

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 24, 2023

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

Chair Ortega announced at this time that we do not have any Directors participating in the meeting using AB 2449. There are no committee members participating on Zoom. There are non-committee members participating on Zoom, Directors De Jesus, Lefevre, and Miller.

Chair Ortega introduced Member Agency Manager Sidney Jackson, General Manager at Pasadena Water & Power.

Mr. Jackson made brief remarks.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Camacho, Chacon, Cordero, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Jung (teleconference posted location/entered after roll call), Luna, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Smith, and Sutley.

Members absent: Directors Erdman, Gray, McCoy, and Ramos.

Other Board members present: Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Dennstedt, Garza, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McMillan, Miller (teleconference posted location), Morris, Petersen, Peterson, and Seckel.

Committee staff present: Aldrete, Hagekhalil, Salinas, Scully, Suzuki, Wheeler, and Upadhyay.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

Name	Affiliation	Item
1. Ellen Mackey	Metropolitan Water District Employee	Human Resources

2. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

a. Subject: Chair's Report

Presented by: Chair Ortega

Chair Ortega reported on the following:

- The international travel report for the third quarter of July 2023 through September 2023 was posted.
- The Board Meeting was adjourned in honor of Director Morris' late wife, Sandy Morris. In addition, an employee luncheon took a moment of silence in her honor. The services information will be sent to the Directors soon.
- Lastly, Chair Ortega announced that he and several other Directors attended the dedication ceremony at the High Desert Water Bank at Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency. Chair Ortega called upon Director Seckel to provide highlights of the event.

Director Seckel provided information on the event at Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency.

b. Subject: General Manager's Report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: General Manager Adel Hagekhalil

General Manager Hagekhalil reported on the following:

- The Hispanic Employee Association celebration of Día de los Muertos has an altar in the Rotunda until November 3rd.
- Acknowledge public speaker comments and provided feedback.

c. Subject: General Counsel's report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: General Counsel Marcia Scully

General Counsel Scully reported on the following:

- The PFAs litigation and timeline and thanked the General Manager and General Counsel staff and league of cities webinar on the matter.
- Assistant General Counsel Beatty and Torres will be available in her absence next week.

- d. Subject: General Auditor's report of Metropolitan activities
Presented by: General Auditor Scott Suzuki

General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to his report.

- e. Subject: Ethics Officer's report of Metropolitan activities
Presented by: Ethics Officer Abel Salinas

Ethics Officer Salinas stated that a new ethics rule will be discussed at the January Ethics, Organization, and Personnel Committee.

Chair Ortega announced that in the interest of time, the Committee will not hear the reports from Committee Chairs and that Item 3B draft agenda packet would be approved as posted, with the exceptions of any additions or deletions.

Board Vice Camacho announced that the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee the following subject have been revised:

- Authorize an increase of \$3,100,000 in change order authority for the contract to replace the overhead bridge cranes at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants.
- Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and award a \$16,055,500 procurement contract to Northwest Pipe Company for steel pipe to rehabilitate a portion of the Lakeview Pipeline.

Committee Vice Chair Cordero announced that the Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee the following subject has been revised:

- Panel on Regulatory Requirements Impacting Affordability

Director Jung entered the meeting via Zoom.

Board Vice Chair Abdo announced that the Ethics, Organization, and Personnel Committee the following subject has been revised:

- Authorize an extension to June 30, 2024, on thirteen supplemental labor contracts for professional services; and authorize an increase of \$200,000 in funding for four of the contracts not to exceed \$449,000 each.

Committee Chair Quinn announced that the One Water and Stewardship Committee the following subject has been revised:

- Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing related to the Quechan Seasonal Fallowing Program, for up to \$0.86 million in 2024 and escalated annually through 2026.
- Authorize a \$350,000 increase to the existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc., currently set at \$500,000, to provide inspection services for turf removal, regional device rebates, and water saving incentive program projects for Metropolitan's conservation rebate programs, for a total agreement not to exceed \$850,000.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting for September 23, 2023.

Chair Ortega asked Directors if there were any additions, corrections, or omissions on the minutes of the September 23, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting. None were made.

- B. Approve draft Committee and board meeting agendas, and schedule for November 2023. A schedule change for Subcommittee on Long Term Planning is moved from November 15, 2023 to November 21, 2023.

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Items 3A and 3B.

Director Quinn made a motion, seconded by Director Sutley to approve the consent calendar Items 3A and 3B as listed.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Camacho, Chacon, Cordero, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Jung, Luna, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Smith, and Sutley

Abstention: None

Recusal:

Absent: Erdman, Gray, McCoy, and Ramos

The motion for Items 3A and 3B passed by a vote of 13 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 4 absent.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. COMMITTEE INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Subject: Colorado River Board Meeting Report
Presented by: Director Cordero

Director Cordero reported on the efforts of the Colorado River Board.

- b. Subject: Colorado River Activities
Presented by: Shanti Rosset, Program Manager III

Ms. Rosset reported on the activities of the Colorado River.

5. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned in honor of former San Fernando Councilmember Cindy Montanez at 1:23 p.m.

Adán Ortega, Jr.
Chair of the Board