

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**May 12, 2025**

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

Members present: Directors Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray (teleconference posted location), Jung (teleconference posted location), Katz, Lewitt, Luna (entered after roll call, AB 2449 “just cause”), and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: Directors Ackerman, Kassakhian, and Ramos

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong (AB 2449 “just cause”), Bryant, Cordero, Erdman, Faessel, Goldberg, Kurtz, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman (teleconference posted location), and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Rubin, Salgado, Schaffer, Stites, Upadhyay, and Zinke

Director Armstrong stated that he was attending the meeting under AB 2449 just cause due to illness and that he was alone in the room.

Director Luna stated that he was attending the meeting under AB 2449 just cause due to illness and that he was alone in the room.

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

Evelyn Wendel    WeTap.org

Item 6a

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

- A.     Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee held April 7, 2025.

### **3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Dennstedt to approve the consent calendar item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Jung, Lewitt, Katz, Lewitt, and Shepherd Romey

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Ackerman, Kassakhian, Luna, and Ramos

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 4 absent.

### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

### **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

Director Luna entered the meeting.

### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

a. Subject: Update on Community Partnering Program

Presented by: Joseph Chavez, Jr., Senior Public Affairs Representative

Mr. Chavez provided an update on the Community Partnering Program and four pilot projects: Pando Populus, Salesian Family Youth Center, Bob Baker Marionette Theater, and WeTap.org.

The following Chair and Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Ortega
- 2) Fellow
- 3) Dennstedt
- 4) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- b. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby R. Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on FY25 Appropriations and budget reconciliation, FY26 budget proposal, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Nomination Hearing, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Hearing, Congressional staff tour of the Colorado River, and Metropolitan delegation meetings in DC.

The following Chair and Director provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Ortega
- 2) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- c. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the state legislative calendar, invasive golden mussel in the Delta, Metropolitan's sponsored bill AB 580 (Wallis) regarding an exemption from the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, AB 52 (Aguiar-Curry) Native American resources, and AB 496 (Hurtado) Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation appeals advisory committee exemptions. He discussed member agency proposals, including AB 259 (Rubio) on open meetings and local agencies' teleconferences, SB 394 (Allen) addressing water theft on fire hydrants, and AB 523 (Irwin) proxy vote authorizations among other legislation. He also noted recent leadership meetings with legislators in Sacramento.

The following Chair and Director provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Ortega
- 2) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

**7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

a. Subject: External Affairs activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, External Affairs Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on honoring former Santa Monica director Judy Abdo with the dedication of the Wildflower Trail at Diamond Valley Lake, employee inspection trips, celebration of Earth Week, and Water Engineering 4 Good. She recognized Mark Moss, Principal Public Affairs Representative on his retirement and introduced Brittany Foust, Section Manager for Media Services.

The Chair provided a comment.

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Jay Lewitt  
Chair