair as that member was not re-elected to her council seat.

**7. Report of SRRRA Representative**

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

**8. Report of ACWA Representatives**

Director Dennstedt reported she attended the recent Region 9 Board meeting and there was a discussion to coordinate a larger event, along with Regions 8 & 10, to create a combined program in the late summer/early fall time period. She followed up by reminding the Board about the ACWA Spring Conference.

**9. Directors' Comments**

Comments were made by:

Director Torres

Director Dennstedt

President Roughton

**10. Request for Future Agenda Items**

None.

**9. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Investment Report – February 2025**

**B. Budget vs. Actual Report – January 2025**

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

At 10:59 a.m., Deputy General Counsel, Holland Stewart, announced that the Board would be entering Closed Session.

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

**(Paragraph (1) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9)**

**Name of Case: United States, et al. ex rel John Hendrix v. J-M**

**Manufacturing Company Inc., and Formosa Plastics Corporation,**

**USA, Case No. ED CV06-00055-GW**

The Board of Directors returned to open session at 11:12 a.m.

Deputy General Counsel, Holland Stewart, stated there was no reportable action out of Closed Session.

**Western Water | Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 16, 2025**  
**Agenda Item 5A**

**11. NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, May 7, 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 11:12 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.