



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT | MAY 21, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Trabuco Canyon Water District (TCWD or District) conducted on May 21, 2025, was called to order by President Ed Mandich at 6:03 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Administrative Facility located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon, California. Mr. Michael Perea, District Secretary, transcribed the minutes thereof.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

President Ed Mandich
Vice President Glenn Acosta
Director Mark Anderson
Director John Horst
Director Michael Safranski

DIRECTORS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Fernando Paludi, General Manager
Michael Perea, Assistant General Manager
Lorrie Lausten, District Engineer
Gary Kessler, Water Operations Superintendent
Oscar Ulloa, Wastewater Operations Superintendent
Jason Stroud, Maintenance Superintendent
Karen Warner, Principal Accountant
Roseann Lejsek, Executive Assistant
Other staff were present

DISTRICT CONSULTANTS

Claire Collins, District General Legal Counsel - Hanson Bridgett, LLP

PUBLIC PRESENT

There were members of the public present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Safranski led the Board of Directors, District staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT STAFF BY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY FOR PARTICIPATION IN HOSTING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA MERIT BADGE CLINIC EVENT

Jasmine Orozco, Public Affairs Coordinator with the Municipal Water District or Orange County, presented the District with a Certificate of Appreciation for hosting the Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge Clinic event.

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

None

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES | MAY 21, 2025**

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

None

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Dennis Shoji – Mr. Shoji addressed the Board of Directors, and he expressed his appreciation of staff and the support they provide to the District’s residents. Mr. Shoji commented that he is a big supporter of the Dropcountr app, and he stated that monitoring his water use through the app has decreased his water usage. Mr. Shoji also noted that the Dropcountr app is a great tool for customers to monitor their water use, and he related his experiences with assisting fellow customers with the app and identifying leaks in their systems.

Ray Chandos – Mr. Chandos addressed the Board of Directors with questions regarding the resolution passed at the April 28 Special Board meeting approving issuance of an RFP. Mr. Chandos asked the Board if the RFP had been issued and whether the District had received any responses.

Margaret Furbank – Ms. Furbank addressed the Board of Directors, and she expressed her support of the Board making any decisions necessary in order to lower rates, including consolidation. Ms. Furbank asked the Board to keep the ratepayers’ best interests in mind.

Allan Burnham – Mr. Burnham addressed the Board of Directors, and he stated that he received a communication letter from the District regarding the RFP. Mr. Burnham reported that he has received feedback through publication of his group’s newsletter that customers want change. Mr. Burnham expressed his concerns regarding Director Mandich’s vote in relation to the RFP.

Dove Canyon Resident – A Dove Canyon resident addressed the Board of Directors and expressed his concerns with the advocacy of merging with another District. The resident stated that he does not see how costs will go down and suggested an impact study be completed. The resident also stated that unless there is a cost-savings advantage, the Board should think before taking action.

Director Mandich read the names of members of the public that submitted e-comments after the posting of the agenda and summarized their comments.

DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

Director Mandich noted the recent change in reading the names of persons who submitted public comment via email as a measure of transparency. Director Mandich commented that his vote in relation to the RFP was due to the timing of the matter, and did not imply his lack of support. Director Mandich urged the public to learn about District business directly through the District, and he noted that social media communications may take information out of context.

Director Anderson apologized for arriving late to the meeting.

Director Horst reported on his attendance at the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Spring Conference, and he noted that he reported out his attendance in a letter to his fellow Board members.

Director Acosta had no comments.

Director Safranski had no comments.

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES | MAY 21, 2025**

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Paludi reported on the following matters:

- The District will be applying for the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Transparency Certificate of Excellence. Mr. Paludi requested that Board members send their ethics training certificates to Mr. Perea in order to complete the application.
- The District sent out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to land consultant firms on potential uses for the District’s Porter property. Mr. Paludi reported that responses are due this week, and that Mr. Perea will be scheduling interviews in the coming weeks.
- District staff has requested labor representation from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) through the California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), and he stated that the General Manager granted voluntary recognition to IBEW as the exclusive representative of the District’s bargaining units in accordance with PERB regulations. Mr. Paludi recommended that the Board ratify the General Manager’s action at a future Board meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Mandich indicated that all matters under the Consent Calendar would be approved by one motion unless a Board member or staff member requests separate action on a specific item. Mr. Paludi presented Items 1-4 for Board consideration and approval in accordance with the agenda.

ITEM 1: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING(S)

1. April 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
2. April 17, 2025 Special Board Meeting
3. April 28, 2025 Special Board Meeting

ITEM 2: TREASURER’S REPORT

1. April 10, 2025 Finance/Audit Committee Meeting Recap
2. March 2025 Preliminary Unaudited Financials
3. April 2025 Bills for Consideration, Payroll and Payroll Taxes

ITEM 3: APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING/OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP(S)

1. April 2, 2025 Engineering/Operational Committee Meeting Recap

ITEM 4: APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING RECAP(S)

1. April 7, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Recap

MOTION: Approve the consent calendar as presented – Director Acosta

SECOND: Director Safranski

AYES: Directors Mandich, Acosta, Anderson, Horst & Safranski

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 5 – 0

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES | MAY 21, 2025**

ACTION CALENDAR

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ITEM 5: RATIFICATION OF DIRECTORS' FEES AND EXPENSES, AND TENTATIVE FUTURE MEETINGS/ATTENDANCE

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Director consideration and comment, and he reported that this matter was reviewed with the Finance/Audit Committee.

MOTION: Approve the tentative future meetings/attendance items and ratify the Directors' expenses and fees from April 2025 – Director Acosta

SECOND: Director Mandich

AYES: Directors Mandich, Acosta, Anderson, Horst & Safranski

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 5 – 0

ITEM 6: PUBLIC OUTREACH AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE – May 9, 2025 MEETING

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration. Director Acosta reported that a survey was sent to all customers regarding the District's current methods of public outreach and communication, and he stated that the goal of the survey was to receive feedback on the District's current public outreach practices and customer communication preferences. Director Acosta reported on the survey results in relation to the type and frequency of information that customers prefer, and he noted that part of these improvements will be updates to the District's website.

Director Horst commented that he believes the District can improve communication to its customers, and he requested that the Public Outreach Ad Hoc Committee be extended in order to restructure how and what information we communicate, as well as put together a reasonable budget for public outreach.

Director Safranski thanked the Committee for their efforts.

Director Mandich stated that the Public Outreach Ad Hoc Committee will be extended for an additional 60 days, as recommended by the Committee.

MOTION: None. Informational item only.

ITEM 7: SOURCES OF SUPPLY AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – MAY 1, 2025 MEETING

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration. Director Mandich reported that the Committee discussed the transmission main, and that the Committee gave staff direction to look at the District's connections with Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD). Director Anderson added that it was determined that the SMWD connection requires improvements.

Director Acosta suggested that a special Board meeting be held to discuss the District's water system. Mr. Perea reported that staff has met and put together a list of agenda items for discussion, and he suggested that a special Board meeting be scheduled in early or mid-June.

MOTION: None. Informational item only.

ENGINEERING MATTERS

ITEM 8: DIMENSION WATER TREATMENT PLANT TRANSMISSION MAIN REHABILITATION

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and thanked staff for value-engineering the project which brought the original project estimate from \$20 million down to approximately \$6 million to get the pipeline online. Ms. Lausten provided an update on the project, and she went through a summary of project tasks along with a timeline for completion of both the pipeline rehabilitation project phases and seismic retrofit to the Dimension Water Treatment Plant (DWTP) Filter 4 Tank.

Director Mandich expressed his thanks to Ms. Lausten for her hard work and quick turnaround.

Director Acosta requested that staff have all performance specifications for the liner material to ensure this major investment in infrastructure holds up for years to come. Director Acosta added that there is a benefit to diversity in sources.

Director Safranski commented on the urgency of the project, and he requested staff to stay on target with the proposed timelines. Director Safranski added that the District's primary responsibility is to deliver safe and reliable water.

Director Horst expressed his concern with the timeline without having received responses to the District's RFP for Shared Services, and he questioned whether the Board should wait to decide on whether to spend money on the project.

Mr. Paludi commented that the District pays a significant premium for treated water, and that the District is one of just a few agencies in Orange County that has access to untreated water. Mr. Paludi added that the District is trying to stabilize costs and save money for customers by utilizing untreated water, and that there is concern with other agencies' ability to provide water during the months with higher demand.

Public Comment was received in relation to this item.

Ray Chandos – Mr. Chandos noted that staff's estimated cost for Phase 1 is at \$5.9 million in contrast to Hazen's reported cost of \$7.2 - \$10 million.

MOTION: None. Informational item only.

ITEM 9: WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT HEADWORKS REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration. Ms. Lausten reported that the current headworks is at the end of service life, and that staff visited similar wastewater facilities to research different improvements or replacement options. Ms. Lausten delivered a brief PowerPoint presentation with photos of the current headworks system, the proposed replacement system, and a cost comparison summary. Ms. Lausten added that staff will complete the installation, saving the District approximately \$646,000.

Mr. Ulloa reported that several components have been replaced throughout the years, and that replacement parts for the current system are becoming obsolete. Mr. Ulloa stated that staff spoke with operators at other agencies to assess what work best to ensure the best use of District funds. Mr. Ulloa spoke about the efficiencies of the new equipment in relation to energy consumption.

Directors Safranski and Acosta commended staff for researching all options and being cost-conscious.

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES | MAY 21, 2025**

- MOTION:** Authorize the General Manager to purchase the Duperon FlexRake bar screen climber and compactor from JBI Water and Wastewater in the amount of \$359,885 – Director Acosta
- SECOND:** Director Safranski
- AYES:** Directors Mandich, Acosta, Anderson, Horst & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- ABSENT:** None
- MOTION PASSED/FAILED:** Passed 5 – 0

ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF 2024 ORANGE COUNTY WATER AND WASTEWATER MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and he reported that the District participated in a multi-agency partnership with the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and the Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County (WEROC) to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Mr. Perea reported that adoption of the HMP is an unfunded mandate on all water districts in Orange County, and he noted that adoption of the HMP is a requirement to be eligible for federal grant funding. Mr. Perea provided a brief overview of the timeline for update and adoption of the current draft document. Mr. Perea also reported that staff and WEROC will meet and review potential scenarios throughout the year.

- MOTION:** Adopt Resolution No. 2025-1345 approving the 2024 Orange County Water and Wastewater Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan – Director Acosta
- SECOND:** Director Safranski
- AYES:** Directors Mandich, Acosta, Anderson, Horst & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None
- ABSENT:** None
- MOTION PASSED/FAILED:** Passed 5 – 0

ITEM 11: APPROVAL OF UPDATED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT FOR USE OF COUNTYWIDE MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (ALERT OC)

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration. Mr. Perea provided a background of the Countywide Mass Notification System, and he reported that the system is owned and operated by the County. Mr. Perea also reported that the system was made available to public agencies in 2012-2013, and that the Board of Directors at that time voted to participate in the system. Mr. Perea added that the District has an account to use the system and notify our customers of any events.

Mr. Paludi recognized Dove Canyon resident, Dennis Shoji, for his efforts to promote public participation in signing up with Alert OC to receive notifications.

- MOTION:** Approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between the County of Orange and Participants for Use of Countywide Mass Notification System and authorize the General Manager to execute the Public Mass Notification System Individual User Agreement – Director Acosta
- SECOND:** Director Safranski
- AYES:** Directors Mandich, Acosta, Anderson, Horst & Safranski
- NOES:** None
- ABSTAIN:** None

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES | MAY 21, 2025**

ABSENT: None
MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 5 – 0

ITEM 12: UPDATE ON STATE WATER BOARD CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL PLAN HANDBOOK (CCCPH) REQUIREMENTS AND CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL MANAGEMENT PLAN (CCCMP) ADOPTION

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and he asked Mr. Perea to provide an update on this matter. Mr. Perea reported that the District has an existing policy enforcing cross-connection control, but the State Water Resources Control Board adopted new regulations on July 2024. Mr. Perea provided a brief review of the regulatory impacts to the District's current policy, and he reported that the District has backflow devices through the service area to prevent this issue. Mr. Perea highlighted the benefits of the District's AMI system as the meters provide real time monitoring of the system, including potential reverse flow conditions. Mr. Perea reported that the District participated in a joint contract with other Orange County agencies, which reduced District costs of compliance with the new regulation.

MOTION: 1. Receive information at the time of the meeting and direct staff to publish a summary of the proposed Ordinance summary in the Orange County Register consistent with State Law.
2. Schedule a Public Hearing for the adoption of the Trabuco Canyon Water District 2025 Cross-Connection Control Management Plan (CCCMP) for the June 16, 2025 Regular Board Meeting – Director Safranski

SECOND: Director Acosta

AYES: Directors Mandich, Acosta, Anderson, Horst & Safranski

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 5 – 0

LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 13: AB 367 WATER: COUNTY OF VENTURA: FIRE SUPPRESSION (2025-2026)

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration, and he reported that AB 367 currently only applies to Ventura County. Mr. Paludi provided a high-level overview of the bill's requirements, and he stated that Assemblymember Bennett intends to introduce a bill next year that would apply the same provisions to all water providers statewide. Ms. Collins added that the bill has unattainable requirements as is written. Mr. Paludi stated that he is not recommending the Board take a position at this time.

MOTION: None. Informational item only.

ITEM 14: CONSIDERATION ON THE DESIGNATION OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FOR ACWA BOARD ELECTION FOR 2026-27 TERM – REGION 10

Mr. Paludi presented this matter for Board consideration. Director Safranski volunteered to be the District's Authorized Voting Representative. The Board did not take action on nominating any candidates for the Board Election.

MOTION: Designate Director Safranski as the District's Authorized Voting Representative for ACWA Board Election for 2026-27 Term – Region 10 – Director Mandich

SECOND: Director Acosta

AYES: Directors Mandich, Acosta, Anderson, Horst & Safranski

NOES: None

**TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES | MAY 21, 2025**

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION PASSED/FAILED: Passed 5 – 0

LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 15: LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AND LEGISLATIVE INFORMATIONAL MATTER(S)

Mr. Paludi reported that Governor Newsom has approved a bill to move forward with the Delta Conveyance Project, and he noted the importance of the project and its huge investment in California's water supply. Mr. Paludi added that he believes the District should join the coalition, and that it is a good investment as a State.

MOTION: None. Informational item only.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

Ms. Collins reported on her attendance at the ACWA Conference, and she stated that the main topic of discussion was in regard to fire issues and lessons learned.

OTHER INFORMATION/MATTERS

None

ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

Director Safranski expressed his thanks to District staff for all their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

President Mandich adjourned the May 21, 2025 Regular Board Meeting at 8:00 p.m.