

# **THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

## **MINUTES**

### **AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

September 27, 2022

Chair Ramos called the teleconference meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Members present: Chair Ramos, Directors Ackerman, Blois, Dennstedt, Hawkins, Jung, Kurtz, Record and Smith.

Members absent: Vice Chair McCoy

Other Board Members present: Directors Abdo, Atwater, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Gray, Lefevre Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson and Tamaribuchi.

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Rodriguez, Salinas, Scully, Shope, Tonsick, Torres and Von Haam.

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

None

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS — ACTION**

#### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Ethics Committee held August 16, 2022.

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

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Blois, Dennstedt, Hawkins, Jung, Kurtz, Ramos, Record, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: McCoy

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 1 absent.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

**4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

a. Subject: Discussion of Ethics office oversight responsibilities

Presented by: Abel Salinas, Ethics Officer

Mr. Salinas presented an overview of the Ethics Office present and future oversight responsibilities, priorities and initiatives.

The following Directors asked questions or provided comments:

1. Smith
2. DeJesus
3. Record
4. Dennsteadt
5. Blois
6. Kurtz
7. Goldberg
8. Morris
9. Ortega
10. Erdman

Staff responded to Directors' comments or questions.

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a. Subject: Interim General Auditor's report

Presented by: John Tonsick, Interim General Auditor

Mr. Tonsick had nothing to add to his report.

- b. Subject: Ethics Officer's report

Presented by: Abel Salinas, Ethics Officer

Mr. Salinas reported that since August, the Ethics Office has not initiated any new investigations. The Ethics Office currently has one pending investigation, expected to be completed within the next month. Mr. Salinas reported that he is working with Chief EEO Officer Jonaura Wisdom to develop changes to the existing ad hoc subcommittee process for handling EEO investigations involving directors or department heads. In October or November, Mr. Salinas and Ms. Wisdom will be presenting a revised process and will then bring back proposed amendments to the Administrative Code for action thereafter.

The following Directors asked questions or provided comments:

1. Ortega
2. Kurtz

Staff responded to Directors' comments or questions.

## **8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Smith requested a future agenda item for further discussion about the Ethics Office's oversight roles.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Marsha Ramos  
Chair