



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF TRABUCO CANYON WATER DISTRICT | JUNE 16, 2025

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Trabuco Canyon Water District (TCWD or District) conducted on June 16, 2025, was called to order by President Edward Mandich at 6:02 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

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
Other staff were present

DISTRICT CONSULTANTS (REMOTE)

Laura Ratcliffe, District General Legal Counsel – Hanson Bridgett, LLP

PUBLIC PRESENT

There were members of public present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

None

ORAL COMMUNICATION

None

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Safranski reported that the City of Rancho Santa Margarita will be hosting a Fire Safety and Preparedness Community Event on June 25th at the Bell Tower Regional Community Center. Director Safranski also reported that the Community Associations of Rancho (CAR) group is applying to become a 501-C3 Non-Profit organization.

Director Acosta expressed his appreciation to staff for holding the meeting on this topic.

Director Anderson had no comments.

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Director Horst had no comments.

Director Mandich had no comments.

REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Paludi reported that Ms. Ratcliffe was in attendance, remotely. Mr. Paludi noted the importance of discussing the District's potable water sources and distribution system, and he thanked Mr. Perea for putting the presentation together.

ACTION CALENDAR

FINANCIAL MATTERS

ITEM 1: TCWD WATER SYSTEM OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

Mr. Perea delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the District's water system, and discussed the following matters:

Regional Water System Overview

- Primary Sources of Supply
- Emergency Connections
- Baker Water Treatment Plant

Operations Overview

- District System
- Sources of Supply Costs
- Alternative Operational Scenario
- Storage Capacity & Pumping Systems

System Improvement Plans

- Transmission Main Rehabilitation Project
- Dimension Water Treatment Plant Filter No. 4 Repairs

Discussion occurred with staff, the Board, and members of the public throughout the presentation on matters including the District's interconnections and limitations of other agencies' ability to provide water to certain parts of the District due to capacity constraints, elevation and pressure fluctuations throughout the District, and their respective system demands. Discussion also occurred regarding long-term reliance on other agencies for drinking water as each agency is primarily responsible to their respective customers and cannot guarantee reliability to an outside agency. Discussion occurred regarding the exploration of groundwater on the District's property at Trabuco Creek. Mr. Kessler provided a brief history of the District's ownership capacity in the Baker Water Treatment Plant and the limitations on receiving delivery of capacity through the Plano intertie.

Further discussion occurred regarding the District's system improvement plans, specifically the Dimension Water Treatment Plant (DWTP) transmission main pipeline rehabilitation and DWTP Filter No. 4 rehabilitation. Discussion occurred regarding possible funding options for the transmission main rehabilitation project.

Director Acosta thanked staff for putting the presentation together, and he acknowledged the District's operational constraints and his support of the transmission main pipeline rehabilitation project.

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Director Safranski expressed his appreciation to staff for the presentation, and he gave kudos to staff for their work on fixing the recent line break at Harris Grade. Mr. Paludi noted that due to the emergency repair, staff was unable to properly notify customers beforehand, and he thanked the customers for their patience with this matter.

Director Mandich thanked staff for the presentation, and he stated that the information shows a need for redundancy. Director Mandich added that he is in favor of the transmission main pipeline rehabilitation project and hopes the Board votes to approve the project at the next Regular Board Meeting.

Director Horst requested information from operations regarding the Harris Grade line break.

Director Anderson provided information regarding the potential for certain improvements to the distribution system at Hamilton Trail and Harris Grade that would be appropriate for the District's Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Paludi expressed his thanks to the Board for holding the workshop, and the public for their participation.

Mr. Perea also expressed his thanks to the Board for holding the meeting, and he requested that the Board hold another workshop in the future to provide an overview of the District's wastewater and recycled water systems.

MOTION: None. Informational item only.

ADJOURNMENT

President Mandich adjourned the June 16, 2025 Special Board Meeting at 7:49 p.m.