

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

July 7, 2025

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman (AB 2449 “just cause”), Dennstedt (AB 2449 “just cause”), Fellow, Gray (teleconference posted location), Jay, Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Katz, Lewitt, Ramos (teleconference posted location), and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: Directors Camacho and Luna

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Bryant, Cordero, Dick, Faessel, Kurtz, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Ortega, Pressman (teleconference posted location), and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Rubin, Salgado, Schaffer, Stites, Upadhyay, and Zinke

Director Ackerman stated that she was attending the meeting under AB 2449 just cause due to a medical condition and that she was alone in the room.

Director Dennstedt stated that she was attending the meeting under AB 2449 just cause due to a contagious illness and that she was alone in the room.

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

None

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee held May 12, 2025.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

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

Ayes: Directors Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, Katz,
Lewitt, Ramos, and Shepherd Romey

Noes: None

Abstentions: Jay

Absent: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, and Luna

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstain, and 3 absent.

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Update on Conservation Outreach

Presented by: Teresa Gonzalez Robertson, Principal Public Affairs
Representative

Ms. Robertson provided an update on the conservation advertising campaign strategy, performance, and expenditures.

b. Subject: Update on Local Government and Regional Affairs Outreach

Presented by: Christine Frey, Interim Legislative Services Section Manager

Ms. Frey provided an overview of Legislative Services and local outreach, advocacy, and education.

The following Chair and Director provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Ortega
- 2) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

c. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Morgan Leonard, Senior Legislative Representative

Ms. Leonard provided an update on the budget reconciliation bill, fiscal year 2026 appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Reclamation, and nomination of Ted Cooke as the nominee to be Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation.

- d. Subject: Legislative Update on Delta Conveyance Project

Presented by: Jay Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the Governor's Delta Conveyance Project streamlining package, Joint Legislative Audit Committee, and Metropolitan and Department of Water Resources response to the audit request.

The following Chair and Director provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Kurtz
- 2) Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

Director Kurtz requested that we follow up on the July 15 oversight committee hearing.

- e. Subject: Update on Golden Mussel Regulations

Presented by: Jay Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the legislative efforts and advocacy to respond to the presence of invasive golden mussels and approaches to solutions in the Delta.

- f. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the state legislative calendar, the Metropolitan sponsored bill AB 580 on surface mining and Reclamation Act Exemption, member agency proposals AB 259 on open meetings for local agencies and teleconferences and AB 523 on Metropolitan Water District's proxy vote authorizations, and other legislation.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Shepherd Romey
- 2) Katz

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: External Affairs Activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, External Affairs Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on public outreach for the Pure Water of Southern California Draft Environmental Impact Report, Board Advocacy, and communications to promote safety and the 2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Seckel
- 2) Ortega
- 3) Lewitt
- 4) Shepherd Romey

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Director Kurtz requested that we follow up on the July 15 oversight committee hearing.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Jay Lewitt
Chair