



Marina Coast Water District

Marina Coast Water District

Regular Board Meeting/Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Meeting
December 16, 2024

Minutes

1. Call to Order:

President Morton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. on December 16, 2024 at 920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, California; and, via Zoom teleconference.

2. Administer the Oath of Office:

Mr. Remleh Scherzinger, General Manager, administered the Oath of Office to Thomas P. Moore and Stacey Smith.

3. Roll Call:

Board Members Present:

Gail Morton – President
Jan Shriner – Vice President
Brad Imamura
Thomas P. Moore
Stacey Smith

Board Members Absent:

None.

Staff Members Present:

Remleh Scherzinger, General Manager
Roger Masuda, District Counsel
Derek Cray, Operations and Maintenance Manager
Mary Lagasca, Director of Administrative Services
Garrett Haertel, District Engineer
Patrick Breen, Water Resources Manager
Teo Espero, Information Technology Administrator
Paula Riso, Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board

Audience Members:

Andy Sterbenz, Schaaf & Wheeler Consulting Civil Engineers
Yohana Vargas, Monterey One Water
Herbert Cortez and Family

4. Pledge of Allegiance:

Director Smith led everyone present in the pledge of allegiance.

5. Election of Board President and Vice President for 2025:

Director Moore nominated Director Morton for President, and Director Shriner for Vice President. Director Smith seconded the nomination. The nomination was passed by the following vote:

Director Imamura	-	Yes	Vice President Shriner	-	Yes
Director Moore	-	Yes	President Morton	-	Yes
Director Smith	-	Yes			

6. Presentation:

A. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-62 to Recognize Herbert Cortez for 8 Years of Outstanding and Dedicated Service as a Director to the Marina Coast Water District:

Mr. Scherzinger introduced this item thanking Mr. Cortez for his outstanding dedication and distinguished service to the District as a Director for the last 8 years.

Director Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-62 to recognize Herbert Cortez for 8 Years of outstanding and dedicated service as a Director to the Marina Coast Water District. Director Morton seconded the motion.

Mr. Derek Cray, Operations and Maintenance Manager, voiced his appreciation of Mr. Cortez's service and consideration of District employees during his tenure.

Mr. Garrett Haertel, District Engineer, thanked Mr. Cortez for his assistance with setting up the intern program and thanked him for his honesty and insight when dealing with District matters. He also thanked him for the great chili cook-off fun.

Ms. Mary Lagasca, Director of Administrative Services, thanked Mr. Cortez for his support of staff and the tough questions he asked to better understand.

Mr. Roger Masuda, Legal Counsel, thanked Mr. Cortez for his service over the last 8 years and looked forward to Mr. Cortez returning at some point in the future.

Mr. Patrick Breen, Water Resources Manager, echoed everything already said and added that Mr. Cortez is a great example of showing what a Director's role should be, defending the District and asking the right questions to protect the customers as well.

Ms. Paula Riso, Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board, thanked Mr. Cortez for his dedication and commitment to the District and support of staff. She also thanked him for his invaluable insight and looked forward to continuing to stay in touch.

Agenda Item 6-A (continued):

Mr. Scherzinger thanked Mr. Cortez for hiring him and being the hiring Board. He also mentioned the Dad's Read event where Mr. Cortez read for the children and brought the District into the light for the community to see. Mr. Scherzinger commented that Mr. Cortez has an emotional intelligence and is able to read a lot into how people take things. He added that moving another chili champion off the table is beneficial for him and increases his chances at a win.

Director Imamura commented that he was fortunate enough to sit on the Board with Mr. Cortez and hopes to get to know him better as a citizen in the future.

Director Smith commented that she has big shoes to fill but does cook chili and is eager for the next cook-off.

Director Moore commented on how impressed he was with how quickly, when Mr. Cortez came on board, he dug in to learn about the District's technical and financial aspects. He also was impressed with Mr. Cortez's humility and willingness to fight for the customers and thanked him for his valuable insights over the years.

Vice President Shriner thanked Mr. Cortez for his impeccable leadership and how he was always focused in a positive direction. She added that she was impressed with his commitment to family as well as the District.

President Morton stated that Mr. Cortez is an outstanding leader and agreed that he has an emotional intelligence which has helped her see things from a different perspective. She added that he also has wisdom that he innately cultivated throughout his life and his family should be very proud of him. President Morton said she was grateful to have him on the Board while going through some of difficult decision making including the rate study and strategic plan.

The motion was passed by the following vote:

Director Imamura	-	Yes	Vice President Shriner	-	Yes
Director Moore	-	Yes	President Morton	-	Yes
Director Smith	-	Yes			

President Morton, Vice President Shriner, Director Moore, and, Director Imamura shared in the reading of the Resolution.

President Morton presented Mr. Cortez with a plaque and signed resolution.

7. Public Comment on Closed Session Items:

There were no comments made.

President Morton recessed the meeting from 6:30 to 6:35 p.m.

The Board entered into closed session at 6:35 p.m. to discuss the following items:

8. Closed Session:

- A. Pursuant to Government Code 54956.9
Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Name of Case/Claimant – Peter Le
- B. Pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(d)(2)
Conference with Legal Counsel – Initiation of Litigation
Two Potential Cases
- C. Pursuant to Government Code 54956.9
Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
Marina Coast Water District, and Does 1-100 v, County of Monterey, Monterey County Board of Supervisors, and Does 101-110 (California-American Water Company, Real Party in Interest), Monterey County Superior Court Case No. 19CV003305 (Petition for Writ of Mandate and Complaint for Injunctive Relief); Superior Court of California County of San Francisco Case No. CGC-15-546632

The Board ended closed session at 7:40 p.m. President Morton reconvened the meeting to open session at 7:42 p.m.

9. Reportable Actions Taken During Closed Session:

President Morton stated that with regards to Agenda Item 8-A, the Board voted unanimously to reject the claim. She added that there were no other reportable actions taken in closed session.

10. Oral Communications:

No comments were made.

11. Consent Calendar:

Director Moore made a motion approve the Consent Calendar consisting of items: A) Receive and File the Check Register for the Month of November 2024; B) Approve the Draft Minutes of the Regular Joint Board/GSA Meeting of November 18, 2024; C) Receive the Validated 2023 Water Loss Audit Report and 2023 Level 1 Validation Review Documents; and, D) Approve the Proposed Regular Board/GSA Meeting and Workshop Meeting Schedule for 2025. Vice President Shriner seconded the motion. Director Smith stated she wanted to abstain from Item 11-B. Director Moore amended his motion to approve the Consent Calendar consisting of items: A) Receive and File the Check Register for the Month of November 2024; C) Receive the Validated 2023 Water Loss Audit Report and 2023 Level 1 Validation Review Documents; and, D) Approve the Proposed Regular Board/GSA Meeting and Workshop Meeting Schedule for 2025.

Agenda Item 6-A (continued):

Vice President Shriner seconded the amended motion. The amended motion was passed by the following vote:

Director Imamura	-	Yes	Vice President Shriner	-	Yes
Director Moore	-	Yes	President Morton	-	Yes
Director Smith	-	Yes			

B. Approve the Draft Minutes of the Regular Joint Board/GSA Meeting of November 18, 2024:

President Morton made a motion to approve the draft minutes of the regular Joint Board/GSA meeting of November 18, 2024. Director Moore seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Director Imamura	-	Yes	Vice President Shriner	-	Yes
Director Moore	-	Yes	President Morton	-	Yes
Director Smith	-	Abstained			

12. Action Items:

A. Consider Adoption of Resolution No. 2024-63, Authorizing the District to Refund (Refinance) the Outstanding 2015 Senior Lien Enterprise Revenue Refunding Bonds, Tax Exempt Series A, with Tax-Exempt Obligations in the Estimated Amount of \$19,620,000, Appointing Jones Hall as Bond Counsel and Disclosure Counsel, and Fieldman Rolapp & Associates as Financial Advisor:

Ms. Lagasca introduced this item noting that there is a potential savings of approximately \$190,000 annually in bond interest. The Board asked clarifying questions.

Director Moore made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-63, Authorizing the District to Refund (Refinance) the Outstanding 2015 Senior Lien Enterprise Revenue Refunding Bonds, Tax Exempt Series A, with Tax-Exempt Obligations in the Estimated Amount of \$19,620,000, Appointing Jones Hall as Bond Counsel and Disclosure Counsel, and Fieldman Rolapp & Associates as Financial Advisor. Vice President Shriner seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Director Imamura	-	Yes	Vice President Shriner	-	Yes
Director Moore	-	Yes	President Morton	-	Yes
Director Smith	-	Yes			

B. Adopt Resolution No. 2024-64 to Amend the FY 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program Budget:

Mr. Haertel introduced this item explaining the projects identified and how they will be funded.

Director Imamura made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-64 to amend the FY 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Program Budget. Vice President Shriner seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Director Imamura	-	Yes	Vice President Shriner	-	Yes
Director Moore	-	Yes	President Morton	-	Yes
Director Smith	-	Yes			

C. Make Director Appointments to Standing Committees of the Board and to Outside Agencies for 2025, and as Negotiators to any Ad Hoc Committees of the Board:

Following discussion, President Morton suggested the following appointments for 2025:

1.	Executive Committee	Morton, Shriner
2.	Budget and Engineering Committee	Morton, Shriner – Moore as Alternate
3.	Community Outreach Committee	Imamura, Smith – Moore as Alternate
4.	Joint City/District Committee	Morton, Smith – Imamura as Alternate

Appointments to outside agencies:

1.	MIW	Moore – Shriner as Alternate
2.	LAFCO	Smith – Moore as Alternate
3.	JPIA	Moore – Smith as Alternate
4.	MCWD/SVBGSA Steering Committee	Morton – Shriner as Alternate
5.	SDA	Shriner – Imamura, Moore, Smith, and Morton as Alternates

Climate Action Plan Ad Hoc Committee	Imamura – Smith as Alternate
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Director Moore made a motion to approve the proposed appointments for 2025. Vice President Shriner seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the following vote:

Director Imamura	-	Yes	Vice President Shriner	-	Yes
Director Moore	-	Yes	President Morton	-	Yes
Director Smith	-	Yes			

13. Informational Items:

A. General Manager's Report:

Agenda Item 13-A (continued):

Mr. Scherzinger reported the following:

1. praises to the Operations and Maintenance department for their outstanding service to this community over the last three days and the operational position the District put ourselves in with regards to PG&E power outages and being proactive in purchasing the generators. Also kudos to the outstanding inspection results from the Department of Drinking Water;
2. recently attended the ACWA Conference and was able to meet up with some important contacts. Found out that there was a significant amount of money coming available soon from the State that the District could apply for. Met with the Salinas Valley GSA and Water Resources Agency General Manager and pointed out that his organization was deficient in submitting their agricultural water master plan;
3. rain gauges are showing we are at 103% of rainfall for the year;
4. Water Resources Department is completing the Year End Water Allocations for all jurisdictions supplied by the District;
5. Senior Management is working on developing the Action Plans for the Board's Strategic Plan;
6. construction has begun on the B Side of the District office.

B. Committee and Board Liaison Reports:

1. Executive Committee:

President Morton gave a brief update.

2. M1W Board Member Liaison:

Director Moore gave a brief update on the M1W Board meeting.

14. Board Member Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Director Imamura asked for information on staffing issues and also to canvas other agencies to see what they have in their perspective budgets for Board member conference attendance.

15. Director's Comments:

Director Imamura gave a report on his attendance at the ACWA Conference, Director Moore, Director Smith, Vice President Shriner, and President Morton made comments.

16. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gail Morton", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Gail Morton, President

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paula Riso", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive.

Paula Riso, Deputy Secretary