

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMPORTED WATER

July 22, 2025

Committee Chair Gold called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Members present: Committee Chair Gold, Committee Vice Chair Ackerman, Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Cordero, De Jesus (teleconferenced, posted location), Garza (entered after rollcall), Kurtz, Lewitt, Luna, McMillan, and Miller (entered after roll call).

Members absent: Camacho (entered after rollcall but did not state his presence so will be marked absent for the record).

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Dick, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai (teleconferenced, posted location), Gray (teleconferenced, posted location), Jay, Board Chair Ortega, Quinn, Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Board Vice Chair Sutley.

Committee Staff present: Bednarski, Crosson, Goshi, Hasencamp, Horton, Martin, Rubin, and Winn.

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 Special Subcommittee on Imported Water for June 23, 2025

Director McMillan made a motion, seconded by Director Miller, to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A.

Director Miller entered the meeting.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Cordero, De Jesus, Gold, Kurtz,
Lewett, Luna, McMillan, and Miller.

Noes: None

Abstentions: Alvarez

Absent: Directors Camacho and Garza.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 2 absent.

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

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Sites Reservoir Project Cost Estimate Update Presented By:
JP Robinette, Sites Authority

Presented by: JP Robinette, Sites Project Authority

Mr. Robinette reported on the following:

- The location and description of the proposed Sites Project
- The new water supply and storage benefits
- Working summary of project cost changes from 2021 to 2024
- Project cost management
- Next steps including a projected timeline

Sam Smalls, Metropolitan's Manager, Treasury and Debt, provided a high-level estimate of the inflated cost of Diamond Valley Lake in 2025 dollars using two alternative methodologies.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. Alvarez
3. Dick
4. Fong-Sakai
5. Gold

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Garza entered the meeting.

- b. Subject: Delta Freshwater Pathway and Emergency Preparedness
 Presenters: Randall Neudeck, Manager Bay-Delta Programs and
 Jay Ziegler, Delta Watermaster
- Presented by: Randall Neudeck, Manager Bay-Delta Programs, Metropolitan
 Jay Ziegler, Delta Watermaster

Mr. Neudeck reported on the following:

- An overview of the Delta
- Evolution of the Freshwater Pathway
- Emergency Pathway and what has changed
- Delta Islands value to Metropolitan

Mr. Ziegler reported on the following:

- Origin and role of the Delta Watermaster
- Freshwater Pathway supply and resilience
- Coordinated science approach
- Critical path investments for reliable water supply and environmental progress

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Seckel
2. Sutley
3. Ortega
4. Miller
5. Gold

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Camacho entered the meeting.

- c. Subject: Preview of Upcoming Delta Islands Leases and Asset Management Items

Presented by: Liz Crosson, Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation Officer

Ms. Crosson reported on the following:

- Highlighted future board actions that build on the two previous presentations
- Previewed two upcoming discussions that respond to board requests to evaluate Metropolitan's options related to ongoing ownership of the Delta Islands
- An updated value assessment detailing potential costs and benefits associated with options to continue to own or sell the Delta Islands
- Next steps

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. Luna
3. Alvarez
4. Gold

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

- d. Subject: Palo Verde Community Enhancement Collaborative Report

Presented by: Director Kurtz

- Director Kurtz presented a brief update on the Community Enhancement Collaborative meeting. She stated there was a lot of interest from the community and invited Directors to visit the Palo Verde Irrigation District website for further details.

- e. Subject: Update and discussion regarding: the US. Bureau of Reclamation's development of post-2026 Colorado River reservoir operations guidelines and strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead; and the potential enforcement of rights under the 1922 Colorado River Compact.

Presented by: Michael Hughes, Senior Deputy General Counsel and Shanti Rosset, Special Projects Manager, Colorado River Resources

The committee heard the item in closed session. No action was taken.

4. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Luna made a request to have a presentation at this subcommittee on the potential for carbon capture on Metropolitan's Delta islands.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on August 26, 2025

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Mark Gold
Chair