

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Agenda

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

L&C Committee

A. Kassakhian, Chair
J. McMillan, Vice Chair
M. Camacho
J. Crawford
D. De Jesus
C. Douglas
M. Katz
C. Kurtz
C. Miller
M. Ramos
G. Shepherd Romey

Legal and Claims Committee

Meeting with Board of Directors *

March 10, 2026

12:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026
Meeting Schedule**

**08:30 a.m. FAAME
11:30 a.m. BREAK
12:00 p.m. LEGAL
02:00 p.m. BOD**

Written public comments received by 3:00 p.m. the business day before the meeting is scheduled will be posted under the Submitted Items and Responses tab available here:
<https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>.

The listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 862 4397 5848.

Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda via teleconference and in-person. To provide public comment by teleconference dial 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 815 2066 4276 or to join by computer [click here](#).

Disclaimer: Written and oral public comments are received in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. Please note that Metropolitan does not endorse or ensure the accuracy or reliability of the information provided as public comment or by third parties.

MWD Headquarters Building • 700 N. Alameda Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

* The Metropolitan Water District's meeting of this Committee is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee may participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee will not vote on matters before this Committee.

1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))

2. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- A. General Counsel's report of monthly activities [21-5513](#)

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ****

3. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee of February 9, 2026 [21-5462](#)

Attachments: [03102026 LC 3A \(02092026\) Minutes](#)

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

- 7-1 Amend the Metropolitan Administrative Code to conform to current policy, law, and practice, and to make other minor, non-substantive changes; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-5446](#)

- 7-2 Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to modify the structure and duties of existing committees to accommodate a new committee, and make other minor non-substantive changes; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-5507](#)

- 7-3 Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Van Ness Feldman, LLP, for legal advice on Colorado River matters by \$250,000 to an amount not-to-exceed \$500,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-5450](#)

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ****

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

- 8-2 Report on litigation in Systems Integrated, LLC v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21STCV18292 and consider authorizing settlement [Conference with legal counsel—existing litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d) (1)] [21-5518](#)

- 8-3 Report on litigation in Encarnacion Gutierrez v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 23STCV11052; and authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with BDG Law Group, APLC, in the amount of \$TBD for a total amount not to exceed \$TBD; and consider options for settlement; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel—existing litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]

[21-5506](#)

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

NONE

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

NONE

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: This committee reviews items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors. Final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Committee agendas may be obtained on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. This committee will not take any final action that is binding on the Board, even when a quorum of the Board is present.

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Requests for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGAL AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

February 9, 2026

Chair Kassakhian called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Members present: Directors Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Douglas (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Kurtz (entered after roll call), McMillan, Miller, Ramos (teleconference posted location), and Shepherd Romey (entered after roll call).

Members absent: Director Katz.

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Cordero, Crane, Denham, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Jay, Lewitt, Paule, Pressman (teleconference posted location), Seckel, and Sutley.

Committee Staff present: Beatty, Deshmukh, Gaxiola, Hudson, Rubin, and Scully.

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

None

2. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

A. Subject: General Counsel’s report of monthly activities

General Counsel Scully provided an update on the deferral of Item 8-5.

Chair Kassakhian announced that there would be a reordering of the meeting agenda. Item 8-4 would be heard and voted on before going into closed session to hear Items 8-3 and 7a.

Director Shepherd Romey entered the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. COMMITTEE ACTION ONLY

A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee for January 13, 2026.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

7-4 Subject Amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to conform Employer-Paid Member Contributions for unrepresented employees to CalPERS requirements; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Marianne Greene, Senior Deputy General Counsel

Motion Amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to conform Employer-Paid Member Contributions for unrepresented employees to CalPERS requirements

Director Kurtz entered the meeting.

Motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director Shepherd Romey, to approve the consent calendar items 3A and 7-4.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus, Douglas, Kassakhian, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, Ramos, and Shepherd Romey

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Katz

The motion for Items 3A and 7-4 passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

- 8-4** Subject Amend the Metropolitan Administrative Code regarding contracting provisions and reporting requirements; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Presented by: Marianne Greene, Senior Deputy General Counsel
- Motion Amend the Metropolitan Administrative Code regarding contracting provisions and reporting requirements.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

Motion by Director Camacho, seconded by Director Crawford, to approve Item 8-4.

The vote was:

- Ayes: Directors Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus, Douglas, Kassakhian, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, Ramos, and Shepherd Romey
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: None
- Absent: Director Katz

The motion for Item 8-4 passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Chair Kassakhian called the meeting into closed session.

- 8-3** Subject Report on litigation in Daffney Iverson v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 24STCV29984; and authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, in the amount of \$250,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$500,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel—existing litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
- Presented by: Tony Zepeda, Sr. Deputy General Counsel

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

- a.** Subject: Conference with legal counsel—anticipated litigation; based on existing facts and circumstances of receipt of a claim pursuant to the Government Claims Act (Government Code Section 910 et seq.) threatening litigation, there is significant exposure to litigation against Metropolitan; one potential case; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)
- Presented by: Tony Zepeda, Sr. Deputy General Counsel

Chair Kassakhian reported there was no action taken in closed session on Items 8-3 and 7a.

In open session, Director Camacho made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz, to approve the contract increase in Item 8-3.

- Item 8-3** Motion: Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, in the amount of \$250,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$500,000

The vote was:

- Ayes: Directors Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus, Douglas, Kassakhian, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, and Shepherd Romey
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: None
- Absent: Directors Katz, Ramos

The motion for Item 8-3 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Ardy Kassakhian
Chair