

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**March 12, 2024**

**53549** The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in a regular session on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

Director Dennstedt is using AB 2449 just cause due to an illness that prevents her from attending in person. Director Dennstedt appeared by audio and video.

**53550** The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Jacque McMillan, Calleguas Municipal Water District.

**53551** The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Gloria Cordero, City of Long Beach.

**53552** Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho (teleconference posted location available for the public), Cordero, De Jesus, Dennstedt (AB 2449), Dick, Douglas, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Goldberg, Gualtieri, Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location available for the public), McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson (teleconference posted location available for the public), Pressman (teleconference posted location available for the public), Quinn, Seckel, and Smith.

Director Dennstedt announced during the roll that no one was in the room with her 18 years of age or older.

Those not responding were: Director Kassakhian, Petersen, Phan, Ramos, and Sutley.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Directors entered the meeting after the roll call: Directors Gray (teleconference posted location available for the public) and Luna.

Chair Ortega called on Director McMillan to introduce the guest Member Agency Manager Kristine McCaffrey, General Manager for the Calleguas Municipal Water District. Director McMillan and Ms. McCaffrey made remarks.

Chair Ortega welcomed Ms. McCaffrey for joining the board and encouraged her to comment on matters important to the Calleguas Municipal Water District.

Chair Ortega thanked the Palo Verde District Trustees for joining Metropolitan meeting. In March, Metropolitan will plan to spotlight the important role watersheds play in the world on Water Day, as well as support the U.S. EPA efforts during Fix a Leak Week. On social media, there will be a celebration of Women's History Month and Persian Heritage Month while collaborating with the Hispanic Employee's Association on Cesar Chavez Day.

**53553** Chair Ortega announced the a public hearing regarding the proposed water rates and charges for calendar years 2025 and 2026 necessary to meet the revenue requirements for fiscal years 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Assistant General Manager Kasaine and Senior Deputy General Counsel Quilizapa presented the item and opened the public hearing.

**53553** Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction and the public hearing (in-person and via teleconference).

	Name	Affiliation	Comment
1.	Connor Everts	Southern California Watershed Alliance and Environmental Coalition for Water Justice	Item 4a and 9-1
2.	Darcy Burke	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board Member/EPA Local Government Advisory Committee Member	Item 4a
3.	Sandra Jacobs	President, Santa Margarita Water District	Item 4a
4.	Penelope Lapolme	Resident	Item 4a
5.	Sherry Klima	City of Oxnard Resident	Item 4a
6.	Jan Warren	Bay-Delta Resident	Item 4a
7.	Caty Wagner	Sierra Club	Item 4a
8.	Sydney (no last name provided)		Item 4a
9.	Wesley Chong	Los Angeles Resident	Item 4a
10.	Charming Evelyn	Sierra Club	Item 4a
11.	Jay Lewitt	President Las Virgenes MWD	Item 7-5

- |     |                |                               |                            |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 12. | Scott Quady    | President Calleguas MWD       | Item 4a                    |
| 13. | Lionel Marra   | Southern California Resident  | Item 4a                    |
| 14. | Jolene Fuentes | Metropolitan Employee         | Yield Time to Ellen Mackey |
| 15. | Ellen Mackey   | Metropolitan Employee         | Human Resources Issues     |
| 16. | Tristan Zalus  | Retired Metropolitan Employee | Human Resources Issues     |
| 17. | John Mendoza   | City of Pomona Resident       | Item 4a                    |
| 18. | Justin Breck   | Los Angeles Waterkeeper       | Item 4a                    |

Chair Ortega announced the public hearing is now closed.

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

**53554** Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of February, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

**53555** Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions regarding his report. None were made.

**53556** General Manager Hagekhalil provided an update on Metropolitan's celebration of Women's History Month, Persian Heritage Month, and Caesar Chavez Day. In addition, yesterday was the start of the Holy month of Ramadan, a month of empathy and sharing. He provided an update on the efforts of the Colorado River team and thanked them for their hard work. Metropolitan will be briefing legislative representatives in Washington D.C. on the lower basin proposal. He reported on Senator Padilla's legislation to help constituents beyond COVID; updated on the rebate program; updated on the job fair with City of Caron and Mayor Davis-Holmes and updated on the visits with Chair Ortega and member agencies.

**53557** General Counsel Scully stated she had nothing to add to the written report.

**53558** General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to the written report.

**53559** Ethics Officer Salinas reported that Form 700 deadline is April 2, 2024 and the Symposium on Governmental Ethics in partnership with the Los Angeles Metro Ethics Office and Los Angeles Mayor's Office.

Director Gray entered the meeting.

**53560** Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any comments or discussions on the Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting for February 13, 2024. (Copies have been submitted to each Director any additions, corrections, or omissions) (Agenda Item 6A). No amendments were made.

**53561** Approval of Committee Assignments (Agenda Item 6B).

Create an Ethics Organization and Personnel Subcommittee for 360 evaluation members, including Directors Pressman, Bryant, Dennstedt, Smith, and Ortega.

**53562** Nomination and Election of nonofficer members of the Executive Committee for the remaining two-year term effective March 12, 2024 and ending at the January 2025 Board Meeting (Agenda Item 6C).

Director Ackerman, McMillian, and Morris left the meeting.

Directors Armstrong, De Jesus, and Garza were nominated. No nominations were made from the floor, and the Directors accepted the nomination.

Chair Ortega called for the vote.

Director Quinn moved, seconded by Director Gualtieri that the Board approve the Board Item 6C the nomination and election of directors Armstrong, De Jesus, and Garza as follows:

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s): 6C									
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6038	Faessel	x	x	6038				
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman	x	x	4493				
Burbank	3175	Ramos							
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Gualtieri	x	x	9662				
			Subtotal:		19324				
Compton	641	McCoy	x	x	641				
Eastern Municipal Water District	12060	Armstrong	x	x	12060				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung	x	x	2561				
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian							
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Peterson	x	x	3090				
Long Beach	6558	Cordero	x	x	6558				
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley							
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	40086				
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	40086				
			Subtotal:		80172				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	21545				
		Dick	x	x	21545				
		Erdman	x	x	21545				
			Subtotal:		64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67201	Fong-Sakai	x	x	16800				
		Goldberg	x	x	16800				
		Miller	x	x	16800				
		Smith	x	x	16800				
			Subtotal:		67201				
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris							
Santa Ana	3431	Phan							
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre	x	x	3590				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x	x	13532				
		Gray	x	x	13532				
			Subtotal:		27064				
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
<b>Total</b>	<b>386141</b>				<b>361677</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>24464</b>								

The motion to approve the Board Item 6C (**M.I. No. 53562**) passed by a vote of 361,677 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 24,464 absent.

Director Dennstedt, using AB 2449 just cause, appeared on video and did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

Chair Ortega announced Director Armstrong will Chair the Subcommittee on Audits of the Executive Committee.

Chair Ortega called on Directors who are requesting any items to be pulled from the Consent Calendar Action Items.

Director Gualtieri requested Item 7-6 be pulled from Consent.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-5 and 7-7 through 7-8 (**M.I. No. 53563 through 53569**). (Items 7-1 through 7-5 and 7-7 through 7-8 Options as discussed at Committee as shown below).

**53563** Award a \$1,754,000 contract to Granite Construction Company for the rehabilitation of asphalt pavement at the Weymouth plant, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

**53564** Award an \$892,552 procurement contract to Whipps Inc. for the fabrication of three slide gate assemblies for the East Lake Skinner Bypass channel, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

**53565** a. Award a \$1,779,174 procurement contract to Vogt Valves Inc. for a 132-inch diameter butterfly valve to be installed at the Foothill Pump Station as part of water supply reliability improvements in the Rialto Pipeline service area; and b. Authorize an increase of \$260,000 to an existing agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1,560,000 for design of Stage 2 for the Inland Feeder/San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Foothill Pump Station Intertie, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

**53566** Authorize an increase to an existing agreement with Tetra Tech Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$3,350,000 for design services for the Iron Mountain SL&P Electrical Improvements project, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

**53567** Amend the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 to include the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Stage 2 and the Inglewood Lateral Improvements projects, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

**53568** Authorize an increase of \$320,000 to a purchase order with Total Transportation Logistics Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$540,000 for storage of filter valves for the F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-7 board letter.

**53569** Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to provide an exempt time off benefit for unrepresented employees, create a new reproductive loss leave benefit, and to conform personnel regulations for unrepresented employees to current practices and regulations; and authorize the General Manager to adjust unrepresented salaries to conform with the equity wage and cost-of-living adjustments provided to Metropolitan's management unit, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-8 board letter.

Director Kurtz moved, seconded by Director De Jesus that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-5 and 7-7 through 7-8 as follows:

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):		Items: 6A, 6B, and 7-1 to 7-5, 7-7, and 7-8							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6038	Faessel	x	x	6038				
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman	x	x	4493				
Burbank	3175	Ramos							
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Gualtieri	x	x	9662				
			Subtotal:		19324				
Compton	641	McCoy	x	x	641				
Eastern Municipal Water District	12060	Armstrong	x	x	12060				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung	x	x	2561				
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian							
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Peterson	x	x	3090				
Long Beach	6558	Cordero	x	x	6558				
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley							
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	40086				
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	40086				
			Subtotal:		80172				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	21545				
		Dick	x	x	21545				
		Erdman	x	x	21545				
			Subtotal:		64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67201	Fong-Sakai	x	x	16800				
		Goldberg	x	x	16800				
		Miller	x	x	16800				
		Smith	x	x	16800				
			Subtotal:		67201				
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris							
Santa Ana	3431	Phan							
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre	x	x	3590				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x	x	13532				
		Gray	x	x	13532				
			Subtotal:		27064				
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
<b>Total</b>	<b>386141</b>				<b>361677</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>24464</b>								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-5 and 7-7 through 7-8 (**M.I. No. 53563 through 53569**)\* passed by a vote of 361,677 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 24,464 absent.

Director Dennstedt, using AB 2449 just cause, appeared on video and did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

**\*Note: Individual vote tally for Item 6A**

Director Cordero abstained on Consent Calendar Item 6A. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 6A passed by a vote of 355,119 ayes; 0 noes; 6,558 abstain; 0 not voting; and 24,464 absent.

**\*Note: Individual vote tally for Item 7-3**

Director Quinn abstained on Consent Calendar Item 7-3. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 7-3 passed by a vote of 321,591 ayes; 0 noes; 40,086 abstain; 0 not voting; and 24,464 absent.

**\*Note: Individual vote tally for Item 7-4**

Director Quinn abstained on Consent Calendar Item 7-4. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 7-4 passed by a vote of 321,591 ayes; 0 noes; 40,086 abstain; 0 not voting; and 24,464 absent.

**53570** Authorize an increase of \$1.3 million to an existing agreement with Helix Environmental Planning Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$4.1 million to continue preparing environmental documentation for the Pure Water Southern California Program, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

Chair Ortega opened the discussion for Agenda Item 7-6.

The following Director(s) asked questions or made comments:

Director(s)

1. Gualtieri
2. Seckel
3. Quinn
4. Kurtz
5. Miller
6. Alvarez
7. Peterson
8. Smith
9. Dick
10. Garza
11. Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Agenda Item 7-6 Option 1 (M.I. No. **53570**).

Director Luna entered the meeting.

Director Kurtz moved, seconded by Director De Jesus that the Board approve the Agenda Item 7-6 as follows:

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s): 7-6									
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6038	Faessel	x	x	6038				
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman	x	x	4493				
Burbank	3175	Ramos							
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Gualtieri	x			x	9662		
			Subtotal:		9662		9662		
Compton	641	McCoy	x	x	641				
Eastern Municipal Water District	12060	Armstrong	x	x	12060				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung	x	x	2561				
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian							
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Peterson							
Long Beach	6558	Cordero	x	x	6558				
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley							
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	26724				
		Luna	x	x	26724				
		Douglas	x	x	26724				
			Subtotal:		80172				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	21545				
		Dick	x	x	21545				
		Erdman	x	x	21545				
			Subtotal:		64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67201	Fong-Sakai	x	x	16800				
		Goldberg	x	x	16800				
		Miller	x	x	16800				
		Smith	x	x	16800				
			Subtotal:		67201				
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris							
Santa Ana	3431	Phan							
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre							
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dis	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x	x	13532				
		Gray	x	x	13532				
			Subtotal:		27064				
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
<b>Total</b>	<b>386141</b>				<b>345335</b>		<b>9662</b>		
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>31144</b>								

The motion to approve the Agenda Item 7-6 (**M.I. No. 53570**) passed by a vote of 345,335 ayes; 9,662 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 31,144 absent.

Director Dennstedt, using AB 2449 just cause, appeared on video and did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

**53571** Approval of motion to authorize lease agreement with Lemhi Land and Cattle LLC according to price and terms presented in closed session and as set forth in the confidential letter.

Chair asked the Board if they wanted to hear and/or vote on Agenda Item 8-1 in closed session. No requests were made.

Chair Ortega called for the vote.

Director Smith moved, seconded by Director Bryant that the Board approve the Board Item 8-1 as follows:

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		8-1							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6038	Faessel	x	x	6038				
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman	x	x	4493				
Burbank	3175	Ramos							
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Gualtieri	x	x	9662				
		Subtotal:			19324				
Compton	641	McCoy	x	x	641				
Eastern Municipal Water District	12060	Armstrong	x	x	12060				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung	x	x	2561				
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian							
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Peterson							
Long Beach	6558	Cordero	x	x	6558				
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley							
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	26724				
		Luna	x	x	26724				
		Douglas	x	x	26724				
		Subtotal:			80172				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	21545				
		Dick	x	x	21545				
		Erdman	x	x	21545				
		Subtotal:			64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67201	Fong-Sakai	x	x	16800				
		Goldberg	x	x	16800				
		Miller	x	x	16800				
		Smith	x	x	16800				
		Subtotal:			67201				
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris							
Santa Ana	3431	Phan							
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre							
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x	x	13532				
		Gray	x	x	13532				
		Subtotal:			27064				
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
<b>Total</b>	<b>386141</b>				<b>354997</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>31144</b>								

The motion to approve the Board Items 8-1 (**M.I. No. 53571**) passed by a vote of 354,997 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 31,144 absent.

Director Dennstedt, using AB 2449 just cause, appeared on video and did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

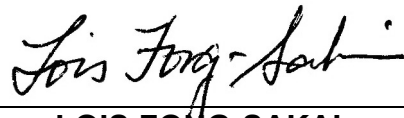
**53572** Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or need for discussion on Board Information Item 9-1 and 9-2. No requests were made.

**53573** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Other Matters Items. There were none.

**53574** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. There were none.

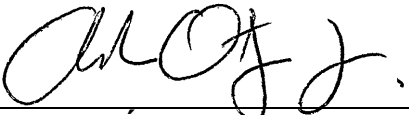
**53575** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. Director Dennstedt requested the status on the employee survey Director Peterson requested in December.

**53576** There being no objection, at 4:18 p.m., Chair Ortega adjourned the meeting in honor of Director Fellow's mother, the late Mary Josephine Fellow, who passed on February 18, 2024.



---

**LOIS FONG-SAKAI**  
**SECRETARY OF THE BOARD**



---

**ADÁN ORTEGA**  
**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**