<u>CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT</u>
2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, California 91360
www.calleguas.com

SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 23, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Written communications from the public must be received by 8:30 a.m. on the Thursday preceding a regular Board meeting in order to be included on the agenda and considered by the Board at that meeting. Government Code Section 54954.2 prohibits the Board from taking action on items not posted on the agenda except as provided in Subsection 54954.2(b).

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

<u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u>
Raul Avila, President
Thibault Robert, Vice-President
Reddy Pakala, Secretary
Jacquelyn McMillan, Treasurer
Scott H. Quady, Director

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This portion of the agenda may be utilized by any member of the public to address the Board of Directors on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Board that does not appear on the agenda and on matters that are on the agenda but are not designated as action items. Depending on the subject matter, the Board of Directors may be unable to respond at this time, or until the specific topic is placed on the agenda at a future Calleguas Board Meeting, in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. Please limit remarks to three minutes.

To participate:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86832132229?pwd=o3NfJOxScO8dC1PbMcKiGgL3avlhjD.1

Phone # +1 720 707 2699 US (Denver)
Webinar ID: 868 3213 2229
Passcode: 938450

3. **ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA – GOVERNMENT CODE 54954.2(b)**
Consideration of any items that require addition to the agenda due to the existence of an emergency situation, the need to take immediate action, and requests for remote participation due to emergency circumstances.

4. **REVIEW OF THE AGENDA**
Discussion regarding the need to postpone or delete any items or take any items out of order.

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

    A. Presentation of the California Special Districts Association Ralph Heim Exceptional Outreach & Advocacy Award to Charlotte Holifield

    B. Recognition of Maintenance Worker Eric Meza for Achieving T2 Treatment Operator Certification

    C. Recognition of Distribution Crew Leader Patrick Augusta for Achieving D4 Distribution Operator Certification

    D. Introduction of New Executive Strategist Sarah Fleury

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
Consent Calendar items are to be approved or accepted by vote on one motion unless a Board member requests separate consideration. If any Board member requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar for further discussion, it will be moved to the first item on the Action Items portion of the Agenda.

    A. Authorize the President or Vice President and the Secretary or Treasurer of the Board of Directors to Execute Gordian Work Order Package in the Amount of $296,575.71 to Replace Deteriorating Electrical Infrastructure at the Lake Bard Water Filtration Plant as Part of the Networking Center Relocation and Administration Building Storage Room Addition (Project No. 620)

    Public Comment for Consent Calendar Items

7. **ACTION ITEMS**
Action Items call for separate discussion and action by the Board for each agendized topic.

8. REPORTS

Report items are placed on the agenda to provide information to the Board and the public and no Board action is sought.

A. GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

1. 2026 Strategic Plan Update: Presentation of Calleguas Management Team's Focal Issues – Ian Prichard, Deputy General Manager

2. Potential Evaluation of New Capital Construction Charge – Dan Smith, Manager of Finance

3. SmartBall Inspection of Lindero Feeder – Matt Gomez, Assistant Manager of Operations & Maintenance, and Tim Powers, Senior Project Manager

4. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Update – Henry Graumlich, Executive Strategist

B. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

1. Committee Meeting Reports

2. Directors' List of Administrative Code Reimbursable Meetings

   Reimbursable meetings reports are placed on the agenda to comply with statutory and Calleguas Administrative Code requirements for members of a legislative body who attend a meeting at the expense of the local agency to provide a report of the meeting.

3. Discussion Regarding Upcoming Meetings to be Attended by Board Members

9. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. BOARD COMMENTS

Comments by Board members on matters they deem appropriate. A Board member may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Summary Report for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board Meeting – September 15, 2026

12. CLOSED SESSION

A. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) Conference with Legal Counsel
   - Existing Litigation, Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition, et.al., v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, et.al., Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. VENCI00509700
   - Existing Litigation, OPV Coalition et. al. vs Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, et. al., Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. VENCI00555357

13. ADJOURNMENT to Special Board Meeting September 28, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Note: Calleguas Municipal Water District conducts in-person meetings in accordance with the Brown Act. The District has also established alternative methods of participation which permit members of the public to observe and address public meetings telephonically and/or electronically. These methods of participation can be accessed through the internet link provided at the top of this agenda.

In addition to the above referenced methods of participation, members of the public may also participate by submitting comments by email to info@calleguas.com by 5:00 p.m. on the calendar day prior to the public meeting. Email headers should refer to the Board meeting for which comments are offered. Comments received will be placed into the record and distributed appropriately.

Agendas, agenda packets, and additional materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet are available on the District website at www.calleguas.com.

Pursuant to Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and applicable federal rules and regulations, requests for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting, should be made to the Secretary to the Board in advance of the meeting to ensure the availability of the requested service or accommodation. Notices, agendas, and public documents related to the Board meetings can be made available in appropriate alternative format upon request.

BOARD MEMORANDUM

Date: September 23, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Fernando Baez, P.E., Manager of Engineering

Subject: Item 6.A – Authorize the President or Vice President and the Secretary or Treasurer of the Board of Directors to Execute Gordian Work Order Package in the Amount of $296,575.71 to Replace Deteriorating Electrical Infrastructure at the Lake Bard Water Filtration Plant as Part of the Networking Center Relocation and Administration Building Storage Room Addition (Project No. 620)

Objective: Accomplish the District's mission in a cost-effective manner and ensure infrastructure reliability by replacing deteriorating electrical infrastructure at the Lake Bard Water Filtration Plant (LBWFP).

Recommended Action: Authorize the President or Vice President and the Secretary or Treasurer of the Board of Directors to execute Gordian Work Order Package in the amount of $296,575.71 to replace deteriorating electrical infrastructure at the Lake Bard Water Filtration Plant as part of the Networking Center Relocation and Administration Building Storage Room Addition (Project No. 620).

Budget Impact: There is sufficient capital project budget for the Networking Center Relocation and Administration Building Storage Room Addition (Project No. 620) to perform this work.

Discussion: The existing electrical feeder to the LBWFP's Filter Structure was installed in 1995, as part of original construction of the LBWFP. Operations & Maintenance staff have observed the Filter Structure's electrical feeder breaker tripping multiple times while servicing the Filter Structure's backwash pumps. Staff worked with Kennedy Jenks to investigate the cause of the electrical faults. Insulation resistance testing of the feeder's electrical cables determined that the conductors were deteriorating. The deteriorating and unreliable state of the feeder circuit directly impacts the ability to operate the LBWFP. If a fault were to occur during the operation of LBWFP, water deliveries could be significantly impacted.

To ensure reliable water service, the Filter Structure's electrical feeders need to be replaced prior to the next imported water shutdown from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), which is scheduled for December 2026. During this shutdown, operation of the LBWFP will be essential to meet demands in the Calleguas service area.

Additionally, to avoid a potential emergency during operation of LBWFP as a result of a failure of the feeder circuit's aging breakers, staff determined that concurrent replacement of the breakers is necessary to further mitigate the risk of interrupting LBWFP operation. The contractor will provide short-circuit, protective device coordination, and arc flash studies for the new electrical feeder circuit.

As required by the Public Contract Code and Administrative Code, the District engaged in a competitive procurement process to ensure that it receives goods and services at a price representing the best value to the District and its ratepayers. Competitive procurements include those through cooperative agreements as set forth in Public Contract Code Section 10298. Cooperative purchasing approaches, such as Gordian/Sourcewell, are a cost-effective and efficient way for public agencies to execute projects, particularly ones that are straightforward, saving significant time and effort in streamlining the preparation of contract documents, procurement of materials, and performance of construction. Calleguas has previously successfully used the Gordian/Sourcewell process to perform the LBWFP Roof Replacements (Project 621).

Staff requested and received a proposal from Gordian in the amount of $296,575.71 to perform the electrical work. The work includes:

- Replacement of ~4,200 LF of copper phase conductors (weighing ~7,300 lbs. in total)
- Replacement of ~1,100 LF of copper grounding conductors (weighing ~400 lbs. in total)
- Replacement of two 800-amp breakers
- Electrical Short-Circuit, Protective Device Coordination, and Arc Flash Studies

The cost is reasonable for the work involved. Performing the work under the cooperative procurement process will allow the work to be completed efficiently and in advance of the need to run the LBWFP later this year. Conducting a separate bidding process is not expected to result in a lower cost and would prevent the work from being performed prior to critical operation of the LBWFP during the December 2026 Metropolitan shutdown.

CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

RAUL AVILA, PRESIDENT
DIVISION 1

REDDY PAKALA, SECRETARY
DIVISION 3

SCOTT H. QUADY, DIRECTOR
DIVISION 2

THIBAULT ROBERT, VICE PRESIDENT
DIVISION 4

JACQUELYN McMILLAN, TREASURER
DIVISION 5

KRISTINE McCAFFREY
GENERAL MANAGER

2100 OLSEN ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360 • (805) 526-9323 • CALLEGUAS.COM

BOARD MEMORANDUM

Date: September 23, 2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Ian Prichard, Deputy General Manager

Subject: Item 8.A – 2026 Strategic Plan Update: Presentation of Calleguas Management Team's Focal Issues

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Objective: Provide the Management Team's perspective on critical, priority issues facing the District over the coming decade.

Recommended Action: No action necessary; for information only.

Budget Impact: None.

Discussion: Over the course of four planning sessions and a final four-hour retreat in spring 2026, the Calleguas Management Team determined that five topics should be the "focal issues" guiding our work as managers and department heads. This is not to imply that other work outside these issues should be ignored or abandoned. Rather, these focal issues should serve as the organizing principles around which departmental workloads should be prioritized.

The Management Team discussed what the "preferred future" state of these issues would be ten years hence, in 2036. What follows is a description of that preferred future, with context from the 2026 status quo.

1. Delta Conveyance and its impact on our water resource development plans

By 2036, Calleguas will have established a policy that X% of its supply portfolio comes from alternatives to Metropolitan supply.

Currently, "Delta Conveyance" is embodied in the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP). Other 21st Century iterations include the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (2006-2015) and WaterFix (2015-2019). Each iteration has represented a step down in capacity and a step up in per-acre-foot project costs, in large part because of the concessions various interest groups have secured from the state. DCP has advanced further than any of its predecessors, with a certified EIR and several key legal victories, but it remains under pressure from a host of opponents and faces an uphill battle at Metropolitan, who is responsible for 47.2% of the currently estimated $21B project.

Since Calleguas is 100% dependent on the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and situated in the State Water Project Dependent Area (SWPDA) of the Metropolitan service area, the State Water Project (SWP) is existentially integral to Calleguas's reliability. The projected degradation of reliability over the SWP's remaining life—25% to 40% over the next 50 years—seems, to those of us dependent on the system, to make the need to modernize the project self-evident. The likelihood that DCP will proceed, however, seems 50/50 today. Metropolitan is expected to vote on its funding commitment in the next 18-24 months; given its share of the project, a "yes" vote by Metropolitan may not ensure the DCP goes forward, but a "no" would almost certainly be its death knell.

The 2023 Strategic Plan was born of the 2022 drought and Metropolitan's Emergency Water Conservation Program that established, for the first time in Metropolitan history, differential treatment of its member agencies by limited deliveries to those six located in the SWPDA. The vision statement in the Calleguas 2023 Strategic Plan, known as "A New Model for Resilience," acknowledged that the assumptions that underpinned Calleguas's total dependence on Metropolitan as a source of supply for the last seven decades "have not withstood the realities of changing climates: hydrological, regulatory, and political" and established that "local and regional supplies and new types of transformative partnerships with the District's retailers and regional neighbors [would be] the path to ensuring water resilience and financial stability."

What exactly this meant, in 2023, wasn't clear, but the District has expended significant resources in the intervening years to flesh out the concept. Primary among these was the Water Resources Implementation Strategy (WRIST), which identified water supply gaps over a variety of climatic scenarios between now and 2060 and developed, through a robust stakeholder engagement process, a "preferred portfolio" of local and external water supply alternatives to Metropolitan. Staff has been pursuing these projects and programs in order of their feasibility, starting with "no regret" projects, which include:

- Groundwater projects
    - via the ASR Project, in accordance with the 2023 Las Posas Judgment
    - collaboration with the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) / Las Posas Valley (LPV) Watermaster to develop a modern in-lieu program in accordance with the 2023 Las Posas Judgment

  - local groundwater banking via in-lieu deliveries in the Oxnard-Pleasant Valley Basins
  - external groundwater banks in the Central Valley and elsewhere
  - efforts to utilize groundwater previously stored under in-lieu programs across the FCGMA
  - an "Oxnard Plain Program," in which Calleguas purchases groundwater allocations or imported water delivered to United Water Conservation District for recharge in the Oxnard or Pleasant Valley Basins and constructs wells and treatment as needed to deliver stored water to existing customers and/or through the future Calleguas-Ventura Interconnection
- Regional Exchange
  - the development of a local Regional Exchange Program in which Calleguas purveyors could deliver water into the Calleguas distribution system for seasonal balancing or the transfer and exchange of local water among purveyors and regional partners
  - the exploration of storage and exchange with other Metropolitan member agencies in the wake of Metropolitan establishing the Local Supply Exchange Framework
- Regional Brackish Groundwater Desalination
  - a collaborative effort with Study Partners, a self-subscribing group of purveyors (plus the FCGMA), to determine the most cost-effective way to optimize brackish groundwater (and potentially recycled water) in the Upper Calleguas Creek Watershed
- Oxnard Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF)
  - as part of or in addition to the groundwater projects described above, work with the City of Oxnard to determine the optimal build out and operation of the AWPF for groundwater recharge, recycled water delivery, and/or indirect potable reuse

While most of the projects and programs described above still qualify as "conceptual," the Management Team is confident that by 2036, enough will have transpired with DCP or its successor and sufficient work will have been done locally for the District to understand the risk profile of legacy supplies imported from Metropolitan and new alternative supplies to establish a policy that by a date certain a designated portion of Calleguas's supplies are from sources other than Metropolitan. Whether that is, for example, "20% by 2040" or "40% by 2050" or some other variation remains to be determined, but the Management Team is confident that the District will know that goal and be progressing towards it within the decade.

Translating that goal into reality will necessitate both regional community and state and federal legislative engagement. Developing a groundswell of support for these projects and the mechanism to fund them (rates, property taxes, significant sustained state and federal funding) requires dedicated, creative staff that can foster and sustain relationships with, not just local, state, and federal elected officials, but also diverse stakeholders across the region, from environmental groups and environmental justice non-governmental organizations to the business community and residents. Telling Calleguas's story and conveying the importance of safe, clean drinking water to every aspect of life in Ventura County, especially to non-water audiences, is arguably as important as deciding what infrastructure to build. Board members, Calleguas's external facing departments (External Affairs and Water Resources), and the wide variety of staff from every department who participate in career fairs, community events, public tours, legislative advocacy, and other engagement activities are important promoters, liaisons, and educators.

2. The cost of Metropolitan water

By 2036, Calleguas anticipates having a clear picture of what large-scale water supply projects Metropolitan anticipates pursuing, the cost burden of Metropolitan's rehabilitation and repair (R&R), and how Metropolitan anticipates meeting those cost requirements.

Ideally, the Metropolitan rate covers the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of the existing water distribution system, including pipes, pumps, reservoirs, aqueducts, and electrical transmission facilities, that allows for the continued level of service (under normal conditions) that the Metropolitan service area enjoys today. Additionally, the Metropolitan rate should cover capital improvement projects that eliminate pockets of reduced reliability, such as the SWPDA or those areas overly dependent on the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Calleguas will continue to advocate for equity in the rates, ensuring that those member agencies that have access to only treated water, like Calleguas, are not paying a disproportionate share of the treated-water capacity that benefits the entire service area.

Just as the cost of Metropolitan water drives the development of local/alternative water supplies among member agencies, it drives similar development among Calleguas's purveyors. Today, because Calleguas's supply is 100% Metropolitan water, the cost of Metropolitan water constitutes approximately 75% of Calleguas's budget. The higher Metropolitan's and therefore Calleguas's rates go, the greater the incentive for Calleguas purveyors to roll off the District. Initially, non-Metropolitan supply development investments may cost more than Metropolitan water per-acre foot, but, in the long run, the more alternative supplies Calleguas is able to develop, the greater the insulation the District is likely to provide its purveyors against the vagaries of the SWP and rising Metropolitan costs, especially over the long term.

Between now and 2036, Metropolitan will be making significant financial decisions regarding its R&R and water supply capital investments:

- R&R: pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe lining, CRA modernization (including electrical transmission), treatment plant refurbishment, dams, reservoirs, aqueducts, SCADA
- Water Supply: "Drought Actions" and improvements for SWPDA equity, Sites Reservoir, DCP, PureWater Southern California, South-of-Delta and North-of-Jensen storage, post-2026 Colorado River projects/responsibilities

Metropolitan's major potential water supply investments (DCP, Sites Reservoir, PureWater) are all north of $9B apiece in 2026 dollars. Like Calleguas, these costs exceed Met's rate capacity and, at the same time, the more of them Metropolitan undertakes, the less money they will have for R&R.

3. How Calleguas will pay for new water supplies and aging infrastructure repair, rehabilitation, and replacement

By 2036, Calleguas anticipates having a clear sense of the scale of Calleguas's R&R liability; the goal for the District's supply portfolio to be met by non-Metropolitan supply; the cost of the projects that can make up that percentage of supply; the cost of Metropolitan water; and preferred alternative funding vehicles to meet the funding gap between future costs and what Calleguas rates can bear.

In 2024 dollars, the preferred portfolio from the WRIST is $2.13B.

It is unlikely that all the projects will go forward, and likely that all of them will differ in various respects from what is contemplated in that plan. But even a quarter of that cost likely exceeds the District's capacity to fund that level of investment through water rates. Perhaps another quarter could be met with grant funds. Drought-proofing the District service area, however, will take alternative funding mechanisms, whether that's a state bond measure, significant federal earmarks, property tax in the form of a "water reliability assessment district," or some other vehicle.

Partnerships on these water supply projects with purveyors, regional partners, and others will not only provide opportunities for cost-sharing and scaling benefits, but will also likely be a jurisdictional and financial requirement. Met's newly established Local Supply Exchange Framework should allow Calleguas to partner with any of Met's 25 other member agencies, irrespective of where they're located in the Metropolitan service area, opening up a number of opportunities to partner on joint resilience programs.

As plans for R&R and new supply projects develop over the next 3-5 years, Calleguas will also explore alternative funding mechanisms with the hope of matching maintenance and infrastructure plans with alternative funding strategies and opportunities.

4. The impacts of technology and new infrastructure on the District

2036 might as well be a different country in terms of technological advancements. The open question is whether social and cultural values will have shifted enough for Calleguas, the public sector, California regulations, and the wider water industry in the Western United States for those technological advancements to have their full transformative impact. Perhaps the most important challenge is not predicting which technologies will succeed, but ensuring that Calleguas remains flexible enough to capitalize on them.

Computing power will continue to grow; any digital tools that we rely on today will function faster and be capable of more a decade from now. The challenge before Calleguas is to develop organizational acceptance, adoption, and expertise in pace with future available tools and an intentional approach to how, when, and how much to invest in new technologies.

Today, artificial intelligence (AI) is characterized as the next frontier. The hype was immediate upon its injection into the mainstream in 2023 and yet, while the technology has continued to mature, it has not had the revolutionary effects its greatest proponents and gloomiest detractors anticipated. Many organizations that went all-in on AI have seen their attempts to transform stumble: pilots don't advance past their initial phase; employees' buy-in lags and their stress accelerates; the absence of data and its often-fragmented storage in legacy systems cripples the best-laid plans. There is also widespread anxiety over AI automating people out of their jobs. As a remedy, a perspective has emerged that encourages management to focus on augmenting the "more human" aspects of an organization's value proposition and their employees' contributions. This is an appealing concept, but organizations are finding that personal and workplace habits that have privileged deliverables and task completion often leave employees with little idea of what to do with the time they have freed up by automating their tasks with AI. (If they free up time at all—emerging research indicates that employees' workloads, especially those related to communication apps and tools, become more intense with the adoption of AI, not less.) Without sustained attention to discovering and developing these "more human" capabilities, organizations may find themselves fulfilling the very prophecy they hoped to avoid. As such, Calleguas needs a well-articulated plan to replace the task-oriented culture of productivity with an environment that values and rewards "more human" aspects of the District's myriad work functions. This is likely to mean strategically deploying AI, where possible, to help address staffing shortages and knowledge gaps upon retirements, rather than attempting to adopt AI quickly and universally.

At the same time, technology is becoming inseparable from the infrastructure Calleguas already owns and operates. The District's distribution system is increasingly a digitally enabled system, with SCADA, PLCs, telemetry, communications networks, sensors, mobile devices, GIS, work-order systems, and other technologies becoming integral to the operation and maintenance of physical assets. Many of these systems have long lifecycles, creating a persistent challenge: technology can become obsolete long before the infrastructure it controls. Over the next decade, Calleguas will need to replace aging control systems and communications equipment, modernize its SCADA and PLC platforms, expand the use of real-time data and field mobility, and develop the data architecture necessary to connect information that is currently fragmented across systems. The opportunity is significant—better visibility into system conditions, more predictive maintenance, faster field response, improved asset management, and ultimately a more intelligent distribution system—but realizing those benefits will require treating digital infrastructure with the same long-term planning discipline applied to pipes, pumps, reservoirs, and other physical assets.

The increasing digitization and connectivity of water systems also creates a new dimension of reliability and security. Cybersecurity is becoming inseparable from operational security as the systems that monitor and control water infrastructure become more connected, while advances in cameras, drones, satellite imagery, and other technologies will increasingly change how Calleguas protects and monitors remote facilities and critical infrastructure. Communications technology will likewise continue to evolve: the District has only recently eliminated its final copper services and is moving toward a combination of fiber and low-earth-orbit satellite connectivity. Over the next decade, Calleguas will need to think of cybersecurity, physical security, communications resilience, and operational technology as interconnected components of system reliability rather than as separate IT or security functions. This will require continued investment in both technology and the people capable of managing it, as well as an intentional approach to redundancy and resilience when technologies inevitably fail, become obsolete, or are compromised.

On the infrastructure side, emerging technologies in 2026 are shifting from large-scale projects like dams and canals to decentralized, energy-efficient, and unconventional sources. Among the leading contenders are deep-sea and wave-driven ocean desalination technologies; zero-liquid desalination; and large-scale atmospheric water harvesting. The first two essentially adjust the intake mechanism; instead of traditional open-ocean intakes, which can entrap and entrain sea life, or subsurface intakes such as slant wells, which limit capacity and do not benefit from economies of scale, these lower-recovery applications are friendlier to sea life, are modular, and claim to be less energy-intensive. Zero-liquid desalination offers incremental increases in recovery from brackish water desalination—but solid-waste management represents an unknown variable, both in terms of cost and environmental impact. And atmospheric water harvesting seems daunting from a footprint and scale perspective; coastal fog belts may provide opportunities for hyperlocal, small-scale applications, but providing the volume of water Calleguas or the larger Southern California region demands is an Avatar-level fantasy.

One of the more promising possibilities is the application of nuclear power to ocean desalination. Small modular reactors (SMRs) are being promoted as godsends for energy applications in remote areas of the country or where undersized electrical grids challenge development. This perspective is only accelerated by the explosive growth of the data centers required by the increase in AI tools and other similar applications that rely on increased computing power. The water industry is typically conservative on adopting new technologies, and the American economy is generally wary of scaling back regulations or supporting the kind of investment SMRs would require (financial and political) for water applications. Instead, water usually benefits from subsequent generations of new technologies. In the case of nuclear, this could look like co-locating SMRs with alternative ocean desalination technology as a way to mitigate some of the steeper hurdles the two technologies currently face. Calleguas could benefit from these advancements either directly, if the District were to partner in their development, or indirectly, if Metropolitan or other regional players develop sufficient supply to shed demand off the supplies Calleguas depends on. It will be critical to understand and quantify the tradeoffs involved in others' local supply developments, so that Calleguas isn't left carrying a disproportionate share of Met's fixed costs—and finding itself facing obsolescence.

While we can see that the pace of change is accelerating, we can't know today what technologies will break through in the next decade. It is that very uncertainty that requires Calleguas to continue to stay on top of developing technologies and maintain flexibility and adaptability in the District's planning processes. And ultimately, predicting which technologies will succeed is not nearly as important as ensuring that Calleguas remains flexible enough to capitalize on them.

5. Maintaining the Calleguas workforce

Recognizing that the workforce is the enabling condition of any strategic goal, by 2036, Calleguas intends to be recognized, beyond just the water industry, as an employer of choice in Southern California, with a workforce that is highly skilled, adaptable, and aligned around the District's mission. To do this, the District will develop a workforce strategy that is as deliberate and forward-looking as its water supply strategy: one that ensures the District has the right people, with the right skills, in the right roles, at the right time to meet the challenges of the next generation.

The water industry is entering a period in which workforce challenges may prove just as consequential as infrastructure challenges. Much of the industry's institutional knowledge resides with employees who entered public service during periods of significant growth in water infrastructure development during the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s. As those employees retire, water agencies across California are competing for a limited pool of experienced operators, engineers, technicians, managers, and administrative professionals. At the same time, the skills required to succeed in the industry are changing. Increasingly, employees are expected to be comfortable working across disciplines, leveraging advanced technologies, interpreting growing volumes of data, and navigating complex regulatory, financial, and stakeholder environments. At the same time, it appears that there is a resurgence of interest in the trades among young people entering the workforce. This trend is likely to grow as information-process job functions that were more popular and prestigious entry-level “career starters” over the last 50 years are increasingly met with AI tools. Positioning water, and the District specifically, as an employer of choice in the trades world will be important to attract highly skilled tradespeople.

Like many public agencies, Calleguas has historically benefited from a stable and dedicated workforce with long employee tenures. That stability remains a strength, but it also creates vulnerability if succession planning, knowledge transfer, and employee development are not elevated to a primary objective of the organization. The Management Team believes that workforce development can no longer be viewed primarily as a human resources function. Rather, it must be treated as a strategic capability that underpins every major objective of the District.

As discussed above, technological advancements are unlikely to reduce the importance of people. While automation and artificial intelligence may assume responsibility for routine tasks, they will increase the value of uniquely human capabilities such as judgment, creativity, communication, leadership, relationship-building, and problem-solving. The District's long-term success will depend, not only on maintaining adequate staffing levels, but also on creating an environment in which employees continuously develop these capabilities. Additionally, it will require the District to sustain a competitive edge within the Southern California region to attract and retain the talent needed to accomplish its goals.

Upcoming Meetings

08C3 REPORTS

This table includes meetings that can be attended by all Board members. In order to ensure Brown Act compliance, a majority of members should not discuss Calleguas specific issues at meetings other than designated Calleguas Board Meetings.

AWA CCWUC* "The Ultimate Backup: Keeping the Water Flowing using the Steve Blois Emergency Generators" Speakers: Cesar Romero and Wes Richardson-Calleguas MWD	Wed. 09/23, 11:30 a.m.	Orchid Professional Building, 816 Camarillo Springs Rd., Camarillo IN PERSON ONLY
Calleguas Special Board Meeting	Wed. 09/23, 5:00 p.m.	2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks Hybrid Event
Calleguas Purveyor Meeting	Thu. 09/24, 9:30 a.m.	2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks IN PERSON ONLY
Calleguas Special Board Meeting-2026 Board Member Retreat	Mon. 09/28, 2:00 p.m.	2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks Hybrid Event
Metropolitan Colorado River Aqueduct Tour	Thu. 10/01 to Sat. 10/03	2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks IN PERSON ONLY
Calleguas Board Meeting	Wed. 10/07, 4:00 p.m.	2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks Hybrid Event
AWA WaterWise*	Thu. 10/15, 7:30 a.m.	2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks Hybrid Event
CoLAB 2026 Annual Meeting*	Thu. 10/15, 5:30 p.m.	400 Calle Maduro, Camarillo IN PERSON ONLY
AWA Water Issues	Tue. 10/20, 8:00 a.m.	1701 Lombard Street, Oxnard Hybrid Event
Calleguas Board Meeting	Wed. 10/21, 4:00 p.m.	2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks Hybrid Event
Calleguas Purveyor Meeting	Thu. 10/22, 9:30 a.m.	2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks IN PERSON ONLY
AWA CCWUC*	Wed. 10/28, 11:30 a.m.	TBD IN PERSON ONLY
Ventura County Special Districts Association*	Tue. 11/03, 5:30 p.m.	TBD
Calleguas Board Meeting	Wed. 11/04, 4:00 p.m.	2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks Hybrid Event
AWA Water Issues	Tue. 11/17, 8:00 a.m.	1701 Lombard Street, Oxnard Hybrid Event
AWA CCWUC*	Wed. 11/18, 11:30 a.m.	TBD IN PERSON ONLY
CoLAB Wheel Meeting*	Wed. 11/18, 12:00 p.m.	1672 Donlon Street, Ventura Hybrid Event
Calleguas Board Meeting	Wed. 11/18, 4:00 p.m.	2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks Hybrid Event
AWA WaterWise*	Thu. 11/19, 7:30 a.m.	2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks Hybrid Event

*Reservations required. Contact Kara if you would like to attend.

Summary Report for
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Board Meeting
September 15, 2026

CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

Approved Committee Assignments:

Appointed Director Barrera to the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee, the One Water and Adaptation Committee, and the Ethics Committee. **(Agenda Item 6B)**

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

Awarded a $782,917 procurement contract to Ross Valve Manufacturing Company for an 18-inch conical plug valve for Service Connection B-01. **(Agenda Item 7-1)**

Authorized the General Manager to amend the Project Labor Agreement to add one new project and approved the amended Project Labor Agreement's use as a bid condition for the newly added project. **(Agenda Item 7-2)**

Reviewed and considered the Lead Agency's approved Negative Declaration and take related CEQA actions; and adopted a resolution for the 118th Fringe Area Annexation concurrently to Eastern Municipal Water District and Metropolitan **(Agenda Item 7-3)**

Authorized an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Thompson Coburn LLP for legal advice on state and federal energy regulatory and contractual matters by $400,000 to a maximum amount payable of $1,000,000. **(Agenda Item 7-4)**

Authorized the general manager to enter into a funding agreement with the California Department of Water Resources for an invasive mussel mitigation pilot treatment in the Rialto Pipeline. **(Agenda Item 7-5)**

Authorize proposed changes to the Coordinated Operating, Water Storage, Exchange and Delivery Agreement with the Municipal Water District of Orange County and Irvine Ranch Water District. **(Agenda Item 7-6)**

OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

Awarded a $42,710,530.01 construction contract to Mountain Cascade Inc. to rehabilitate the circulating water and sump discharge piping systems at the Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. **(Agenda Item 8-1)**

a. Authorized an increase of $172,849,771 to an existing design-build agreement with J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of $276,209,771 to authorize Phase 2B of the Sepulveda Pump Stations project;
b. Authorized an increase of $1.59 million to an existing agreement with Carollo Engineers Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of $4.89 million to serve as the owner's advisor; and
c. Authorized an increase of $857,000 to an existing agreement with Parametrix Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of $1.402 million for cost estimating and scheduling services. **(Agenda Item 8-2)**

Amended the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code concerning review of matters for the naming of facilities, and amended the criteria, policies, and procedures for the naming of facilities. **(Agenda Item 8-3)**

Moved to defer action until January 2027. **(Agenda Item 8-4)**

Declined to take a position on Proposition 45. **(Agenda Item 8-5)**

Approve a limited waiver of the Brown Act closed session privilege regarding the closed session meeting of the Organization, Personnel, and Effectiveness Committee on October 14, 2025 for the limited purpose of disclosing pertinent ethics investigation information and materials (1) in a board letter and its attachments for the Executive Committee's consideration of action pursuant to Administrative Code Sections 7416(d) and 7432(b)(1); (2) during the September 2026 Executive Committee meeting to discuss and consider taking action on the item pursuant to Administrative Code section 7432(b)(1); and (3) in connection with a mandatory referral to the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) pursuant to Administrative Code Sections 7416(d) and 7433 and as also may be requested by the FPPC in addressing the matter, with the understanding that Metropolitan directors and staff may disclose information from the closed session to the FPPC and the FPPC may use and disclose information and materials publicly in accordance with its procedures. **(Agenda Item 8-6)**

Approved option 1, as amended, and directed in closed session. **(Agenda Item 8-8)**

Authorized an increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services in *Adel Hagekhalil v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California et al.,* with Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in the amount of $350,000 for a total amount not to exceed $600,000. **(Agenda Item 8-9)**

Approved the Reopener Agreement and a one-year extension with AFSCME. **(Agenda Item 8-10)**

THIS INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING.

All current month materials, and materials after July 1, 2021 are available on the public website here: https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

This database contains archives from the year 1928 to June 30, 2021:
https://bda.mwdh2o.com/Pages/Default.aspx