MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY

Approved

Board of Directors

July 9, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Board of Directors was held in person and via teleconference on July 9, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. at their Administrative Offices located at 34156 Del Obispo Street, Dana Point, California. The following members of the Board of Directors were present:

MIKE DUNBAR	Emerald Bay Service District	Director	
KATHRYN FRESHLEY	El Toro Water District	Director	
BOB WHALEN	City of Laguna Beach	Director	
SCOTT GOLDMAN	South Coast Water District	Director	
FRANK URY	Santa Margarita Water District	Director	
DAVE REBENSDORF	City of San Clemente	Director	[Arrived @ 8:42am]

Staff Present:

AMBER BOONE	General Manager
JIM BURROR	Deputy GM/ Chief Engineer
DINA ASH	Human Resources Administrator
LYNDA MAY	Assistant Secretary
CECIL ROMERO	Procurement Technician
ANNA SUTHERLAND	Staff Accountant
JACK BECK	Accountant
MATT CLARKE	Chief Technology Officer
JAMES JONES	Superintendent of O&M
ROBERT CULVER	Environmental Service Manager

Also Present:

ADRIANA OCHOA	Snell & Wilmer
BRAD NEUFELD	Varner & Brandt
KARI VOZENILEK	Kidman Law, LLP
CHAD WANKE	Orbis Public Affairs
RYAN GALLAGHER	Ardurra
MARK MCAVOY	City of Laguna Beach
MARC SERNA	South Coast Water District
RICK SHINTAKU	South Coast Water District
JOE MUELLER	South Coast Water District
MIKE GASKINS	El Toro Water District
DENNIS CAFFERTY	El Toro Water District
DUSTIN BURNSIDE	City of San Clemente
DAVID LARSEN	Moulton Niguel Water District

1. CALL TO ORDER

   Chairman Frank Ury called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Director Mike Dunbar

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Whalen pulled agenda item 4.A. for two corrections.

ACTION TAKEN
A motion was made by Director Dunbar and seconded by Director Goldman to approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar as submitted.

Motion carried: Aye 5 Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 1

Director Dunbar	Aye
Director Freshley	Aye
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Ury	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Absent

(4B-4H)

B. Minutes of Board of Directors Special Meeting for May 18, 2026
C. Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting for March 3, 2026
D. Minutes of Project Committee 23 Meeting for May 21, 2026
E. Minutes of Engineering Committee Meeting for April 16, 2026
Minutes of Engineering Committee Meeting for May 21, 2026
F. April-May 2026 Operations Report
Approved Action: Information Item; received and filed.
G. Capital Improvement Construction Projects Progress and Change Order Report (June) [Project Committees 2 and 15]
Approved Action: Information Item.
H. Capital Improvement Program Workplan
Approved Action: Information Item.

A. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting for May 14, 2026

Director Whalen noted two votes in the Minutes that needed a name correction for the motions made.

ACTION TAKEN
A motion was made by Director Whalen and seconded by Director Ury to receive and file 4.A. Minutes Board of Directors Regular Meeting for May 14, 2026 with the two noted corrections.

Motion carried: Aye 4, Nay 0, Abstained 1, Absent 1

Director Dunbar	Abstain
Director Freshley	Aye
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Ury	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Absent

The Board of Directors moved the first Closed Session from item 7 up the agenda and convened to the Closed Session at 8:35 a.m.

5. ENGINEERING MATTERS

A. CTP Regional Flow Study Update- Draft Final

A presentation was provided by Ryan Gallagher of Ardurra highlighting the baseline option as the lowest-cost option, with alternatives 1 and 3 requiring further refinement. The Board discussed a revision of the scoring sheet based on their feedback on criteria, such as the regional interagency coordination and recycled water impacts. The Board agreed to review the report further and provide feedback.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

B. As-Needed Construction Management Services for Capital Improvement Projects

Ms. Roni Grant presented the recommendation for contract awards to the selected firms for construction management services and clarified the selection and reporting process according to the procurement policy.

ACTION TAKEN
A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Ury to approve:

1. Award of on-call construction management service contracts for general/civil engineering projects to the following firms: AKM, Ardurra/MKN, Dudek, and La Salle Solutions.
2. Award of on-call construction management service contracts for coating projects to the following firms: Ardurra/MKN, and Harper.

Motion carried:	Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0	
	Director Dunbar	Aye
	Director Freshley	Aye
	Director Whalen	Aye
	Director Ury	Aye
	Director Goldman	Aye
	Director Rebensdorf	Aye

C. CTP Access Road Repaving Contract Award [Project Committee 15]

Ms. Grant updated the Board with the ongoing cost-sharing discussion with OC Parks and explained the immediate need for interim spot repairs to the access road for liability reasons.

ACTION TAKEN
A motion was made by Director Dunbar and seconded by Director Whalen for the following actions:

1. Execution of a construction contract with T.E. Roberts in the amount of $204,068.76.
2. Approval of a contract contingency of $10,203.44 to address any unforeseen conditions encountered during the work.

Motion carried:	Aye 3, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0	
	Director Dunbar	Aye
	Director Whalen	Aye
	Director Goldman	Aye

D. JBL Digester Underground Piping Project [Project Committee 2]

An open discussion ensued on the CIP Workplan layout pertaining to the JBL Underground Piping project's budget changes and construction sequencing. Ms. Grant agreed to create a one-page summary sheet for this project for the PC 2 board members.

ACTION TAKEN
A motion was made by Director Ury and seconded by Director Goldman for the following

actions:

1. Increase the budget of Task 32263S by $820,000 from $806,490 to $1,626,490.
2. Authorize execution of a construction contract with S. S. Mechanical in the amount of $1,182,241.00.
3. Approve a contract contingency of $118,250.00 to address any unforeseen conditions encountered during the work.

Motion carried: Aye 2, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0

Director Ury	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye

E. Project Management Support Services for FY 26-27

<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
A motion was made by Director Dunbar and seconded by Director Ury to approve a contract with Project Partners for Project Management Support Services for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 in an amount not to exceed $200,000.

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0

Director Dunbar	Aye
Director Freshley	Aye
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Ury	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Aye

F. Effluent Transmission Main Reach B Techite Pipe Replacement Final Design Contract Amendment No. 1 [Project Committee 21]

Ms. Grant provided an update on the final design's additional segment recommendation.

<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
A motion was made by Director Freshley to authorize Contract Amendment No. 1 with BKF Engineers in the amount of $115,873, resulting in a revised total contract amount of $633,586.

Motion carried: Aye 1, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0

Director Freshley	Aye

6. <u>GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT</u>

A. Selection of Officers for the Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

The Board of Directors discussed their choices for candidates and requested the term be extended to two fiscal years. Ms. Adrianna Ochoa referenced the Joint Powers Agreement and noted there would not be a need for an amendment on the term length.

<u>ACTION TAKEN</u>
A motion was made by Director Dunbar and seconded by Director Ury to appoint Director Scott Goldman as Board Chair for the next two fiscal years (FY 2026-28).

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0

Director Dunbar	Aye
Director Freshley	Aye
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Ury	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Aye

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Ury to appoint Director Bob Whalen as Vice Chair for the next two fiscal years (FY 2026-28).

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0

Director Dunbar	Aye
Director Freshley	Aye
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Ury	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Aye

B. Resolution No. 2026-04, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Approving New Employee Salary Range Summary and Employee Job Classification Salary Schedule to the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the SOCWA Employee Association.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Whalen and seconded by Director Goldman to approve Resolution 2026-04, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Approving New Employee Salary Range Summary and Employee Job Classification Salary Schedule to the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the SOCWA Employee Association.

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0

Director Dunbar	Aye
Director Freshley	Aye
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Ury	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye
Director Rebensdorf	Aye

C. Resolution No. 2026-05, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Approving New Employee Salary Ranges and the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Employee Manual for All SOCWA Employees.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Dunbar and seconded by Director Ury to approve Resolution 2026-05, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) Approving New Employee Salary Ranges and the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Employee Manual for All SOCWA Employees.

Motion carried: Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0

Director Dunbar	Aye
Director Freshley	Aye
Director Whalen	Aye
Director Ury	Aye
Director Goldman	Aye

Director Rebensdorf	Aye

D. Resolution No. 2026-06: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority for A Commendation to Cecil Romero for providing Dedicated Service to the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the Residents of Southern Orange County for the period of June 1991 to July 2026.

ACTION TAKEN

A motion was made by Director Goldman and seconded by Director Ury to approve 2026-06: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority for A Commendation to Cecil Romero for providing Dedicated Service to the South Orange County Wastewater Authority and the Residents of Southern Orange County for the period of June 1991 to July 2026.

Motion carried:	Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstained 0, Absent 0	
	Director Dunbar	Aye
	Director Freshley	Aye
	Director Whalen	Aye
	Director Ury	Aye
	Director Goldman	Aye
	Director Rebensdorf	Aye

E. Cost Allocation Policy

The Board was briefed on the changes to the policy. The Board agreed to finalize the policy after further review by the Engineering Committee.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

F. General Manager's Report

Ms. Boone updated the Board on the new website, which now includes a member portal for Saige and ADA compliance. The Board recommended that conferences and presentations requiring long-distance travel by the General Manager be discussed with the board regarding their key benefits and required expenses.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

G. General Counsel's Report

Ms. Ochoa provided clarification on the self-appointing selection process of the Executive Committee upon the Board's Officer selection. Ms. Ochoa then briefed the Board on attending the upcoming CASA conference in August, noting potential legislation in regard to wastewater treatment agencies receiving state or federal immunity from CERCLA liabilities, and other PFAS litigation options.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

H. Government Affairs Report

Guest speaker Chad Wanke, from Orbis Public Affairs gave the Government Affairs report with an emphasis on the ongoing Coastal Treatment Plant access road talks, current annexations, and the public communications involving the outfalls. Ms. Boone noted the upcoming Ocean Institute exhibit highlighting the outfalls will help communicate their importance and safety.

This was an information item; no action was taken.

I. Upcoming Meetings Schedule:

- August 13, 2026 – Board of Directors Regular Meeting
- August 18, 2026 – Finance Committee Meeting
- August 20, 2026 – Engineering Committee Meeting

This was an information item; no action was taken.

The Board of Directors convened to Closed Session at 10:16 a.m.

7. CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Directors recessed to Closed Session at 8:35 a.m. to consider the following item:

Closed Session Conference Pursuant to Government Code § 54956.8
Real Property Negotiation
Property: Coastal Treatment Plant Access Road

The Board of Directors reconvened to Open Session at 8:53 a.m. Chairman Ury announced that there were no reportable actions taken during Closed Session.

The Board of Directors recessed to Closed Session at 10:16 a.m. to consider the following items:

Closed Session Conference Pursuant to Government Code § 54957(b)(1)
Public Employment
Title: Legal Counsel

Closed Session Conference Pursuant to Government Code § 54957
Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: General Manager

Closed Session Conference Pursuant to Government Code § 54957.6
Labor Negotiations
Agency Designated Representative: Brad Neufeld
Unrepresented Employee: Amber Boone, General Manager

The Board of Directors reconvened to Open Session at 11:45 a.m. Labor Counsel Brad Neufeld announced that there were no reportable actions taken during Closed Session.

8. OTHER MATTERS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Goldman adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are a true and accurate copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Board of Directors on July 9, 2026, and approved by the Board of Directors of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.

Lynda May

Lynda May, Assistant Secretary
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY