

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**May 12, 2026**

**54460** The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Director Dennstedt stated she is using just cause due to illness, and she is alone in the room.

Director Camacho stated he is using just cause due to contagious illness, and he is alone in the room.

Director Ramos stated she is using just cause due to a family emergency, and she is alone in the room.

**54461** The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Cynthia Kurtz, City of Pasadena.

**54462** The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by General Counsel Scully.

**54463** Board Executive Secretary Hudson administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho (Just-Cause-Illness), Crane, Crawford, Daniels, De Jesus (teleconference posted location available for the public), Dennstedt (Just-Cause-Illness), Faessel, Fellow, Garza, Gold (teleconference posted location available for the public), Jay, Kassakhian, Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Ortega, Paule, Petersen, Pressman, Ramos (Just-Cause-Family Emergency), Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Cordero, Denham, Douglas, Fong-Sakai, Gray, Phan, and Quinn.

Board Executive Secretary Hudson declared a quorum present.

Director(s) entered after roll call: Erdman and Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public).

**54464** Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction (in-person and via teleconference).

	Name	Affiliation	Comment
1.	Kelly Gardner	Main San Gabriel Basin Water Master	Imported Water

The public comment was closed.

Director Jung entered the meeting.

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

**54465** Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of April, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

**54466** Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, the announced Director Shepard Romey, was honored as the Woman of the Year by Congresswoman Judy Chu; Water Awareness Month in May; and a partnership with Leah Thomas, environmental creator and author of the intersectional environmentalist, on an educational social media video featuring creative crafts made with California native plants. Infrastructure week, May 18-22; as well as National Military Appreciation Month; and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions or comments on the report. None were made.

**54467** General Manager Deshmukh provided an update: Santa Monica Feeder has returned to service; opportunity to address the board about the first days of Metropolitan; new data-focused, reformatted general manager report.

**54468** General Counsel Scully stated she has nothing to add to her written report.

**54469** General Auditor Suzuki reported on Internal Audit Month.

**54470** Ethics Officer Salinas stated he has nothing to add to his written report.

**54471** Induction of new Director Paula Daniels representing the City of Los Angeles. General Counsel Scully confirmed the credentials are in order. Directors Daniels and Board Vice Chair Sutley made remarks.

**54472** Approve Committee Assignments. Appoint Director Daniels as a member of the Finance, Affordability, Asset Management, and Efficiency Committee, the Ethics Committee, and the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships. Appoint Director Sutley as a member of the Legislation and Communications Committee. Approve Ad Hoc Committee on Delta Islands and appointed Director Desi Alvarez as Chair, and Directors Marty Miller, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley as members. (Item 6B).

**54473** Award a \$511,294 procurement contract to Tricor Industrial Inc. to furnish two tanks to replace the sodium hypochlorite storage tanks at the Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant (Item 7-1)

**54474** Authorize an agreement with Oracle America, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$4,603,698 for Metropolitan's Oracle E Business Suite System migration to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure and Upgrade project (Item 7-2).

**54475** Authorize an agreement with Bayen Group, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$598,880 for Metropolitan's IntraMet Redesign project (Item 7-3).

**54476** Approve Metropolitan's extended annual membership in the Center for Energy Advancement through Technological Innovation and annual dues payment of \$68,000 for two additional interest groups, Dam Safety and Asset Management (Item 7-4).

**54477** Adopt Metropolitan's 2025 Urban Water Management Plan and its corresponding resolution for submittal to the State of California and adopt Metropolitan's Water Shortage Contingency Plan and its corresponding resolution for submittal to the State of California (Item 7-5).

**54478** Authorize the General Manager to enter into six agreements for skilled labor temporary services with the following six agencies: Abacus Service Corporation, Diskriter Inc., Johnson Service Group Inc., PSP Group Inc., Tryfacta Inc., and 22nd Century Technologies Inc., each with up to four annual renewal options, with a maximum combined total not-to-exceed amount of \$4.5 million per year (Item 7-7).

**54479** Award a \$1,072,500 contract to Heed Engineering for storm drainage improvements along Holland Road at Diamond Valley Lake (Item 7-8).

Chair Ortega called on Directors to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures on Consent Calendar Items 7-1 through 7-5, Items 7-7 through 7-8.

Director Erdman recused himself on Item 7-2 as he has a small amount of Oracle stock.

Chair Ortega announced we will consider the Consent Calendar Items 6B, 7-1 through 7-5, 7-7 through 7-8.

Director Miller moved, seconded by Director Garza, that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6B, 7-1 through 7-5, Items 7-7 through 7-8.

Chair Ortega called for a vote for the Consent Calendar Items 6B, 7-1 through 7-5, 7-7 through 7-8.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s): 6B, 7-1 through 7-5, 7-7, & 7-8									
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel	x	x	6706				
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman	x	x	4853				
Burbank	3416	Ramos							
Calleguas Municipal Water District	14206	McMillan	x	x	14206				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	21215	Garza	x	x	10608				
		Crawford	x	x	10608				
			Subtotal:		21215				
Compton	718	McCoy	x	x	718				
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Paule	x	x	14725				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2444	Bryant	x	x	2444				
Fullerton	2840	Jung	x	x	2840				
Glendale	4326	Kassakhian	x	x	4326				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	18220	Camacho	x	x	18220				
Las Virgenes	3346	Lewitt	x	x	3346				
Long Beach	7105	Cordero							
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley	x	x	28945				
		Petersen	x	x	28945				
		Quinn							
		Daniels	x	x	28945				
		Douglas							
			Subtotal:		86834				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Crane	x	x	17894				
		Erdman	x	x	17894				
			Subtotal:		71574				
Pasadena	4190	Kurtz	x	x	4190				
San Diego County Water Authority	73565	Fong-Sakai							
		Denham							
		Miller	x	x	36783				
		Katz	x	x	36783				
			Subtotal:		73565				
San Fernando	288	Ortega	x	x	288				
San Marino	878	Shepherd Romey	x	x	878				
Santa Ana	3732	Phan							
Santa Monica	5256	Gold	x	x	5256				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9536	De Jesus	x	x	9536				
Torrance	3949	Jay	x	x	3949				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14772	Fellow	x	x	14772				
West Basin Municipal Water District	29790	Alvarez	x	x	29790				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		29790				
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
<b>Total</b>	<b>424986</b>				<b>410733</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>14253</b>								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6B, 7-1 through 7-5, 7-7 through 7-8 (M.I. No. 54472 through 54479\*) passed by a vote of 410,733 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 14,253 absent.

\*Director Erdman recused himself on Consent Item 7-2 (**M.I. 54474**), passed by a vote of 410,733 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 14,253 absent.

Chair Ortega called on Directors to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures on Board Items 8-1 through 8-3.

**54480** Adopt a resolution in support of the application for Proposition 4 funding under the State Water Resources Control Board Water Recycling Funding Program for the direct potable reuse testing facility improvements at the Napolitano Innovation Center; and authorized the General Manager to accept the grant if awarded; and appropriate any funds awarded (Board Item 8-1).

**54481** a. Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the certified 2024 F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program Environmental Impact Report; b. Award a \$26,679,800 contract to PCN3 Inc. for seismic upgrades to the Weymouth Administration and Control Building; c. Authorized an agreement with Arcadis U.S. Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$1.3 million for technical support during construction; and d. Authorized an agreement with Fugro USA Land Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 for geotechnical engineering support during construction (Board Item 8-2).

**54482** Adopt resolution to continue Metropolitan's Water Standby Charge for fiscal year 2026/27 (Board Item 8-3).

Chair Ortega asked if any Directors want to discuss and/or vote separately on Board Action Items 8-1 through 8-3. None were made.

Director Katz recused himself on Item 8-2.

Director Miller moved, seconded by Director McCoy, that the Board approve Board Items 8-1 through 8-3.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Items 8-1 through 8-3

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	8-1, 8-2, 8-3								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel	x	x	6706				
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman	x	x	4853				
Burbank	3416	Ramos							
Calleguas Municipal Water District	14206	McMillan	x	x	14206				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	21215	Garza	x	x	10608				
		Crawford	x	x	10608				
			Subtotal:		21215				
Compton	718	McCoy	x	x	718				
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Paule	x	x	14725				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2444	Bryant	x	x	2444				
Fullerton	2840	Jung	x	x	2840				
Glendale	4326	Kassakhian	x	x	4326				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	18220	Camacho	x	x	18220				
Las Virgenes	3346	Lewitt	x	x	3346				
Long Beach	7105	Cordero							
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley	x	x	28945				
		Petersen	x	x	28945				
		Quinn							
		Daniels	x					x	28945
		Douglas							
			Subtotal:		57889				28945
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Crane	x	x	17894				
		Erdman	x	x	17894				
			Subtotal:		71574				
Pasadena	4190	Kurtz	x	x	4190				
San Diego County Water Authority	73565	Fong-Sakai							
		Denham							
		Miller	x	x	36783				
		Katz	x	x	36783				
			Subtotal:		73565				
San Fernando	288	Ortega	x	x	288				
San Marino	878	Shepherd Romey	x	x	878				
Santa Ana	3732	Phan							
Santa Monica	5256	Gold							
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9536	De Jesus	x	x	9536				
Torrance	3949	Jay	x	x	3949				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14772	Fellow	x	x	14772				
West Basin Municipal Water District	29790	Alvarez	x	x	29790				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		29790				
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
<b>Total</b>	<b>424986</b>				<b>376532</b>				<b>28945</b>
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>19509</b>								

The motion to approve the Board Items 8-1 through 8-3\* (M.I. No. 54480 through 54482) passed by a vote of 376,532 ayes; 0 noes; 28,945 abstain; 0 not voting; and 19,509 absent.

\*Director Katz recused himself on Board Item 8-2 (**M.I. No. 54481**) passed by a vote of 376,532 ayes; 0 noes; 28,945 abstain; 0 not voting; and 19,509 absent.

**54483** Chair Ortega if there was any discussion on Item 9-1. No requests were made.

**54484** Report on Department Head Salary Survey (Board Agenda Item 10-1).

Item 10-1 presentation given by Mr. Brandon Patrick.

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

Director(s)

1. Kurtz

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

**54485** Security Awareness Training [Conference with Tomer Benito, Unit Manager-Security, Office of Safety, Security, and Protection or designated Metropolitan Security Agent on threats to public services or facilities; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957(a)] (Board Item 10-2).

Chair Ortega called the meeting into closed session to discuss Board Item 10-2 at 2:42 p.m.

Directors Katz and McMillan left the meeting.

In open session, Chair Ortega stated no action was taken in closed session.

**54486** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. No requests were made.

**54487** There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

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**RICKITA C. HUDSON**  
**BOARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

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**ADÁN ORTEGA, JR.**  
**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**