



*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

**AGENDA  
MESA WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Wednesday, February 8, 2023  
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INTRODUCTION OF WATER OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR BOB MITCHELL**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Items Not on the Agenda:** Members of the public are invited to address the Board regarding items which are not appearing on the posted agenda. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. The Board will set aside 30 minutes for public comments for items not appearing on the posted agenda.

**Items on the Agenda:** Members of the public shall be permitted to comment on agenda items before action is taken, or after the Board has discussed the item. Each speaker shall be limited to three minutes. The Board will set aside 60 minutes for public comments for items appearing on the posted agenda.

**ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED, OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA**

At the discretion of the Board, all items appearing on this agenda, whether or not expressly listed as an Action Item, may be deliberated and may be subject to action by the Board.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

Approve all matters under the Consent Calendar by one motion unless a Board member, staff, or a member of the public requests a separate action.

1. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of January 11, 2023.
2. Approve minutes of special Board meeting of January 17, 2023.
3. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of January 25, 2023.
4. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
5. Board Schedule:
  - Conferences, Seminars, and Meetings
  - Board Calendar
  - Upcoming Community Outreach Events

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

NONE



**ACTION ITEMS:**

6. ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION NOMINATION:

**Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 1572 Nominating Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E. to the Executive Committee of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority.**

7. ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION CONCURRING IN NOMINATION:

**Recommendation: Adopt Resolution No. 1573 Concurring in Nomination of J. Bruce Rupp to the Executive Committee of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority.**

8. MESA WATER DISTRICT'S POLICY POSITIONS AND LEGISLATIVE PLATFORMS:

**Recommendation: Approve the proposed updates to Mesa Water District's Policy Positions and Legislative Platforms.**

**REPORTS:**

9. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER  
10. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

11. 2023 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PLAN  
12. DIRECTORS' REPORTS (AB 1234) PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.3 (D)

*In compliance with California law and the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services in order to participate in the meeting, or if you need the agenda provided in an alternative format, please call the District Secretary at (949) 631-1205. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) to make reasonable arrangements to accommodate your requests.*

*Members of the public desiring to make verbal comments using a translator to present their comments into English shall be provided reasonable time accommodations that are consistent with California law.*

*Agenda materials that are public records, which have been distributed to a majority of the Mesa Water Board of Directors (Board), will be available for public inspection at the District Boardroom, 1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA and on Mesa Water's website at [www.MesaWater.org](http://www.MesaWater.org). If materials are distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior or during the meeting, the materials will be available at the time of the meeting.*

**ADJOURN TO A REGULAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AT 4:30 P.M.**



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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MESA WATER DISTRICT  
Wednesday, January 11, 2023  
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by President Dewane.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Atkinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Directors Present**

Shawn Dewane, President  
Marice H. DePasquale, Vice President  
Jim Atkinson, Director  
Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Director

**Directors Absent**

James R. Fidler, Director

**Staff Present**

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager  
Wendy Duncan, Records Management Specialist/  
Acting District Secretary  
Tracy Manning, Chief Operating Officer  
Stacie Sheek, Customer Services Manager  
Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer  
Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager  
Kurt Lind, Business Administrator  
Anthony Phou, Controller  
Cherlynn Hurdle, Financial Services Assistant  
Camille Shehadeh, Human Resources Analyst  
Kaitlyn Norris, Public Affairs Specialist  
Celeste Carrillo, Senior Public Affairs Specialist  
Rob Anslow, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

**Others Present**

Aaron Peardon, Senior Labor Representative, Orange County  
Employee Association (OCEA)  
Trisha Murakawa, Principal, Murakawa Communications, Inc.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

President Dewane asked for public comments and introduced OCEA Senior Labor Representative Aaron Peardon. Mr. Peardon thanked the Board for their consideration and efforts during negotiations. Mr. Peardon introduced Financial Services Assistant Hurdle who serves on the Board of the Mesa Water District Employees' Association. Ms. Hurdle thanked the Board for their collaborative efforts during the negotiation process.

President Dewane proceeded with the meeting.

**PRESENTATION OF DIRECTOR SERVICE AWARD PINS**

Vice President DePasquale reviewed the backgrounds and achievements of President Dewane and Director Atkinson and presented them with service award pins.

Photographs were taken.

**RECOGNITION OF MESA WATER DISTRICT PAST PRESIDENT MARICE H. DEPASQUALE**

President Dewane recognized and thanked Immediate Past President Marice H. DePasquale for her contributions and service to the District.

Photographs were taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Item taken earlier on the agenda.

**ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED, OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA**

General Manager Shoenberger reported there were no items to be added, removed, or reordered on the agenda.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of December 14, 2022.
2. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
3. Board Schedule:
  - Conferences, Seminars, and Meetings
  - Board Calendar
  - Upcoming Community Outreach Events
4. Receive and file the Accounts Paid Listing
5. Receive and file the Monthly Financial Reports
6. Confirm the Board of Directors' Regular Board Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2023 and cancel the May 10, 2023, November 22, 2023 and December 27, 2023 Board of Directors' Meetings.

President Dewane asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

**MOTION**

Motion by Vice President DePasquale, second by Director Atkinson, to approve Items 1 – 6 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Director Fisler absent.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

7. CONSTRUCTION OUTREACH:

Senior Public Affairs Specialist Carrillo provided an overview of the topic and introduced Murakawa Communications, Inc. Principal Trisha Murakawa who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Construction Outreach Team
- Cross Team Collaboration
- Projects
- SCADA Control Room and Web Lab + Education Center
- Chandler & Croddy Wells
- Wells Pipeline
- Mainline Valves Replacement Project
- Plastic Service Line Replacement Project

Ms. Murakawa responded to questions from the Board and they thanked her for the presentation.

8. YO AMO MESA WATER COMMUNITY EVENT:

Senior Public Affairs Specialist Carrillo proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Yo Amo Mesa Water
- Partners/Community Organizations
- Outreach and Communications

Ms. Carrillo responded to questions from the Board and they thanked her for the presentation.

9. SPECIAL DISTRICT LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION RECOGNITION PROGRAMS:

President Dewane asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Director Atkinson, to continue the renewal of the Special District Leadership Foundation's District of Distinction Accreditation and District Transparency Certificate of Excellence. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Director Fisler absent.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

10. PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 34 – DIRECTORS' COMPENSATION AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT:

President Dewane announced the Public Hearing was opened for the purpose of receiving comments regarding Ordinance No. 34 – Directors' Compensation and Expense Reimbursement.

Acting District Secretary Duncan reported that a Notice of Public Hearing was posted at Mesa Water District's office and website, and at Costa Mesa City Hall. Legal advertisements were published in the *Daily Pilot* on December 28, 2022 and January 4, 2023.

President Dewane opened the floor for discussion by the Board. Comments were offered.

President Dewane opened the floor for public comments. There were no members of the public present.

Acting District Secretary Duncan reported that the District had not received any written or verbal comments regarding proposed Ordinance No. 34.

President Dewane declared the public comments segment closed.

President Dewane opened the floor for discussion by the Board. Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

President Dewane declared that the Public Hearing was closed.

Motion by Director Atkinson, to adopt Ordinance No. 34 Directors' Compensation and Expense Reimbursement with a 7% increase effective July 1, 2023, no increase in March 2023 and no changes to expense reimbursement. Motion failed due to a lack of a second.

#### MOTION

Motion by Vice President DePasquale, second by President Dewane, to adopt Ordinance No. 34 Directors' Compensation and Expense Reimbursement. Motion passed 4 – 1, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Bockmiller, DePasquale, Dewane
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	Fisler

#### 11. ON-CALL ELECTRICAL SERVICES:

District Engineer Wiesner provided an overview of the topic. Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

Upon hearing about theft of copper materials at Well No. 3 (Lee Pickens), Director Bockmiller asked for the cost of replacing the materials, which was reported as approximately \$25,000. He opined that was a horrible loss for the ratepayers considering that the scrap value was likely less than \$200. He asked that the question and answer be reflected in the minutes.

President Dewane asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

#### MOTION

Motion by Vice President DePasquale, second by Director Atkinson, to amend the On-Call Electrical Services contracts for Fiscal Year 2023 for an additional \$75,000 for a total annual amount not to exceed \$175,000, and authorize execution of the change order. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Director Fisler absent.

12. SCADA CONTROL ROOM AND WET LAB UPGRADE PROJECT:

President Dewane asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

MOTION

Motion by Vice President DePasquale, second by President Dewane, to approve a change order to Hamel Contracting Inc.'s contract for construction of the SCADA Control Room and Web Lab Upgrade Project for an amount not to exceed \$405,000 to execute construction change orders in excess of the project's 10% contingency, and authorize execution of the change order. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Director Fisler absent.

13. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER:

- Other (no enclosure)

**RECESS**

President Dewane declared a recess at 5:32 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 5:36 p.m.

14. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

15. DIRECTORS' REPORTS (AB 1234) PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.3 (D)

16. OTHER (NO ENCLOSURE)

**CLOSED SESSIONS:**

President Dewane announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 5:54 p.m.

17. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE 54957.6:  
DISTRICT NEGOTIATOR: GENERAL MANAGER  
EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION: REPRESENTED AND NON-REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES

18. PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(B)(1)  
PERSONNEL MATTER  
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT EVALUATION

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:19 p.m.

Attorney Anslow announced that the Board conducted Closed Session Item 17 with the General Manager, Human Resources Analyst and Legal Counsel pursuant to California Government Code 54957.6. The Board received information and action will be taken under Item 19.

Attorney Anslow announced that the Board conducted Closed Session Item 18 with the General Manager, Human Resources Analyst, and Legal Counsel pursuant to California Government Codes Section 54957(b)(1). The Board received information and there was no further announcement.

**ACTION ITEMS (CONT):**

19. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR DISTRICT EMPLOYEES:

President Dewane asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

**MOTION**

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President DePasquale, to:

- a. Approve the terms and conditions of employment as set forth in the Tentative Agreement between the Mesa Water District Employees' Association (MWDEA) and Mesa Water District for the term of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027;
- b. Extend the same terms and conditions of employment to the Non-Represented Employees as set forth in the Tentative Agreement; and
- c. Authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement.

Motion passed 4 – 1, with Director Fisler absent.

President Dewane adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

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Shawn Dewane, President

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Denise Garcia, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer





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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MESA WATER DISTRICT  
Tuesday, January 17, 2023  
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
5:30 p.m. Special Board Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by President Dewane.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice President DePasquale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Directors Present

Shawn Dewane, President  
Marice H. DePasquale, Vice President  
Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Director

Directors Absent

Jim Atkinson, Director  
James R. Fidler, Director

Staff Present

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager  
Tracy Manning, Chief Operating Officer  
Epuni Hinnebusch, Customer Service Representative II  
Trevor Hagen, Operator II  
Mistina Gonzales, Public Affairs Intern  
Kaitlyn Norris, Public Affairs Specialist  
Celeste Carrillo, Senior Public Affairs Coordinator

Others Present

Brenda Deeley, CEO, Brenda Deeley PR  
26 class participants

**ITEMS TO BE REMOVED OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA**

General Manager Shoenberger reported there were no items to be removed or reordered on the agenda.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. WATER ISSUES STUDY GROUP MEETING:

President Dewane welcomed the Water Issues Study Group participants and introduced the Board of Directors, each of whom addressed the group.

President Dewane introduced Senior Public Affairs Specialist Carrillo who provided an overview of the Water Issues Study Group program and introduced General Manager Shoenberger who provided a brief history of Mesa Water District and an overview of the California Water System. GM Shoenberger then responded to questions from the class participants.

**RECESS**

GM Shoenberger declared a recess at 6:05 p.m.

The Board meeting reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

Ms. Carrillo introduced Chief Operating Officer Manning who provided a presentation that highlighted Mesa Water's water quality monitoring, testing and reporting. Ms. Manning then responded to questions from the class participants.

Ms. Carrillo opened the floor for discussion.

The Board and staff answered questions from the class participants and thanked the Water Issues Study Group for their participation.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

2. OTHER (NO ENCLOSURE)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

President Dewane asked for public comments on items not on the agenda. There were no comments.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn Dewane, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Garcia, District Secretary



**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MESA WATER DISTRICT**

**Wednesday, January 25, 2023**

**1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627**

**4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Dewane.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice President DePasquale led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Directors Present**

Shawn Dewane, President  
Marice H. DePasquale, Vice President  
Jim Atkinson, Director  
Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Director

**Directors Absent**

James R. Fidler, Director

**Staff Present**

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager  
Denise Garcia, Chief Administrative Officer/  
District Secretary  
Marwan Khalifa, CPA, MBA, Chief Financial Officer/  
District Treasurer  
Tracy Manning, Chief Operating Officer  
Stacie Sheek, Customer Services Manager  
Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer  
Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager  
Kurt Lind, Business Administrator  
Celeste Carrillo, Senior Public Affairs Specialist  
Rob Anslow, Partner, Atkinson, Adelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

**Others Present**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

President Dewane asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

There was no public present and President Dewane proceeded with the meeting.

**ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED, OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA**

General Manager Shoenberger reported there was a request to reorder the agenda to take Items 9 and 10 after the Consent Calendar. There were no objections.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:**

1. Receive and file the Developer Project Status Report.

2. Receive and file the Mesa Water and Other Agency Projects Status Report.
3. Receive and file the Water Quality Call Report.
4. Receive and file the Accounts Paid Listing
5. Receive and file the Monthly Financial Reports.
6. Receive and file the Outreach Update.
7. Ratify the 2023 Board Committee and Other Agency Liaison Assignments.

President Dewane asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

#### MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President DePasquale, to approve Items 1 - 7 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Director Fisler absent.

#### ITEM 9 - PLASTIC SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT:

President Dewane asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

#### MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President DePasquale, to award a contract to J. A. Salazar Construction and Supply Corporation for \$631,000 and a 10% contingency of \$63,100 for a contract amount not to exceed \$694,100 to provide construction for the Plastic Service Line Replacement Project, and authorize execution of the contract. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Director Fisler absent.

#### ITEM 10 - WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS FOR CALIFORNIA:

President Dewane asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President DePasquale, to approve staff's recommendation.

Director Atkinson offered a substitute motion.

Motion by Director Atkinson, second by Director Bockmiller, to approve a contribution to the California Policy Center for an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to support the organization's research on Water Infrastructure Solutions for California.

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

Director Bockmiller withdrew his motion.

#### MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President DePasquale, to approve a contribution to the California Policy Center for an amount not to exceed \$12,500 to support the organization's research on Water Infrastructure Solutions for California. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Director Fisler absent.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

8. LOCAL WATER SUPPLY:

GM Shoenberger provided an overview of the topic and introduced District Engineer Wiesner who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Purpose
- Legal
- Engineering and Cost
- Outreach
- Messaging
- Next Steps

Discussion ensued amongst the Board.

President Dewane asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

**MOTION**

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President DePasquale, to authorize staff to commit \$250,000 from Mesa Water for a U. S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart Water grant for a feasibility study regarding brackish groundwater desalination and to offer to partner with Orange County Water District and neighboring cities. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Director Fisler absent.

**RECESS**

President Dewane declared a recess at 6:02 p.m.

The Board meeting reconvened at 6:06 p.m.

President Dewane requested to reorder the agenda to take Items 16 and 17 before Item 11. There were no objections.

President Dewane announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 6:07 p.m.

**ITEM 16 - CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION:**  
California Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(1) and 54954.5(b)  
Significant exposure to litigation – 1 claim

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:21 p.m.

Attorney Anslow announced that the Board conducted one Closed Session with the General Manager, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer and General Legal Counsel, pursuant to California Government Code 54956.9(d)(1) and 54954.5(b). The Board received information and action will be taken under Item 17.

ITEM 17 - CLAIM OF MR. GONZALEZ:

President Dewane asked for comments from the public. There were no comments.

MOTION

Motion by Director Bockmiller, second by Vice President DePasquale, to deny the claim of Mr. Gonzalez. Motion passed 4 – 1, with Director Fisler absent.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

9. PLASTIC SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT:

Item taken earlier on the agenda.

10. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS FOR CALIFORNIA:

Item taken earlier on the agenda.

**REPORTS:**

11. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER:

- December Key Indicators Report
- Other (no enclosure)

12. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

13. FEDERAL ADVOCACY UPDATE

14. STATE ADVOCACY UPDATE

15. ORANGE COUNTY UPDATE

**CLOSED SESSION:**

16. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION:  
California Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(1) and 54954.5(b)  
Significant exposure to litigation – 1 claim

Item taken earlier on the agenda.

**ACTION ITEMS (CONT.):**

17. CLAIM OF MR. GONZALEZ:

Item taken earlier on the agenda.

President Dewane adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn Dewane, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Garcia, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer

Unapproved



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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Denise Garcia, Chief Administrative Officer  
DATE: February 8, 2023  
SUBJECT: Attendance at Conferences, Seminars, Meetings, and Events

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### RECOMMENDATION

In accordance with Ordinance No. 34, adopted January 11, 2023, authorize attendance at conferences, seminars, meetings, and events.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

- Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
- Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
- Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
- Goal #4: Increase favorable opinion of Mesa Water.
- Goal #5: Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.
- Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.
- Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its June 8, 2022 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) approved Fiscal Year 2023 attendance at Conferences, Seminars, Meetings, and Events.

### DISCUSSION

During the discussion of this item, if any, the Board may choose to delete any item from the list and/or may choose to add additional conferences, seminars, meetings, or events for approval, subject to available budget or additional appropriation.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

### ATTACHMENTS

None.



**2023 CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND MEETINGS:**

<b>February 9, 2023</b>	
MWDOC Water Policy Forum	<i>Atkinson, Bockmiller</i>
Costa Mesa, CA	
<b>February 16 - 17, 2023</b>	
CalDesal Annual Conference	<i>DePasquale</i>
Sacramento, CA	
<b>February 15, 2023</b>	
ACWA Winter Quarterly Forum	<i>Atkinson, Bockmiller</i>
Virtual	
<b>February 20 - 23, 2023</b>	
Jt. CA-NV AWWA/AMTA Spring Conference	
Knoxville, TN	
<b>February 22 - 24, 2023</b>	
Urban Water Institute Spring Conference	<i>Atkinson</i>
Palm Springs, CA	
<b>February 28 - March 2, 2023</b>	
ACWA Annual Washington D.C. Conference	
Washington D.C.	
<b>March 5 - 8, 2023</b>	
WaterReuse Symposium	
Atlanta, GA	
<b>March 6 - 8, 2023</b>	
Public-Private Partnership Conference	
Dallas, TX	
<b>March 23, 2023</b>	
ACWA Legislative Symposium	
Sacramento, CA	
<b>April 2 - 5, 2023</b>	
AWWA CA-NV Annual Spring Conference	
San Diego, CA	
<b>April 16 - 18, 2023</b>	
CMUA Annual Conference	
San Diego, CA	
<b>May 9 - 11, 2023</b>	
ACWA/JPIA Spring Conference	<i>Bockmiller</i>
Monterey, CA	
<b>May 16 - 17, 2023</b>	
CSDA Legislative Days	
Sacramento, CA	
<b>June 5 - 23, 2023</b>	
Harvard Senior Executives in State and Local Government	
Cambridge, MA	
<b>June 11 - 14, 2023</b>	
AWWA ACE23 Conference	<i>Atkinson</i>
Toronto, Canada	
<b>July 10 - 28, 2023</b>	
Harvard Senior Executives in State and Local Government	
Cambridge, MA	

# February 2023

February 2023							March 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28					26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 29	30	31	Feb 1 Payday 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD Workshop (VIRTUAL) 5:30pm OCWD Board Meeting	2 8:00am OCWD Communications/Legislative (VIRTUAL)	3 7:30am WACO (VIRTUAL)	4
5	6 CMUA Annual Capitol Day (Sacramento, CA) 8:30am MWDOC Planning & Operations Committee Meeting	7 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL) 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (HYBRID)	8 8:00am LAFCO Meeting (400 W Civic Center) 8:00am OCWD Water Issues (VIRTUAL) 8:30am MWDOC Admin 4:30pm Board Meeting	9 Pay Period Ends 8:00am OCWD Admin & Finance (VIRTUAL) 5:30pm MWDOC Water Policy Forum Dinner (686 Anton Blvd.)	10	11 9:00am Yo Amo Mesa Water Community Fair (Mesa Water District Parking Lot) - Andie Jacobsen
12	13 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (Hybrid)	14 8:00am OCBC Infrastructure Committee (HYBRID)	15 ACWA Winter Quarterly Forum (Virtual) Payday 8:30am MWDOC Board Meeting (VIRTUAL) 5:30pm OCWD Board	16 CalDesal Annual Conference "Desal for California's Waterfull I" 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (VIRTUAL)	17	18
19	20 District Holiday	21 Jt. CA-NV AWWA/AMTA Spring Conference (Knoxville, TN) 7:30am WACO Planning Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL) 5:30pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting	22 Urban Water Institute's Spring Water Conference (Palm Springs, CA) 4:30pm Board Meeting (Boardroom)	23 Pay Period Ends	24	25
26	27 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (HYBRID)	28 ACWA DC2023 (Washington D.C.)	Mar 1	2	3	4

# March 2023

March 2023							April 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 26	27	28	Mar 1 ACWA DC2023 (Washington D.C.) Payday 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD 5:30pm OCWD Board Meeting	2 8:00am OCWD Communications/Legislative (VIRTUAL)	3 7:30am WACO (VIRTUAL)	4
5	6 8:30am MWDOC Planning & Operations Committee Meeting	7 7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting	8 8:00am LAFCO Meeting 8:00am OCWD Water 8:30am MWDOC Admin 4:30pm Board Meeting	9 Pay Period Ends 8:00am OCWD Admin & Finance (VIRTUAL)	10	11
12	13 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (Hybrid)	14 8:00am OCBC Infrastructure Committee (HYBRID) 9:00am ACC-OC Energy, Environment and Water Committee	15 Payday 8:30am MWDOC Board Meeting (VIRTUAL) 5:30pm OCWD Board Meeting (VIRTUAL)	16 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (VIRTUAL) 4:00pm Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce Board	17	18
19	20	21 7:30am WACO Planning Committee Meeting (VIRTUAL) 5:30pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting (HYBRID)	22 4:30pm Board Meeting (Boardroom)	23 ACWA 2023 Legislative Symposium (Sacramento, CA) Pay Period Ends	24	25
26	27 5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (HYBRID)	28	29 2023 Children's Water Education Festival (University of California, Irvine) Payday	30	31	Apr 1

# April 2023

April 2023							May 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 26	27	28	29	30	31	Apr 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	AWWA CA-NV Annual Spring Conference (San Diego, CA)			Pay Period Ends	7:30am WACO (VITRUAL)	
	8:30am MWDOC Planning & Operations	7:30am ISDOC Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm Costa Mesa City	8:30am Jt. MWDOC/MWD 5:30pm OCWD Board	8:00am OCWD Communications/Legislative (VIRTUAL)		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (Hybrid)	8:00am OCBC Infrastructure Committee (HYBRID)	Payday 8:00am LAFCO Meeting 8:00am OCWD Water 8:30am MWDOC Admin	8:00am OCWD Admin & Finance (VIRTUAL)		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		7:30am WACO Planning Committee Meeting 5:30pm Costa Mesa City Council Meeting	8:30am MWDOC Board Meeting (VIRTUAL) 5:30pm OCWD Board Meeting (VIRTUAL)	Pay Period Ends 8:30am MWDOC Executive Committee (VIRTUAL)		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	5:00pm IRWD Board Meeting (HYBRID)		Payday 8:30am Jt. MWDOC/OCWD 4:30pm Board Meeting			
30	May 1	2	3	4	5	6



## **UPCOMING COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Yo Amo Mesa Water Community Event	Saturday, February 11, 2023 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Mesa Water Parking Lot 1965 Placentia Avenue Costa Mesa, 92627



*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager  
DATE: February 8, 2023  
SUBJECT: Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority Executive Committee Election Nomination

---

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. 1572 Nominating Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E. to the Executive Committee of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #4: Increase favorable opinion of Mesa Water.  
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its February 14, 2019 meeting, the Board of Directors (Board) adopted Resolution No. 1519 Nominating Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E. to the Executive Committee of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority.

### DISCUSSION

The Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA JPIA) is seeking nominations for their next Executive Committee. The elected Executive Committee members will serve a four-year term from May 2023 to May 2027.

This election will fill four Executive Committee member positions. There are two vacant positions. The two incumbents are as follows:

- Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Mesa Water District
- J. Bruce Rupp, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

Director Bockmiller currently represents Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) as a ACWA JPIA Board and Committee member. He has served on the ACWA JPIA Executive Committee since 2019, and is currently the Chair of the organization's Risk Management Committee on which he has served for fifteen years, as well as serving on its Workers Compensation Committee since 2022 and, most recently, its Personnel Committee.

In order to be considered, a candidate must be an ACWA JPIA Director who represents a District that participates in all four ACWA JPIA programs: Liability, Property, Workers' Compensation, and Employee Benefits. The candidate must be endorsed by his/her district in the form of a nominating resolution, and the candidate must also receive concurring in nomination resolutions from three other ACWA JPIA members. The nominating and concurring in nomination resolutions and the candidate statement of qualifications must be submitted to ACWA JPIA by Friday, March 24, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Final notice of the upcoming Election of Executive Committee members will be included as part of the ACWA JPIA Board of Directors' meeting packet. The Executive Committee election will take place during ACWA JPIA's Board of Directors' meeting to be held on May 8, 2023, at the Spring Conference in Monterey.



To date, Director Bockmiller has received concurring in nomination resolutions from five ACWA JPIA member organizations (East Orange County Water District, Orange County Water District, Rincon Del Diablo Water District, Serrano Water District and Yorba Linda Water District) with two others pending (Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District and Municipal Water District of Orange County).

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

#### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Resolution No. 1572, Draft

Attachment B: ACWA JPIA Nomination Procedures for Executive Committee

Attachment C: Candidate Statement of Qualifications

**RESOLUTION NO. 1572**

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
MESA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
NOMINATING FRED R. BOCKMILLER, P.E.  
TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES  
JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) is a county water district organized and operating pursuant to the provisions of the laws of the State of California (State or California); and

WHEREAS, Mesa Water is a member district of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) that participates in all four of its Programs: Liability, Property, Workers' Compensation, and Employee Benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the JPIA provide that in order for a nomination to be made to JPIA's Executive Committee, the member district must place into nomination its member of the JPIA Board of Directors for such open position.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MESA WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors of Mesa Water District that its member of the JPIA Board of Directors, Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., be nominated as a candidate for the Executive Committee for the election to be held during the JPIA's Spring 2023 Board of Director's meeting.

**Section 2.** The JPIA staff is hereby requested, upon receipt of the formal concurrence of three other member districts to affect such nomination.

**Section 3.** The District Secretary is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the JPIA at P.O. Box 619082, Roseville, CA 95661-9082, forthwith.

ADOPTED, SIGNED, and APPROVED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023 by a roll call vote.

AYES: DIRECTORS:  
NOES: DIRECTORS:  
ABSTAIN: DIRECTORS:  
ABSENT: DIRECTORS:

---

Shawn Dewane  
President, Board of Directors

---

Denise Garcia  
District Secretary



# ACWA JPIA

## Nomination Procedures for Executive Committee

### Approximately 120 Days before Election (January 9, 2023)

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All ACWA JPIA Directors and Member Districts are to be notified of:

- A) Date and place of Election;
- B) Executive Committee positions and terms of office to be filled by Election;
- C) Nomination Procedures.

### 120 to 45 Days before Election (January 9 – March 24, 2023)

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- A) A district (that participates in all four of the JPIA's programs: Liability, Property, Workers' Compensation and Employee Benefits) may place into nomination its member of the Board of Directors of ACWA JPIA with the concurrence of three districts, then members of the ACWA JPIA, in addition to the nominating district.
- B) Sample resolutions are available on the ACWA JPIA website.
- C) The **district is solely responsible** for timely submission of the nominating resolution and the three additional concurring in nomination resolutions of its candidate for office.

### 45 Days before Election (March 24, 2023)

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- A) Deadline and location for receiving the nominating and concurring in nomination resolutions in the ACWA JPIA office:

**Friday – March 24, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.**

Laura Baryak  
Administrative Assistant II  
(lbaryak@acwajpia.com)  
ACWA JPIA  
P. O. Box 619082  
Roseville, CA 95661-9082

- B) Candidates' statement of qualifications must be submitted, if desired, with the nominating resolutions. The statement of qualifications must be submitted on one side of an 8½ x 11" sheet of paper suitable for reproduction and distribution to all districts. (MSWord or PDF documents preferred).

### 14 Days before Election (April 24, 2023)

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Final notice of the upcoming Election of Executive Committee members will be included as part of the Board of Directors' meeting packet. Final notice shall include:

- A) Date, Time, and Place of Election;
- B) Name and District of all qualified candidates;
- C) Candidate's statement of qualifications (if received); and
- D) Election Procedures and Rules.

# Re-elect Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E. to ACWA JPIA Executive Committee

## Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E. Director, Mesa Water District



**OBJECTIVE:** To further the goals of ACWA JPIA in best serving its members, by applying analytical and leadership skills, and risk management experience, while continuing to serve our members on the ACWA JPIA Executive Committee during this time of significant transition for the organization.

### **STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS:**

- ACWA JPIA Executive Committee, 2019-present
- ACWA JPIA Committees – Risk Management, 2008-present; Workers Compensation, 2022-present; Personnel, 2023-present
- ACWA JPIA Board, 2006-present
- ACWA Energy Committee, 2002-present
- Mesa Water District Director, 1996-present – Five-term Board President; Chaired every Mesa Water District Committee (Executive, Audit Ad Hoc, Finance, Human Resources, IT Ad Hoc, Engineering and Operations, Public Information)
- Engineering Manager, University of California, Irvine (UCI) Department of Finance and Administration
- Ex Officio member, California Building Standards Commission Plumbing Electrical Mechanical and Energy Code Advisory Committee, 2015-present

**BIOGRAPHY:** Fred Bockmiller represents Division 1 -- encompassing the West Side of Costa Mesa and portions of Newport Beach -- on the Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) Board of Directors. He has served as Mesa Water Board President for five terms.

Throughout his elected service, Director Bockmiller has championed water quality and cost-effective service reliability through a perpetual agency philosophy of long-term planning for the future of Mesa Water and continuous infrastructure maintenance, renewal, and improvement. He has been a relentless supporter of high-quality, fact-based decision-making.

Director Bockmiller has represented Mesa Water at the City/Districts Liaison Committee, Orange County Council of Governments, Orange County Water District, and the Costa Mesa Westside Revitalization Oversight Committee.

For more than 15 years, Director Bockmiller has represented Mesa Water on the Board of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA). He presently serves on the ACWA JPIA Executive, Risk Management (Chair), Workers Compensation (Vice Chair), and Personnel Committees.

Director Bockmiller has been the Engineering Manager in the Department of Finance and Administration at UCI, a leader in energy conservation and construction efforts for more than 25 years, including completion of more than \$3 billion in major capital construction projects; more than \$300 million in reconstruction and extensive energy and water conservation retrofits, which tripled the developed building space, reduced energy consumption in laboratories by 50 percent, slashed the campus carbon footprint, improved the energy infrastructure, and decreased per capita water use by more than 30% while improving the built environment for research, teaching, and public service.

Developing the next generation is an area of interest for Director Bockmiller. He is a regular guest lecturer in UCI's Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, a mentor in the Junior Mentor Program at Newport Harbor High School, and served for 17 years on the board of Youth Employment Service -- a local charity that provides youth with the tools to find jobs -- where he served as CFO and President.



*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager  
DATE: February 8, 2023  
SUBJECT: Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority Executive Committee Election Concurring in Nomination

---

### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt Resolution No. 1573 Concurring in Nomination of J. Bruce Rupp to the Executive Committee of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal #4: Increase favorable opinion of Mesa Water.  
Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

None.

### DISCUSSION

At the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA JPIA) Board of Directors' meeting to be held in Monterey on May 8, 2023, there will be an Executive Committee election to fill four Executive Committee member positions, each for a four-year term.

J. Bruce Rupp is currently serving a second four-year term on the ACWA JPIA Executive Committee, which he has served since 2015. Currently at ACWA JPIA, Director Rupp is Chair of the Employee Benefits Committee, Vice Chair of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Personnel Committee. Previously, Director Rupp shaped the Liability, Property, and Worker's Compensation programs for ACWA JPIA.

Mr. Rupp has served for 27 years on the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) Board of Directors, during which time he has been actively engaged with ACWA JPIA. At HBMWD, Director Rupp has served two terms each as Board President and Vice President, and three terms as Secretary/Treasurer.

Additionally, Director Rupp serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), and he serves as an at-large member of ACWA's Executive Committee, and as Vice Chair of its Finance Committee. HBMWD has reached out to Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) requesting that the District submit a resolution of support concurring in the nomination of Director Rupp to the Executive Committee of the ACWA JPIA.

The deadline to submit the concurring in nomination resolution to ACWA JPIA is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 24, 2023.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.



## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Resolution No. 1573, Draft

Attachment B: ACWA JPIA Nomination Procedures for Executive Committee

Attachment C: HBMWD Correspondence

Attachment D: Candidate Statement of Qualifications

**RESOLUTION NO. 1573**

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
MESA WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
CONCURRING IN NOMINATION OF J. BRUCE RUPP  
TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES  
JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) is a county water district organized and operating pursuant to the provisions of the laws of the State of California (State or California); and

WHEREAS, Mesa Water is a member district of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA); and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the JPIA provide that in order for a nomination to be made to JPIA's Executive Committee, three member districts must concur with the nominating district; and

WHEREAS, another JPIA member district, the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District has requested that Mesa Water concur in its nomination of its member of the JPIA Board of Directors to the Executive Committee of the JPIA.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MESA WATER DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors of Mesa Water District that this district concur with the nomination of J. Bruce Rupp of Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District to the Executive Committee of the JPIA.

**Section 2.** The District Secretary is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the JPIA at P.O. Box 619082, Roseville, CA 95661-9082, forthwith.

ADOPTED, SIGNED, and APPROVED this 8th day of February 2023 by a roll call vote.

AYES: DIRECTORS:  
NOES: DIRECTORS:  
ABSTAIN: DIRECTORS:  
ABSENT: DIRECTORS:

---

Shawn Dewane  
President, Board of Directors

---

Denise Garcia  
District Secretary

# ACWA JPIA

## Nomination Procedures for Executive Committee

### Approximately 120 Days before Election (January 9, 2023)

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All ACWA JPIA Directors and Member Districts are to be notified of:

- A) Date and place of Election;
- B) Executive Committee positions and terms of office to be filled by Election;
- C) Nomination Procedures.

### 120 to 45 Days before Election (January 9 – March 24, 2023)

---

- A) A district (that participates in all four of the JPIA's programs: Liability, Property, Workers' Compensation and Employee Benefits) may place into nomination its member of the Board of Directors of ACWA JPIA with the concurrence of three districts, then members of the ACWA JPIA, in addition to the nominating district.
- B) Sample resolutions are available on the ACWA JPIA website.
- C) The **district is solely responsible** for timely submission of the nominating resolution and the three additional concurring in nomination resolutions of its candidate for office.

### 45 Days before Election (March 24, 2023)

---

- A) Deadline and location for receiving the nominating and concurring in nomination resolutions in the ACWA JPIA office:

**Friday – March 24, 2023 – 4:30 p.m.**

Laura Baryak  
Administrative Assistant II  
(lbaryak@acwajpia.com)  
ACWA JPIA  
P. O. Box 619082  
Roseville, CA 95661-9082

- B) Candidates' statement of qualifications must be submitted, if desired, with the nominating resolutions. The statement of qualifications must be submitted on one side of an 8½ x 11" sheet of paper suitable for reproduction and distribution to all districts. (MSWord or PDF documents preferred).

### 14 Days before Election (April 24, 2023)

---

Final notice of the upcoming Election of Executive Committee members will be included as part of the Board of Directors' meeting packet. Final notice shall include:

- A) Date, Time, and Place of Election;
- B) Name and District of all qualified candidates;
- C) Candidate's statement of qualifications (if received); and
- D) Election Procedures and Rules.



## HUMBOLDT BAY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

828 Seventh Street • Eureka, California 95501-1114  
PO Box 95 • Eureka, California 95502-0095  
Office 707-443-5018 Essex 707-822-2918  
Fax 707-443-5731 707-822-8245  
EMAIL [OFFICE@HBMWD.COM](mailto:OFFICE@HBMWD.COM)  
Website: [www.hbmwd.com](http://www.hbmwd.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NEAL LATT, PRESIDENT  
MICHELLE FULLER, VICE-PRESIDENT  
J. BRUCE RUPP, SECRETARY-TREASURER  
DAVID LINDBERG, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TREASURER  
SHERI WOO, DIRECTOR

### GENERAL MANAGER

JOHN FRIEDENBACH

January 19, 2023

Stacy Lynne Taylor  
Mesa Water District  
1965 Placentia Ave  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Dear Ms. Taylor,

Enclosed is a proposed resolution and resume of J. Bruce Rupp. We request a concurring resolution for Mr. Rupp's nomination to the ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee.

By March 24<sup>th</sup>, kindly send the approved resolution to:

Laura Baryak  
Administrative Assistant II  
(lbaryak@acwajpia.com)  
ACWA JPIA  
PO Box 619082  
Roseville, CA 95661-9082

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angela Smart".

Angela Smart  
Executive Assistant / Board Secretary



---

## JOHN BRUCE RUPP (BRUCE)

DIRECTOR OF HUMBOLDT BAY  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT FOR  
27 YEARS; TWO TERM  
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD.

RETIRED REAL ESTATE BROKER &  
SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

MARRIED 51 YEARS: WIFE  
MARILYN, FORMER REAL ESTATE  
AGENT AND PARALEGAL

FAMILY: ONE SON, TWO  
DAUGHTERS AND ELEVEN  
GRANDCHILDREN

---

### CONTACT INFO

828 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

T: 707-443-5018

E: rupp@hbmwd.com

### CAREER HISTORY

Five years as United States Army officer, combat veteran Vietnam;  
Bronze Star, Jump Wings, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry

Seven years of progressively more responsible positions in Alameda  
County Government, San Francisco Bay Area

Ten years as City Manager, City of Alameda, CA

Four years as County Administrative Officer, Humboldt County, CA

Twelve years as Real Estate Broker and owner of Rupp & Associates  
Realty

### EDUCATION

San Rafael High School, San Rafael, CA

San Jose State University, BA, Public Administration

Graduate Officers Candidate School, Defense Language Institute

### PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Member ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee

Chair ACWA-JPIA Employee Benefits Committee

Vice-Chair of ACWA/PIA Finance Committee

Member ACWA Board & Board Executive Committee

Chair of ACWA Region 1

Rotary Member for 44 years; twice Club President; Paul Harris Fellow

Member Eureka Elks Lodge

Member City of Eureka Finance Advisory Committee

Past Chair Redwood Region Economic Development Commission

Past President, Humboldt Association of Realtors

Former State Governor appointment to North Coast Regional Water  
Control Board

Past Board Member League of California Cities





*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager  
DATE: February 8, 2023  
SUBJECT: Mesa Water District's Policy Positions and Legislative Platforms

---

### RECOMMENDATION

Approve the proposed updates to Mesa Water District's Policy Positions and Legislative Platforms.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

- Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
- Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
- Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
- Goal #4: Increase favorable opinion of Mesa Water.
- Goal #5: Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.
- Goal #6: Provide excellent customer service.
- Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

Mesa Water District's (Mesa Water®) Policy Positions and Legislative Platforms are regularly reviewed, updated annually or as needed by the Board of Directors (Board). Both documents contribute to and relate to Mesa Water's vision, mission, and strategic plan goals.

The Policy Positions and Legislative Platforms documents were last reviewed, updated, and approved by the Board on January 25, 2022.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Policy Positions**

The purpose of Mesa Water's Policy Positions is to determine positions, agreed upon by the Board, on public policies to guide the District's advocacy staff and consultants in monitoring, identifying, evaluating, and prioritizing legislative, regulatory, and water/government/utility industry issues that may affect Mesa Water and its constituents' interests.

For advocacy staff's and consultants' ongoing State and Federal legislative, administrative, and regulatory engagement efforts -- in collaboration with a broad coalition of regional, state, and national industry associations and groups -- an updated Policy Positions document is important for Mesa Water's continued influence on water/government/utility policy decisions that can impact the District's operations, customers, and community.

In addition to aligning Mesa Water's Policy Positions with the District's Strategic Plan and Legislative Platforms, the updated Policy Positions includes:

- Edits to Policy Position #4 – added "Banking" to the title and within 4.g., and removed the second mention of "storage" in 4.g. (redundant);



- Edits to Policy Position #13 – added “storage”, “conjunctive use”, and “conveyance”;
- Removed prior Policy Position #14 – irrelevant; and,
- Edits to newly numbered Policy Position #19 – reworded to reflect one of Mesa Water’s four policy priorities of recognizing all types of recycled water -- including purple pipe and potable reuse -- for bonus incentives/credit/variances within conservation mandates.

### **Legislative Platforms**

Mesa Water’s Legislative Platforms, agreed upon by the Board, are established to develop opportunities for beneficially influencing water policy and related issues and to assist advocacy staff and consultants in taking positions on legislation, administrative actions, and regulations that can affect Mesa Water and the interests of its constituents. Updated annually, Mesa Water’s Legislative Platforms provide guidelines that allow for timely response to policy matters relevant to the District’s operations including, but not necessarily limited to:

- infrastructure funding and fiscal policies;
- local governance and transparency issues;
- water quality standards and treatment mandates;
- water rate structures and water use efficiency regulations; and,
- water source development via desalination, potable reuse, recycled water, storage, etc. to create new high-quality and reliable water supplies.

Additionally in 2023, Mesa Water’s advocacy activities will continue to focus on four policy priorities: 1) upholding local control; 2) promoting the “true, full cost of water” concept; 3) supporting desalination; and, 4) recognizing all types of recycled water -- including purple pipe and potable reuse -- for bonus incentives/credit/variances within conservation mandates.

Any policy issues with complex implications requiring further clarification will be presented to the Board for direction.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

None.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment A: Policy Positions, Draft
- Attachment B: Policy Positions, Redline
- Attachment C: 2023 Legislative Platforms, Draft
- Attachment D: 2022 Legislative Platforms, Redline



## Policy Positions

Updated: February 8, 2023

### Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) supports:

1. Groundwater Quality Protection
  - a. Support Orange County Water District's (OCWD) current groundwater quality protection programs
    - i. Basin Equity Assessment (BEA) Exemption Program for Impaired Groundwater (including the Mesa Water Reliability Facility)
    - ii. The MTBE, North Basin, and South Basin groundwater protection projects
    - iii. The Tustin and Irvine desalters
  - b. Encourage OCWD to protect the Basin from chlorides caused by seawater intrusion
    - i. Encourage OCWD to set a goal of maintaining protective elevations along the coast
    - ii. Encourage OCWD to hold semi-annual barrier meetings with Coastal Agencies (Huntington Beach, Mesa Water, and Seal Beach)
    - iii. Encourage semi-annual reporting on the barrier
  - c. Collaborate with OCWD in advocating for funding and treatment of Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) such as PFAS
2. Policies that raise and stabilize the Basin Pumping Percentage (BPP)
  - a. Support OCWD setting a target BPP that they intend to consistently meet
  - b. Support new water supply projects that help achieve this goal
  - c. Support OCWD adopting a water supply policy that sets a goal of developing water supply and recharge capabilities, including purchasing replenishment water, or other actions that result in a reliable and predictable source of groundwater at a BPP of not less than 80 percent. A goal of this policy is to accomplish this with a cost-neutral, or better, impact on producers when the avoided cost of purchasing imported water is considered
3. Policies that keep the Basin full
  - a. Support OCWD adhering to the BPP-setting formula
  - b. Support maximum production at the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) to ensure a cost-effective, high-quality, environmentally-friendly and sustainable local water supply that benefits all OCWD producers and that increases the region's current and future water reliability
  - c. Support maximum wastewater flows treatable by the GWRS to the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) -- and support OCSD/OCWD's permanent acquisition of such wastewater flows -- to ensure source reliability for the GWRS
  - d. Support stormwater capture projects that are cost-effective (e.g., equivalent to or less than GWRS costs) and that contribute source water to the Basin Principal Aquifer
4. Basin Storage/Banking and Exchange/Transfer Programs that are market-based with the primary benefits accruing to OCWD, its Groundwater Producers, and the ratepayers they serve, with such Programs applying the "Beneficiaries Pay" principle and addressing issues including, but not limited to:

- a. Full cost recovery, at a minimum, of a proportional share of the historic and future capital investments as well as operations and maintenance costs incurred by OCWD to manage the Basin
  - b. Full cost recovery, at a minimum, of the proportional value that entry into the Basin affords, including the value of reliability (and thus loss of reliability to the Groundwater Producers through the loss of available storage capacity) and the value of treatment
  - c. Accounting for water loss in a current or future year (both lost out of the Basin and lost due to inability to spread or extract)
  - d. Consideration that the above is merely a “break even” deal, and any program should bring significant benefits in excess of the above to OCWD and its Groundwater Producers
  - e. Deferring entering into any agreements until the *IRWD v. OCWD* lawsuit is resolved
  - f. Deferring entering into any agreements until the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Conjunctive Use Program has been terminated
  - g. Limiting any potential future storage/banking agreements to programs that are compliant with OCWD Act Section 2.1.c
  - h. Maximizing the beneficial use of the Basin while maximizing Basin Pumping Percentage (BPP) for the Groundwater Producers overlying the Basin
5. Annexations
- a. Support financially neutral annexations into OCWD
6. A financially strong OCWD
- a. Support policies and practices that maintain OCWD’s current AAA credit rating from two of the three credit rating agencies
7. The potential merger of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and OCWD if the merger:
- a. is mutually agreed upon by both MWDOC and OCWD, with any governance change supported by MWDOC’s and OCWD’s Boards of Directors
  - b. encourages MWDOC and OCWD exploring mutual areas of efficiency that results in economic savings for the members of both agencies
  - c. improves or, at a minimum, preserves the quality, reliability and sustainability of wholesale water services to the members of both agencies
  - d. preserves the interests of groundwater producers currently existing within Orange County’s groundwater basin and protects those interests from diminished groundwater resources or supplies
  - e. supports MWDOC’s current geographic boundaries, and preserves the existing boundaries of the Orange County groundwater basin for pumping and storage purposes
  - f. supports MWDOC’s current mission, and allows the Orange County groundwater basin to remain unadjudicated
  - g. respects the “one person one vote” principle if the new Board of Directors is a wholly elected board

- h. is facilitated openly and transparently, and
  - i. increases the effectiveness of Orange County's representation at MWD, with a coordinated and unified voice representing Orange County
- 8. Increased influence at Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)
  - a. Support increased allocations of MWDOC resources for engagement at MWD
  - b. Support coordination of the entire Orange County MWD delegation
- 9. MWDOC's priority initiatives at MWD
  - a. Protect Mesa Water's service area from any cost shifts as a result of the San Diego County Water Authority lawsuit
  - b. Encourage continued efforts in improving the Delta
  - c. Seek opportunities for MWD to provide assistance (or partnership) with MWDOC on developing desalination in Orange County
  - d. Continue to support MWD's discounted replenishment water program
- 10. Close working relationships with MWDOC on local and regional issues and programs for which the organization is advocating at MWD
- 11. The current Mesa Water Strategic Plan, including the District's goals to:
  - a. Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
  - b. Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
  - c. Be financially responsible and transparent.
  - d. Increase favorable opinion of Mesa Water.
  - e. Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.
  - f. Provide excellent customer service.
  - g. Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.
- 12. The Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OC LAFCO) as more of a facilitator than an initiator of actions
- 13. The development of cost-effective and environmentally sensitive sources of water, including storage, recycling, groundwater clean-up, conjunctive use, conservation, conveyance, and desalination
- 14. CalDesal's mission and its efforts to advocate for funding for brackish and ocean water desalination
- 15. The co-equal goals of improved water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem health
- 16. Water rates, fees, and other service or use charges based on true costs in conformance with Prop. 218, and tax-free revenue
- 17. The "Expenditures Per Capita" metric as being more accessible and equitable, as well as a simpler and superior method -- versus comparing water rates alone -- for measuring the full, true cost and "affordability" of a public water system's services to its community



18. Policies that encourage economical and practical water efficiency for indoor water use, irrigation water use, and commercial and industrial water use, without stranding investments in potable reuse systems, including:
  - a. Indoor water use efficiency at the level needed for community health and safety -- as substantiated by a recently-commissioned, validated, and peer-reviewed fact-based studies that are credible, replicable, and verifiable -- and that protects local investments in potable reuse systems
  - b. Irrigation water use efficiency at the level necessary for productive crops and attractive landscapes
  - c. Commercial and industrial water use efficiency at a level that sustains economic vitality
19. Policies that recognize all types of recycled water, including purple pipe and potable reuse, for bonus incentives/credit/variances within conservation mandates
20. Theft prevention of municipal metal infrastructure, such as fire hydrants, manhole covers, and backflow devices
21. The equitable treatment of OCWD -- and its programs and projects -- by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) with respect to grants funding and related considerations as part of SAWPA's Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning and One Water One Watershed program

**Mesa Water opposes:**

1. The encroachment of Mesa Water easements, rights-of-way, and property without negotiation, agreed upon compensation, and advance approval at the sole discretion of the District
2. Administrative, legislative, and regulatory actions that mandate new, unfunded operational practices which add cost burdens or time delays to work conducted by essential public utilities
3. One-size-fits-all mandates regarding water use efficiency that ignore local IRWM plans or Urban Water Management Plans





## Policy Positions

Updated: ~~January 25, 2022~~ February 8, 2023

### Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®) supports:

1. Groundwater Quality Protection
  - a. Support Orange County Water District's (OCWD) current groundwater quality protection programs
    - i. Basin Equity Assessment (BEA) Exemption Program for Impaired Groundwater (including the Mesa Water Reliability Facility)
    - ii. The MTBE, North Basin, and South Basin groundwater protection projects
    - iii. The Tustin and Irvine desalters
  - b. Encourage OCWD to protect the Basin from chlorides caused by seawater intrusion
    - i. Encourage OCWD to set a goal of maintaining protective elevations along the coast
    - ii. Encourage OCWD to hold semi-annual barrier meetings with Coastal Agencies (Huntington Beach, Mesa Water, and Seal Beach)
    - iii. Encourage semi-annual reporting on the barrier
  - c. Collaborate with OCWD in advocating for funding and treatment of Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) such as PFAS
2. Policies that raise and stabilize the Basin Pumping Percentage (BPP)
  - a. Support OCWD setting a target BPP that they intend to consistently meet
  - b. Support new water supply projects that help achieve this goal
  - c. Support OCWD adopting a water supply policy that sets a goal of developing water supply and recharge capabilities, including purchasing replenishment water, or other actions that result in a reliable and predictable source of groundwater at a BPP of not less than 80 percent. A goal of this policy is to accomplish this with a cost-neutral, or better, impact on producers when the avoided cost of purchasing imported water is considered
3. Policies that keep the Basin full
  - a. Support OCWD adhering to the BPP-setting formula
  - b. Support maximum production at the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) to ensure a cost-effective, high-quality, environmentally-friendly and sustainable local water supply that benefits all OCWD producers and that increases the region's current and future water reliability
  - c. Support maximum wastewater flows treatable by the GWRS to the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) -- and support OCSD/OCWD's permanent acquisition of such wastewater flows -- to ensure source reliability for the GWRS
  - d. Support stormwater capture projects that are cost-effective (e.g., equivalent to or less than GWRS costs) and that contribute source water to the Basin Principal Aquifer
4. Basin Storage/Banking and Exchange/Transfer Programs that are market-based with the primary benefits accruing to OCWD, its Groundwater Producers, and the ratepayers they serve, with such Programs applying the "Beneficiaries Pay" principle and addressing issues including, but not limited to:

- a. Full cost recovery, at a minimum, of a proportional share of the historic and future capital investments as well as operations and maintenance costs incurred by OCWD to manage the Basin
- b. Full cost recovery, at a minimum, of the proportional value that entry into the Basin affords, including the value of reliability (and thus loss of reliability to the Groundwater Producers through the loss of available storage capacity) and the value of treatment
- c. Accounting for water loss in a current or future year (both lost out of the Basin and lost due to inability to spread or extract)
- d. Consideration that the above is merely a “break even” deal, and any program should bring significant benefits in excess of the above to OCWD and its Groundwater Producers
- e. Deferring entering into any agreements until the *IRWD v. OCWD* lawsuit is resolved
- f. Deferring entering into any agreements until the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Conjunctive Use Program has been terminated
- g. Limiting any potential future storage/banking agreements to ~~storage~~-programs that are compliant with OCWD Act Section 2.1.c
- h. Maximizing the beneficial use of the Basin while maximizing Basin Pumping Percentage (BPP) for the Groundwater Producers overlying the Basin

5. Annexations

- a. Support financially neutral annexations into OCWD

6. A financially strong OCWD

- a. Support policies and practices that maintain OCWD’s current AAA credit rating from two of the three credit rating agencies

7. The potential merger of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and OCWD if the merger:

- a. is mutually agreed upon by both MWDOC and OCWD, with any governance change supported by MWDOC’s and OCWD’s Boards of Directors;
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- d. preserves the interests of groundwater producers currently existing within Orange County’s groundwater basin and protects those interests from diminished groundwater resources or supplies;
- e. supports MWDOC’s current geographic boundaries, and preserves the existing boundaries of the Orange County groundwater basin for pumping and storage purposes;
- f. supports MWDOC’s current mission, and allows the Orange County groundwater basin to remain adjudicated;
- g. respects the “one person one vote” principle if the new Board of Directors is a wholly elected board;



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- a. Provide ~~an~~ safe, abundant, local, ~~and~~ reliable ~~and safe~~ water supply.
  - b. ~~Practice~~ perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure ~~renewal and improvement~~.
  - c. Be financially responsible and transparent.
  - d. Increase favorable opinion of public awareness about Mesa Water ~~and about water~~.
  - e. Attract, develop and retain skilled employees.
  - f. Provide outstanding excellent customer service.
  - g. Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.
12. The Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission (OC LAFCO) as more of a facilitator than an initiator of actions
13. The development of cost-effective and environmentally sensitive sources of water, including storage, recycling, groundwater clean-up, conjunctive use, conservation, conveyance, and desalination
- ~~14. The potential Huntington Beach Ocean Desalter project as it can possibly provide a new, reliable, quality water supply that is appropriately priced~~
- ~~15-14.~~ CalDesal's mission and its efforts to advocate for funding for brackish and ocean water desalination
- ~~16-15.~~ The co-equal goals of improved water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem health
- ~~17-16.~~ Water rates, fees, and other service or use charges based on true costs in conformance with Prop. 218, and tax-free revenue
- ~~18-17.~~ The "Expenditures Per Capita" metric as being more accessible and equitable, as well as a simpler and superior method -- versus comparing water rates alone -- for measuring the full, true cost and "affordability" of a public water system's services to its community



- ~~19-18.~~ Policies that encourage economical and practical water efficiency for indoor water use, irrigation water use, and commercial and industrial water use, without stranding investments in potable reuse systems, including:
- Indoor water use efficiency at the level needed for community health and safety -- as substantiated by a recently-commissioned, validated, and peer-reviewed fact-based studies that are credible, replicable, and verifiable -- and that protects local investments in potable reuse systems
  - Irrigation water use efficiency at the level necessary for productive crops and attractive landscapes
  - Commercial and industrial water use efficiency at a level that sustains economic vitality
- ~~20-19.~~ Policies that ~~exempt~~ **recognize** all types of recycled water, including purple pipe and potable reuse, **for bonus incentives/credit/variances from within conservation** mandates ~~on outdoor irrigation~~
- ~~21-20.~~ Theft prevention of municipal metal infrastructure, such as fire hydrants, manhole covers, and backflow devices
- ~~22-21.~~ The equitable treatment of OCWD -- and its programs and projects -- by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) with respect to grants funding and related considerations as part of SAWPA's Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning and One Water One Watershed program.

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## 2023 Legislative Platforms

February 8, 2023

### Federal

The 118<sup>th</sup> Congress convened at noon, on January 3, 2023. While periods of divided government at the federal level are at times characterized by gridlock, the House of Representatives and the United States Senate have shown an ability to achieve legislative accomplishments, particularly affecting water policy and water infrastructure investment. This trend is likely to continue through 2024.

The Executive Branch will also be industrious over the next two years. For instance, in carrying out its “PFAS Roadmap” and the broadly anticipated revisions to the “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) or “Navigable Waters Protection Rule”, the Administration has demonstrated a willingness to maintain an active role in federal water policy, and several drinking water and wastewater rulemakings are expected through 2024.

While some previously contemplated legislative proposals may be re-introduced in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, there are no anticipated large efforts at reforming the nation’s water policy laws nor at creating new water programs in statute. In the wake of legislative gains -- like those included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) -- Congress will turn its attention to rigorous oversight on the execution of these investments.

In addition to oversight activities, Congress will focus on funding improvements to the nation’s infrastructure. While IIJA and IRA included opportunities for municipal water utilities, ultimately these programs will be reliant on the annual appropriations process, which begins in earnest with the delivery of the President’s FY2024 Budget to Congress the first week of February 2023. As the federal agencies like the Bureau of Reclamation and the Environmental Protection Agency have IIJA, IRA, and FY2023 funds available for awards this calendar year, it remains uncertain what Congress will do to augment these programs in FY2024 and FY2025.

### State

Calendar Year 2023 marks the first year of California’s two-year (2023 and 2024) legislative session, with the State legislature having reconvened on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

With nearly one-third of the State Legislature new to their office, water industry advocacy efforts will be focused on educating members on water policy issues. Additionally, because Governor Newsom’s recent budget proposal projects a \$22.5B shortfall in the upcoming fiscal year, it is anticipated that water-related legislation and regulations will focus on several priority issues: water affordability—arrearages funding, no residential shut-offs, and possibly Proposition 218 reform; water conservation and water use efficiency; water rights; and, continued but reduced investments in climate change, drought response and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, and zero-emission vehicles acceleration.

Also in 2023, the state will focus on addressing the following issues relevant to local governments: cannabis enforcement, extreme heat and community resilience, high-speed internet implementation, homelessness and affordable housing, local libraries, and paying down unfunded pension liabilities.

For 2023, it is expected that some legislative proposals and policy discussions from 2022 could return, including legislation and regulations that could significantly impact Mesa Water District



(Mesa Water®). The State administration, legislature, and regulators explored several ongoing water issues in 2022, including, but not limited to:

- water use efficiency/conservation regulations pertaining to data reporting, water loss performance standards, and other topics related to implementing [SB 606 and AB 1668](#) (passed in 2018);
- water affordability related to California’s Human Right to Water and the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (respectively, [AB 685](#) and [SB 200](#)), and Low-Income Water Rate Assistance (LIWRA) programs also called “lifeline rates” ([AB 401](#)), as well as the implementation of the Water Shutoff Protection Act ([SB 998](#));
- water district consolidations;
- headwaters protection, forest management, and wildfires prevention;
- climate adaptation and resilience, and related issues (i.e., electrification, energy policies, public safety power shutoffs, etc.);
- water quality, PFAS, and other Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs);
- bonus incentives/credits/variances for recycled water, water reuse, and desalination;
- governance and transparency during and following the Covid-19 pandemic;
- affordable housing proposals to alleviate homelessness (i.e., ADUs, CEQA reform, housing development fees, surplus property, etc.); and,
- the Delta (i.e., Delta Conveyance Project, Endangered Species Act, Voluntary Settlement Agreements, etc.).

As policy discussions commence in 2023, the above issues will be the primary areas of legislative and regulatory focus. Additionally, there is talk of work in 2023 on a potential water bond effort -- via an initiative and/or legislative process -- for the November 2024 ballot.

Also, on the air quality front in 2023, the administration and regulators are eager to finalize the state’s [Advanced Clean Fleets Rule](#) that, as currently written, would require 50% of new medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleet purchases by public agencies to be zero-emission beginning in 2024, increasing to 100% in 2027.

As a reminder, in 2020, Governor Newsom issued two climate-related Executive Orders to require: 1) by 2035, that all new cars and passenger trucks sold in CA are Zero-Emission Vehicles ([N-79-20](#)); and, 2) by 2030, the conservation of 30% of the state’s land and coastal waters ([N-82-20](#)). These state efforts could be augmented by federal funding opportunities, including approximately \$1 billion that was included in the IRA for Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles through the Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants, rebates, and contract support to replace heavy duty vehicles with zero-emission alternatives.

Lastly, Mesa Water engaged with various agencies and associations that the district is affiliated with (i.e., ACC-OC, ACWA, AWWA, CalDesal, CMUA, CSDA, CWSA, MWDOC/MWD, OCBC, OCWD, OC Tax, SCWC, WateReuse, etc.) to advocate on legislative/policy issues including, but not necessarily limited to: 1) upholding local control; 2) promoting the “true, full cost of water” concept; 3) supporting desalination; and, 4) providing variances for potable reuse water subject to conservation mandates. In 2023, Mesa Water advocacy staff and consultants will



continue to focus on these four policy priorities and on federal and state funding opportunities. Listed below, for the Board's consideration, are the proposed legislative and regulatory platforms regarding anticipated high-priority public policy issues in 2023 that could have major consequences for Mesa Water:

- **Water Rates** – Mesa Water supports local rate-setting control with rate structures, set by publicly-elected boards and councils, that best serve customers and comply with the law. Furthermore, Mesa Water supports cost-based water rates that:
  - represent the true, full cost of water services, including operational costs and infrastructure funding to ensure water system sustainability into perpetuity; and,
  - harmonize the concepts of conservation and legality, with rates that provide a strong price signal for ratepayers to conserve while also complying with legal mandates (i.e., Article X of the CA Constitution; SB 606 and AB 1668; and, Propositions 13, 26, and 218).
- **Proposition 13** – Mesa Water supports Article XIII A of the California Constitution (Prop. 13) and the taxpayer protections it provides as passed in 1978; and, Mesa Water opposes a “Split Roll” that would remove some of the protections of Prop. 13 from nonresidential properties in order to raise taxes on them.
- **Proposition 218** – Mesa Water supports Article XIII C and D of the California Constitution (Prop. 218) regarding government service assessments, fees, rates, and taxes, specifically:
  - the “2/3 vote” required from the legislature and voters for approval of new levies;
  - the “special benefit and proportionality requirements” provision which directly connects the special benefits received with reasonable proportionate costs, and ensures that assessments imposed for property-related (water) services must not exceed the proportional cost of the services attributable to the parcel; and,
  - transparent rate-setting procedures that protect consumers from potential government overcharge by providing ample opportunities for consumer participation as well as the ability for consumers to protest illegal rates.
- **Water Rate Assistance Programs** – Mesa Water supports localized “lifeline rates” or federal/state-funded LIWRA programs that comply with Prop. 218 of the California Constitution and are funded either voluntarily or via non-restricted/non-water-rates revenues. Mesa Water opposes a state tax on local water customer bills.
- **Orange County Groundwater Basin** – Mesa Water opposes any potential streamlined process for adjudicating groundwater basins, including the Orange County groundwater basin, managed by the Orange County Water District (OCWD).
- **Water Bonds Funding (Propositions 1 and 68)** – Mesa Water supports funding from the November 2014 and June 2018 water bonds for OCWD's priority projects.
- **Water Desalination** – Mesa Water supports CalDesal in its desalination advocacy efforts, as well as the local and regional development of cost-effective and environmentally-sensitive water desalination projects statewide -- including brackish groundwater and ocean water desalination projects -- to enhance the availability and reliability of local and regional water supply sources, and improve water supply reliability for Orange County, Southern



California, and statewide. Federal funding opportunities may be considered for these efforts, especially in light of enactment of the IJJA and its 5-year funding outlays.

- **Water Conservation/Water Use Efficiency** – Mesa Water supports accounting for water resource and supply investments -- such as desalination, potable reuse, and water recycling -- as part of any potential statewide effort to update urban water conservation goals. Mesa Water supports compliance flexibility and local control; maximum credit for drought-resilient supplies, including variances for potable reuse water; and, regulatory water use and water loss target-setting that is based on valid data and includes a glide path for enforcement as well as a variance process for unique situations. Mesa Water also supports the streamlining of water reporting data as part of the implementation of, and compliance with, SB 606 and AB 1668.
- **Water Recycling** – Mesa Water supports OCWD and WaterReuse in its efforts to advance potable reuse investment, legislation and regulations. Mesa Water supports the “Beneficiaries Pay” principle for the development and implementation of new recycled water projects including stormwater capture.
- **Water Quality and Economic Feasibility** – Mesa Water supports efforts by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and other water industry associations/organizations to protect public health by using a full impact analysis that includes the best available scientific data, public input, and cost/benefit analyses to inform the development of reasonable and fiscally-responsible water quality standards legislation and regulations -- for current and future constituents of concern (i.e., microplastics, PFAS, etc.) -- which consider technical and economic feasibility of the standards and treatments to ensure clean, safe drinking water. Additionally, the inclusion of certain constituents (like PFAS) as designated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or “Superfund”) should be carefully considered by federal agencies and subject to public notice and comment under a formal rulemaking process.
- **Water Storage, Banking and Exchange/Transfer Programs** – Mesa Water supports the “Beneficiaries Pay” principle for water storage/banking and exchange/transfer programs if they are market-based, ensure full cost recovery at a minimum, and account for water loss.
- **Affordable Housing** – Mesa Water supports the advocacy efforts of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and other industry associations/organizations on policies related to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), CEQA reform/streamlining, development impact fees (i.e., capacity charges, connection fees, etc.), metering/sub-metering, surplus property, and other proposed affordable housing solutions provided that they support water utilities’ ability to provide reliable residential water services that are appropriately priced and right-sized for public health and safety.
- **Local Government** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of CSDA and other industry associations/organizations to ensure local control and representation, efficient delivery of government services, and appropriate reserve funds levels.
- **Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)** – Mesa Water supports the existing protest thresholds for LAFCO-initiated reorganizations, per the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg (CKH) Act, and opposes changes that would make it more difficult for citizens to protest a LAFCO-initiated reorganization. Additionally, Mesa Water opposes any changes to the CKH Act that would weaken local control and representation and/or broaden the mission,

powers, and scope of LAFCOs without providing any added public benefit.

- **Special Districts Voting Methods** – Mesa Water supports exempting special districts from Cumulative Voting and Ranked Choice Voting methods, and opposes attempts to make these methods an option or a mandate for special districts elections.
- **Delta Solutions** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA, Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), and Southern California Water Coalition (SCWC) to achieve a long-term solution for the Bay Delta that includes functional, unimpaired flows for optimal statewide water supply reliability, sustainability and quality, and Delta ecosystem health and restoration for the public benefit. Mesa Water supports the “Beneficiaries Pay” principle for Delta Solution funding.
- **CA Headwaters and Forest Management** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA and other water industry coalitions to promote policies that enhance the pace and scale of headwaters protection, forest management and wildfires prevention -- including improved planning, coordination and implementation -- and increase financing, research, and resources to: 1) protect water supply and quality, 2) bring management practices in line with modern challenges, and 3) provide multiple benefits to the State’s water users.
- **Climate Adaptation/Resilience Bond** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA and other water industry associations/organizations in engaging with the Governor’s Administration, lawmakers, and regulators on resource funding related to the Governor’s Executive Orders on climate change and related issues including, but not necessarily limited to: 1) energy solutions, 2) water resilience, and 3) public safety power shutoffs.
- **Essential Public Utilities** – Mesa Water supports the concept of exempting Essential Public Utilities -- such as water and wastewater service providers -- from future legislation, administrative actions, and regulations that add costs or time delays to a utility’s work by mandating new, unfunded operational practices.
- **Federal Drought Legislation and Water Infrastructure Financing** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA, the National Special Districts Coalition, and other water industry associations/organizations in collaborating with the California Congressional delegation and other decision-makers to develop bicameral, bipartisan federal drought legislation and investments in water infrastructure.
- **Cannabis Growers’ Negative Water Impacts** – Mesa Water supports legislation and/or regulations that enforce against cannabis growers’ water theft and/or negative impacts to water supplies and sources.
- **ACWA’s Federal Water Policy Priorities** – Mesa Water supports ACWA’s Federal water policy priorities related to: 1) water infrastructure funding, 2) West-Wide Drought Legislation, 3) tax exemptions for water conservation rebates, and 4) regulations related to: a) CECs and PFAS, b) Lead Copper Rule Revisions/Improvements, and c) public water systems’ cybersecurity.
- **CMUA’s State Water Policy Priorities** – Mesa Water supports CMUA’s State water policy priorities related to advocating for: 1) CARB’s Advanced Clean Fleets Rule to provide feasibility, flexibility, and practicality considerations for California’s water utilities, 2) workforce development for California’s water industry, and 3) Statewide Water Solutions

- legislation -- in partnership with the Solve the Water Crisis coalition -- to create a long-term goal for increasing water supplies for beneficial use throughout California, along with an implementable plan to achieve that goal.
- **Electric Grid Reliability** – Mesa Water supports: 1) energy investments, legislation, and/or regulations that enhance the reliability and/or security of the electrical grid to provide a stable and consistent source of energy for water operations, 2) variances that allow backup generator use for water operations during electric power disruptions, and 3) incentives to offset the costs of water industry compliance with renewable energy and zero-emission vehicle mandates.
- **MWD’s Regional Reliability Focus** – Mesa Water supports collaborating with MWD and its member/sub-member agencies to advance regional water supply reliability throughout Southern California.
- **OCWD’s PFAS Cleanup** – Mesa Water supports OCWD’s efforts to ensure that public water systems are not responsible for current/future PFAS cleanup costs by: 1) securing PFAS cleanup funding, 2) protecting public water systems that comply with applicable/appropriate management and treatment standards from liability under CERCLA, and 3) upholding the “polluter pays” principle in CERCLA.
- **Water Permitting** – Mesa Water supports CEQA streamlining to expedite the permitting process for water supply development projects.
- **Water Rights** – Mesa Water supports the water industry’s interest in: 1) protecting the existing water rights priority system, and 2) potentially improving the administration of existing water rights priority system in collaboration with water associations and water industry coalitions.





## **2022-2023 Legislative Platforms**

January 2022 February 8, 2023

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While some previously contemplated legislative proposals may be re-introduced in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress, there are no anticipated large efforts at reforming the nation’s water policy laws nor at creating new water programs in statute. In the wake of legislative gains -- like those included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) -- Congress will turn its attention to rigorous oversight on the execution of these investments.

In addition to oversight activities, Congress will focus on funding improvements to the nation’s infrastructure. While IIJA and IRA included opportunities for municipal water utilities, ultimately these programs will be reliant on the annual appropriations process, which begins in earnest with the delivery of the President’s FY2024 Budget to Congress the first week of February 2023. As the federal agencies like the Bureau of Reclamation and the Environmental Protection Agency have IIJA, IRA, and FY2023 funds available for awards this calendar year, it remains uncertain what Congress will do to augment these programs in FY2024 and FY2025.

### **State**

Calendar Year ~~2022-2023~~ marks the ~~second-first~~ year of California’s two-year (~~2021-2023~~ and ~~2022-2024~~) legislative session, with the State legislature having reconvened on ~~Monday~~ Wednesday, January ~~34~~, ~~2022-2023~~. ~~Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the 2022-session is being conducted much like the 2021 and 2020 legislative sessions, with the implementation of new remote lawmaking processes that affected advocacy activities, limited policy hearings and public participation, and resulted in-~~

With nearly one-third of the State Legislature new to their office, water industry advocacy efforts will be focused on educating members on water policy issues. Additionally, because Governor Newsom’s recent budget proposal projects a \$22.5B shortfall in the upcoming fiscal year, it is anticipated that water-related legislation and regulations will focused on several priority issues: water affordability—arrearages funding, no residential shut-offs, and possibly Proposition 218 reform; water conservation and water use efficiency; water rights; and, continued but reduced investments in climate change, drought response and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, and zero-emission vehicles acceleration ~~water and other infrastructure.~~



Also in ~~2021~~2023, the state ~~was~~ will ~~focused~~ on addressing the following issues relevant to local governments: climate and wildfires, cannabis enforcement, extreme heat and community resilience, high-speed internet implementation, homelessness and affordable housing, local libraries, public and paying down unfunded pension liabilities, employee health related to Covid-19, and budget shortfalls caused by the pandemic.

For ~~2022~~2023, it is expected that some legislative proposals and policy discussions from ~~2021~~2022 could return, including legislation and regulations that could significantly impact Mesa Water District (Mesa Water®). The State administration, legislature, and regulators explored several ongoing water issues in ~~2021~~2022, including, but not limited to:

- water use efficiency/conservation regulations pertaining to data reporting, water loss performance standards, and other topics related to implementing SB 606 and AB 1668 (passed in 2018);
- water affordability related to California’s Human Right to Water and the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund (respectively, AB 685 and SB 200), and ~~a~~ Low-Income Household Water Rate Assistance Program (LIHWAP/LIWRA) programs also called “lifeline rates” programs (AB 401), as well as the ~~continuation implementation of the Governor’s Executive Order N-42-20 prohibiting shutoffs during the Covid-19 emergency through December 31, 2021~~ Water Shutoff Protection Act (SB 998);
- water district consolidations;
- headwaters protection, forest management, and wildfires prevention;
- climate adaptation and resilience, and related issues (i.e., electrification, energy policies, public safety power shutoffs, etc.);
- water quality, PFAS, and other Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs);
- bonus incentives/credits/variances for recycled water, and water reuse, and desalination;
- governance and transparency during and following the Covid-19 pandemic;
- affordable housing proposals to alleviate homelessness (i.e., ADUs, CEQA reform, housing development fees, surplus land property, etc.); and,
- the Delta Flows (e.g., i.e., Delta Conveyance Project, Endangered Species Act, Voluntary Settlement Agreements, ) and the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP etc.).

As policy discussions ~~continue~~ commence in ~~2022~~2023, the above issues will be the primary areas of legislative and regulatory focus. Additionally, there is talk of work in 2023 on a potential water bond effort -- via an initiative and/or legislative process -- for the November 2024 ballot. ~~Additionally~~

Also, on the air quality front in 2023, the administration and regulators are eager to finalize the state’s Advanced Clean Fleets Rule that, as currently written, would require 50% of new medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleet purchases by public agencies to be zero-emission beginning in 2024, increasing to 100% in 2027.

asAs a reminder, in 2020, Governor Newsom issued two climate-related Executive Orders to require: 1) by 2035, that all new cars and passenger trucks sold in CA are Zero-Emission Vehicles (N-79-20), and 2) by 2030, the conservation of 30% of the state’s land and coastal waters (N-82-20). These efforts could be augmented by federal funding opportunities, including



approximately \$1 billion that was included in the IRA for Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles through the Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants, rebates, and contract support to replace heavy duty vehicles with zero-emission alternatives.

Lastly, Mesa Water engaged with various agencies and associations that the district is affiliated with (i.e., ACC-OC, ACWA, AWWA, CalDesal, CMUA, CSDA, CWSA, MWDOC/MWD, OCBC, OCWD, OC Tax, SCWC, WaterReuse, etc.) to advocate on legislative/policy issues including, but not necessarily limited to: 1) upholding local control; 2) promoting the “true, full cost of water” concept; 3) supporting desalination; and, 4) exempting providing variances for potable reuse water from subject to conservation mandates on outdoor irrigation. In 2022-2023, Mesa Water advocacy staff and consultants will continue to focus on these four policy priorities and on federal and state funding opportunities.

Listed below, for the Board’s consideration, are the proposed legislative and regulatory platforms regarding anticipated high-priority public policy issues in 2022-2023 that could have major consequences for Mesa Water:

- **Water Rates** – Mesa Water supports local rate-setting control with rate structures, set by publicly-elected boards and councils, that best serve customers and comply with the law. Furthermore, Mesa Water supports cost-based water rates that:
  - represent the true, full cost of water services, including operational costs and infrastructure funding to ensure water system sustainability into perpetuity; and,
  - harmonize the concepts of conservation and legality, with rates that provide a strong price signal for ratepayers to conserve while also complying with legal mandates (i.e., Article X of the CA Constitution; SB 606 and AB 1668; and, Propositions 13, 26, and 218).
- **Proposition 13** – Mesa Water supports Article XIII A of the California Constitution (Prop. 13) and the taxpayer protections it provides as passed in 1978; and, Mesa Water opposes a “Split Roll” that would remove some of the protections of Prop. 13 from nonresidential properties in order to raise taxes on them.
- **Proposition 218** – Mesa Water supports Article XIII C and D of the California Constitution (Prop. 218) regarding government service assessments, fees, rates, and taxes, specifically:
  - the “2/3 vote” required from the legislature and voters for approval of new levies;
  - the “special benefit and proportionality requirements” provision which directly connects the special benefits received with reasonable proportionate costs, and ensures that assessments imposed for property-related (water) services must not exceed the proportional cost of the services attributable to the parcel; and,
  - transparent rate-setting procedures that protect consumers from potential government overcharge by providing ample opportunities for consumer participation as well as the ability for consumers to protest illegal rates.
- **Water Rate Assistance Programs** – Mesa Water supports localized “lifeline rates” or federal/state-funded LiHWAP-LIWRA programs that comply with Prop. 218 of the California Constitution and are funded either voluntarily or via non-restricted/non-water-rates revenues. Mesa Water opposes a state tax on local water customer bills.

- **Orange County Groundwater Basin** – Mesa Water opposes any potential streamlined process for adjudicating groundwater basins, including the Orange County groundwater basin, managed by the Orange County Water District (OCWD).
- **Water Bonds Funding (Propositions 1 and 68)** – Mesa Water supports funding from the November 2014 and June 2018 water bonds for OCWD’s priority projects.
- **Water Desalination** – Mesa Water supports CalDesal in its desalination advocacy efforts, as well as the local and regional development of cost-effective and environmentally-sensitive water desalination projects statewide -- including brackish groundwater and ocean water desalination ~~and the proposed Huntington Beach and Dana Point~~ projects -- to enhance the availability and reliability of local and regional water supply sources, and improve water supply reliability for Orange County, Southern California, and statewide. Federal funding opportunities may be considered for these efforts, especially in light of enactment of the IIJA and its 5-year funding outlays.
- **Water Conservation/Water Use Efficiency** – Mesa Water supports accounting for water resource and supply investments -- such as desalination, potable reuse, and water recycling -- as part of any potential statewide effort to update urban water conservation goals. Mesa Water supports compliance flexibility and local control; maximum credit for drought-resilient supplies, including exempting variances for potable reuse water ~~from mandates on outdoor irrigation~~; and, regulatory water use and water loss target-setting that is based on valid data and includes a glide path for enforcement as well as a variance process for unique situations. Mesa Water also supports the streamlining of water reporting data as part of the implementation of, and compliance with, SB 606 and AB 1668.
- **Water Recycling** – Mesa Water supports OCWD and WaterReuse in its efforts to advance potable reuse investment, legislation and regulations. Mesa Water supports the “Beneficiaries Pay” principle for the development and implementation of new recycled water projects including stormwater capture.
- **Water Quality and Economic Feasibility** – Mesa Water supports efforts by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and other water industry associations/organizations to protect public health by using a full impact analysis that includes the best available scientific data, public input, and cost/benefit analyses to inform the development of reasonable and fiscally-responsible water quality standards legislation and regulations -- for current and future constituents of concern (e.g., i.e., microplastics, PFAS, etc.) -- which consider technical and economic feasibility of the standards and treatments to ensure clean, safe drinking water. Additionally, the inclusion of certain constituents (like PFAS) as designated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or “Superfund”) should be carefully considered by federal agencies and subject to public notice and comment under a formal rulemaking process.
- **Water Storage, Banking and Exchange/Transfer Programs** – Mesa Water supports the “Beneficiaries Pay” principle for water storage/banking and exchange/transfer programs if they are market-based, ensure full cost recovery at a minimum, and account for water loss.
- **Affordable Housing** – Mesa Water supports the advocacy efforts of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and other industry associations/organizations on policies related to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), CEQA reform/streamlining, development impact fees (i.e., capacity charges, connection fees, etc.), metering/sub-metering, surplus



~~landproperty~~, and other proposed affordable housing solutions provided that they support water utilities' ability to provide reliable residential water services that are appropriately priced and right-sized for public health and safety.

- **Local Government** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of CSDA and other industry associations/organizations to ensure local control and representation, efficient delivery of government services, and appropriate reserve funds levels.
- **Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)** – Mesa Water supports the existing protest thresholds for LAFCO-initiated reorganizations, per the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg (CKH) Act, and opposes changes that would make it more difficult for citizens to protest a LAFCO-initiated reorganization. Additionally, Mesa Water opposes any changes to the CKH Act that would weaken local control and representation and/or broaden the mission, powers, and scope of LAFCOs without providing any added public benefit.
- **Special Districts Voting Methods** – Mesa Water supports exempting special districts from Cumulative Voting and Ranked Choice Voting methods, and opposes attempts to make these methods an option or a mandate for special districts elections.
- **Delta Solutions** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA, Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), and Southern California Water Committee Coalition (SCWC) to achieve a long-term solution for the Bay-Delta that includes functional, unimpaired flows for optimal statewide water supply reliability, sustainability and quality, and Delta ecosystem health and restoration for the public benefit. Mesa Water supports the “Beneficiaries Pay” principle for Delta Solution funding.
- **CA Headwaters and Forest Management** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA and other water industry coalitions to promote policies that enhance the pace and scale of headwaters protection, forest management and wildfires prevention -- including improved planning, coordination and implementation -- and increase financing, research, and resources to: 1) protect water supply and quality, 2) bring management practices in line with modern challenges, and 3) provide multiple benefits to the State’s water users.
- **Climate Adaptation/Resilience Bond** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA and other water industry associations/organizations in engaging with the Governor’s Administration, lawmakers, and regulators on resource funding related to the Governor’s Executive Orders on climate change and related issues including, but not necessarily limited to: 1) energy solutions, 2) water resilience, and 3) public safety power shutoffs.
- **Essential Public Utilities** – Mesa Water supports the concept of carving out exempting Essential Public Utilities -- such as water and wastewater service providers -- from future legislation, administrative actions, and regulations that add costs or time delays to a utility’s work by mandating new, unfunded operational practices.
- **Federal Drought Legislation and Water Infrastructure Financing** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA, the National Special Districts Coalition, and other water industry associations/organizations in collaborating with the California Congressional delegation and other decision-makers U.S. representatives to develop bicameral, bipartisan federal drought legislation and investments in water infrastructure.
- ~~**Covid-19 Economic Relief** – Mesa Water supports the efforts of ACWA, CSDA, and other industry associations/organizations to advocate for State and Federal funding to help local~~

~~governments overcome administrative, financial, and operational challenges caused by the global pandemic and related government actions.~~

- **Cannabis Growers' Negative Water Impacts** – Mesa Water supports legislation and/or regulations that enforce against cannabis growers' water theft and/or negative impacts to water supplies and sources.
- **ACWA's Federal Water Policy Priorities** – Mesa Water supports ACWA's Federal water policy priorities related to: 1) water infrastructure funding, 2) West-Wide Drought Legislation, 3) tax exemptions for water conservation rebates, and 4) regulations related to: a) CECs and PFAS, b) Lead Copper Rule Revisions/Improvements, and c) public water systems' cybersecurity.
- **CMUA's State Water Policy Priorities** – Mesa Water supports CMUA's State water policy priorities related to advocating for: 1) CARB's Advanced Clean Fleets Rule to provide feasibility, flexibility, and practicality considerations for California's water utilities, 2) workforce development for California's water industry, and 3) Statewide Water Solutions legislation -- in partnership with the Solve the Water Crisis coalition -- to create a long-term goal for increasing water supplies for beneficial use throughout California, along with an implementable plan to achieve that goal.
- **Electric Grid Reliability** – Mesa Water supports: energy investments, legislation and/or regulations that enhance the reliability and/or security of the electrical grid to provide a stable and consistent source of energy for water operations; variances that allow backup generator use for water operations during electric power disruptions; and, incentives to offset the costs of water industry compliance with renewable energy and zero-emission vehicle mandates.
- **MWD's Regional Reliability Focus** – Mesa Water supports collaborating with MWD and its member/sub-member agencies to advance regional water supply reliability throughout Southern California.
- **OCWD's PFAS Cleanup** – Mesa Water supports OCWD's efforts to ensure that public water systems are not responsible for current/future PFAS cleanup costs by: 1) securing PFAS cleanup funding, 2) protecting public water systems that comply with applicable/appropriate management and treatment standards from liability under CERCLA, and 3) upholding the "polluter pays" principle in CERCLA.
- **Water Permitting** – Mesa Water supports CEQA streamlining to expedite the permitting process for water supply development projects.
- **Water Rights** – Mesa Water supports the water industry's interest in: 1) protecting the existing water rights priority system, and 2) potentially improving the administration of existing water rights priority system in collaboration with water associations and water industry coalitions.

**REPORTS:**

9. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**REPORTS:**

10. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS





*Dedicated to  
Satisfying our Community's  
Water Needs*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager  
DATE: February 8, 2023  
SUBJECT: 2023 Federal Advocacy Plan

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### RECOMMENDATION

This item is provided for information.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

- Goal #1: Provide an abundant, local, reliable and safe water supply.
- Goal #2: Perpetually renew and improve our infrastructure.
- Goal #3: Be financially responsible and transparent.
- Goal #4: Increase favorable opinion of Mesa Water.
- Goal #7: Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

### PRIOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION

At its October 25, 2022 workshop, the Board of Directors (Board) approved the Fiscal Year 2023 Strategic Plan, which includes Federal Government Advocacy to engage on water policy and other priority policy issues and to pursue funding for projects.

At its November 15, 2022 Committee meeting, the Board awarded a one-year contract to Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. to provide Federal Government Advocacy Consulting Services.

### DISCUSSION

Mesa Water District's (Mesa Water®) Federal Advocacy consultant, Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc., representing Mesa Water in Washington D.C., has drafted a 2023 Federal Advocacy Plan (see Attachment A) for the Board's review and consideration.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: 2023 Federal Advocacy Plan



## 2023 Federal Advocacy Plan

**Vision:** To Be a Top Performing Water Agency

**Mission:** Mesa Water District, a local independent special district, manages its finances and water infrastructure, and advocates water policy, while reliably providing an abundance of clean, safe water to benefits the public's quality of life.

**Core Values:**

- Health and Safety of the Public and Our Staff
- Excellence
- Philosophy of Abundance
- Perpetual Agency Philosophy

**Strategic Plan Goal #7 – Policy Leadership:** Actively participate in regional and statewide water issues.

**Objective D:** Facilitate Mesa Water's impactful participation with water, government, utility and non-governmental organizations.

**Strategy:** Conduct State and Federal advocacy to seek grants funding for Mesa Water projects and programs using the following tactics and timeline:

**January – March:** Finalize Mesa Water's 2023 Federal Advocacy Legislative and Calendar; Incorporate Federal Advocacy priorities into Mesa Water's Policy Positions and Platforms; OC Federal Delegation Outreach—congrats/intro letters, virtual meetings, update DC and District contact lists; Seek Federal Funding—finalize list of Mesa Water's projects/programs, determine potential project-specific opportunities and develop capture strategies via the Congressional appropriations process; Industry Collaboration—ACWA DC conference, OCWD and NSDC collaboration; Advocacy Reporting—monthly memo and bill list, grant opportunities list, twice monthly virtual meetings.

**April – June:** Finalize Mesa Water's 2023 Federal Advocacy info kit/PPT; OC Federal Delegation Outreach—Mesa Water Federal Advocacy DC and District meetings; Seek Federal Funding—pursue potential project-specific opportunities via agency engagements and the Congressional appropriations process; Industry Collaboration—national trade association engagements; Advocacy Reporting—monthly memo, bill list and grant opportunities list, twice monthly virtual meetings.

**July – September:** Federal Advocacy—continue Federal Outreach and Industry Collaboration; Seek Federal Funding—monitor opportunities; Advocacy Reporting—VSA @ Mesa Water (tour), monthly memo, bill list and grant opportunities list, twice monthly virtual meetings.

**October – December:** Federal Advocacy—continue Federal Outreach and Industry Collaboration; Seek Federal Funding—monitor opportunities; Advocacy Reporting—VSA @ Mesa Water (virtual), monthly memo, bill list and grant opportunities list, twice monthly virtual meetings.

**Outcome 1:** 2023 Legislative Platforms, Policy Positions and accompanying advocacy to benefit Mesa Water and its constituents.

**Outcome 2:** Continue advocacy leadership by positively influencing water policy and other priority policy issues for Mesa Water.

**Outcome 3:** Encourage and advance internal and external efficiency efforts at the local and regional levels to benefit Mesa Water and its stakeholders.

**Outcome 4:** Increase positive awareness of Mesa Water with water/government/utility industry and non-governmental organizations.

**DIRECTORS' REPORTS (AB 1234) PER CA GOVERNMENT  
CODE SECTION 53232.3 (d)**

*In accordance with CA Government Code 53232.3 (d), the following report identifies the meetings for which Mesa Water Directors received expense reimbursement.*

**Jim Atkinson** **Meetings Attended**

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
1/10/23	ACWA Fall Conference, 11/28 – 12/2
1/10/23	CRWUA 2022 Annual Conference, 12/13 – 12/16

**Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E.** **Meetings Attended**

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
1/10/23	Meeting with the General Manager, 11/21

**Marice H. DePasquale** **Meetings Attended**

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
N/A	

**Shawn Dewane** **Meetings Attended**

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
1/10/23	Salton Sea Tour, 11/27

**James R. Fisler** **Meetings Attended**

Reimbursement Date:	Description, Date
1/10/23	East Orange County Water District Board Meeting, 12/15