MINUTES

MEETING OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

January 13, 2026

54355 The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

54356 The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Linda Ackerman, Municipal Water District of Orange County.

54357 The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Desi Alvarez, West Basin Municipal Water District.

54358 Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero, Crane, Crawford, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Douglas, Erdman, Faessel (teleconference posted location available for the public), Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gray (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan (teleconference posted location available for the public), Miller, Ortega, Petersen, Phan (teleconference posted location available for the public), Paule, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Denham, Jay, Jung, Katz, and Lewitt.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Director(s) entered after roll call: Directors Gold (teleconference posted location available for the public) and Kassakhian.

54359 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.	Ernesto Medrano	LAOC Building Trades Council	Items 8-2, 8-2, and 9-3
2.	Kelly Gardner	Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster	Item 8-2
3.	Darcy Burke	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	Item 8-2

4.	Matt Litchfield	Three Valleys Municipal Water District	Item 8-2
5.	Bruce Reznik	LA Waterkeeper	Item 8-2
6.	Jeff Hanlon	Three Valleys Municipal Water District	Item 8-2
7.	Kevin Harbor	President BizFed	Item 8-2
8.	John Mendoza	Pomona Resident	Item 8-2
9.	Gary Bopker	Friends of River	Items 8-2, 8-2, and 9-3
10.	Lauren Akeem	LA Alliance	Item 8-2
11.	Regina Martin	Black Women for Wellness	Item 8-2

Director Kassakhian entered the meeting.

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

54360 Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of December, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

54361 Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, he welcomed the new Metropolitan General Manager, Deshmukh, celebration of 2025 accomplishments and 2026 commitments to delivering reliable water to Southern California, recognized Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, requested to adjourn the board in honor of Dawn Chin who served as Board Executive Secretary for over twenty years until her retirement, as well as Director Lewitt's father Maurice Lewitt. Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions or comments. None were made.

54362 General Manager Deshmukh, in addition to his written report, reported on the transition from designated general manager and his first one hundred days, the one-year anniversary of the Eaton Wildfires, the local hazard mitigation plan, negotiations for the Colorado River, and the budget update.

54363 General Counsel Scully, in addition to her written report, reported on the Delta Validation decision.

54364 Ethics Officer Salinas in addition to his written report, updated on the Ethics conference and reminder that Form 700 deadline is April 1, 2026.

54365 General Auditor Suzuki stated nothing to add to his written report.

54366 Induction of new Director Philip Paule representing Eastern Municipal Water District. General Counsel Scully confirmed the credentials are in order. Directors Paule and General Manager Joe Mouawad made remarks.

Director Gold entered the meeting.

54367 Approve minutes for the meeting of the Joint Board of Directors and Executive Committee for July 22, 2025, and August 26, 2025; and the Special Board of Directors for September 8, 2025 (Agenda Item 6A).

54368 Approve Commendatory Resolution for Jeffrey Armstrong representing Eastern Municipal Water District (Agenda Item 6B).

54369 Approve and appoint Committee Assignments. Appointing Director Paule as a member of the Finance, Affordability, Asset Management, and Efficiency Committee, and the Legislation and Communications Committee; Director Ramos as Chair of the Audit Committee, and as a member of the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships; Director Crane as Vice Chair of the Audit Committee (Agenda Item 6C).

Chair Ortega announced we will consider the consent calendar items 6A, 6B, and 6C.

Consent Calendar Items- Action

Director Camacho moved, seconded by Director McCoy, that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, and 6C.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, and 6C.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):	6A, 6B, 6C								
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	x	x	3416				
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							
Glendale	4326	Kassakhian	x	x	4326				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	18220	Camacho	x	x	18220				
Las Virgenes	3346	Lewitt							
Long Beach	7105	Cordero	x	x	7105				
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley	x	x	21709				
		Petersen	x	x	21709				
		Quinn	x	x	21709				
		Vacant							
		Douglas	x	x	21709				
			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	x	x	36783				
		Denham							
		Miller	x	x	36783				
		Katz							
			Subtotal:		73565				
San Fernando	288	Ortega	x	x	288				
San Marino	878	Shepherd Romey	x	x	878				
Santa Ana	3732	Phan	x	x	3732				
Santa Monica	5256	Gold	x	x	5256				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9536	De Jesus	x	x	9536				
Torrance	3949	Jay							
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14772	Fellow	x	x	14772				
West Basin Municipal Water District	29790	Alvarez	x	x	14895				
		Gray	x	x	14895				
			Subtotal:		29790				
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
Total	**424986**				**414851**				
Present and not voting									
Absent	**10135**								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6C (**M.I. No. 54367 through 54369**) passed by a vote of 414,851 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 10,135 absent.

Chair Ortega announced that he has turned in the first Proxy form for February, and Directors should work with Board Executive Officer Rubin and Board Vice Chairs Camacho and Sutley if they need something in his absence.

54370 Reviewed and considered Addendum No. 6 to the certified 2017 Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Rehabilitation Program, and (a.) awarded a $61,242,000 contract to J.F. Shea Construction Inc. to rehabilitate Sepulveda Feeder Reach 2. and (b.) authorized an agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of $1,300,000 for technical support during construction (Board Item 8-1).

54371 Approved guiding principles for Pure Water Southern California partnerships with the following amendments: (1.) the addition of the following language to the Guiding Principles for each partnership: project participants recognize that Pure Water Southern California has been developed to allow for long-term adaptive implementation, including: (1) by allowing for phasing and/or staging funding and construction, and (2) if feasible and permittable, by allowing for direct potable reuse; (2.) in the Proposed Principles to Guide the Metropolitan – Southern Nevada/Arizona Parties Partnership and in the Proposed Principles to Guide Metropolitan – Others within the Southern California Region: San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, changed the term “equity” to the term “fair value” (Board Item 8-2).

54372 Approved a limited waiver of the Brown Act closed session privilege regarding the closed session meeting of the Organization, Personnel, and Effectiveness Committee on October 14, 2025, for the limited purpose of conducting an attorney-client privileged investigation overseen by the Ethics Office, and authorized Metropolitan staff and directors present during the October 14, 2025 closed session Committee meeting to disclose information from the closed session to the assigned investigator pursuant to the limited waiver (Board Item 8-3).

54373 Approved option #1 as set forth in the confidential board letter and directed in closed session. (Agenda Item 8-4)

Chair Ortega stated for the record disclosure on Item 8-2 involves a discussion of guiding principles for potential agreements with member agencies, Central Basin Municipal Water District, City of Long Beach, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, City of Torrance, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, and West Basin Municipal Water District. Items 9-2 and 9-3 may involve related discussions. Therefore, pursuant to Government Code Section 1090, the following disclosures will be made on the record: Directors Crawford, Garza, Cordero, De Jesus, Jay, Fellow, Alvarez, and Gray receive reimbursements, stipends, and other benefits from their respective appointing authorities for their service on the Metropolitan Board. Directors Douglas, Petersen, Quinn, and Sutley are entitled to an attendance payment for attending metropolitan board meetings but have declined such payments. The Directors have been advised that, with this disclosure on the record, they may participate in these items - other than Director Sutley, who will make a recusal statement, if present. Director Pressman will also make a recusal statement, if present.

Chair Ortega called on Directors to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures on Board Items 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, and 8-4.

Director Sutley recused herself on Item 8-2 as it involves a potential agreement with LADWP and she receive income as a City of Los Angeles employee because the item involves an agreement with her employing department, LADWP, she is not participating in the matter and Items 9-2 and 9-3 may involve related topics in abundance of caution she will not participate in those items, but advised she may remain in the room.

Director Pressman recused himself on Item 8-2 as it involves a potential agreement with LADWP because the City of LA is a business client; he is not participating in the matter, and Items 9-2 and 9-3 may involve related topics in abundance of caution he will not participate in those items, but advised he may remain in the room.

Director Phan recused herself on Items 8-1 and 8-2 as it involves Bayview Asset Management LLC, City of Long Beach, DRPSEC, and City of Torrance as they are clients of her employer Rutan and Tucker.

Director Camacho disclosed he will not vote on Item 8-4 as it involves a personal conflict and he has been advised he may remain in the room.

Chair Ortega asked if any Directors want to discuss and/or vote on separately on Items 8-1, 8-2, or 8-3. None were made.

Chair Ortega asked if any Directors want to discuss and/or vote on Item 8-4 in closed session. None were made.

Director Fellow moved, seconded by Director Cordero, that the Board approve Board Items 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, and 8-4.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Items 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, and 8-4.

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

Director(s)
1. Seckel

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	8-1, 8-2, 8-3, and 8-4								
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	x	x	3416				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	14206	McMillan	x	x	14206				
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		Petersen	x	x	21709				
		Quinn	x	x	21709				
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			Subtotal:		29790				
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
Total	**424986**				**414851**				
Present and not voting									
Absent	**10135**								

The motion to approve the Board Items 8-1*, 8-2*, 8-3, and 8-4* (**M.I. No. 54370 through 54373**) passed by a vote of 414,851 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 10,135 absent.

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*Director Phan recused herself on Board Item 8-1 (**M.I. 54370**) passed by a vote of 411,119 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 13,867 absent.

*Directors Phan, Pressman, and Sutley recused themselves on Board Item 8-2 (**M.I. 54371**) passed by a vote of 406,266 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 18,720 absent.

*Director Camacho did not vote on Board Item 8-4 (**M.I. No 54373**) passed by a vote of 396,631 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 18,220 not voting; and 10,135 absent.

54374 Chair Ortega introduced Group Manager Hatter to introduce the guest speakers for Items 9-2 and 9-3 Pure Water Southern California and Other Partnership Opportunities, Robert Ferrante, Chief Engineer and General Manager, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, and Doa Ross, Deputy General Manager, Engineering and Operations, Southern Nevada Water Authority.

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

Director(s)
1. Ortega
2. Garza
3. Gold
4. Miller
5. Petersen
6. De Jesus
7. Crawford

Director Phan left the meeting.

54375 Chair Ortega introduced Senior Deputy General Counsel Kuo Brinton to introduce guest speaker for Item 10-1 Richard Pio with Redwood Public Law Brown Act training and an Update on SB707.

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

Director(s)
1. Quinn
2. Kurtz
3. Ramos
4. Dennstedt
5. Ortega
6. Petersen
7. Crane
8. Garza
9. Camacho
10. Douglas
11. Miller

12. Fellow

Director Ramos left the meeting

54376 Security Awareness Training and Physical Security Biannual Update [To be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957(a)].

Chair Ortega called the meeting into closed session to discuss Board Item 10-2 at 3:04 p.m.

Director Gray left the meeting.

The meeting returned to open session at 3:30 p.m.

Chair Ortega stated that the Board discussed Board Item 10-2, no action was taken in closed session.

54377 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. No requests were made.

54378 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. No requests were made.

54379 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned in honor of Dawn Chin and Maurice Lewitt at 3:32 p.m.

LOIS FONG-SAKAI
BOARD SECRETARY

ADÁN ORTEGA, JR.
CHAIR OF THE BOARD