

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

April 8, 2025

540163415 The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in on Tuesday, April 08, 2025.

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

540173416 The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Larry Dick, Municipal Water District of Orange County.

540183417 The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Jay Lewitt, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District.

540193418 Board Executive Secretary Hudson administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero, Crawford, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Douglas, Erdman, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gold, Goldberg, Gray (teleconference posted location available for the public), Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Katz, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location available for the public), Lewitt, Luna, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Ortega, Petersen, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutely.

Those not responding were: Directors Faessel and Phan.

Board Executive Secretary Hudson declared a quorum present.

Director(s) entered after roll call: Kassakhian.

540203419 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.	Joe Mouawad	Eastern Municipal Water District	Item 7-9
2.	Scott Quady	Calleguas Municipal Water District	Item 7-9
3.	Raul Avila	Calleguas Municipal Water District	Item 7-9

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|-------------------------------------------|----------|
| 4. | Bruce Reznik | LA Water Keepers | Item 7-6 |
| 5. | Tony Trembly | Council Member City of Camarillo | Item 7-9 |
| 6. | Gary Bobker | Program Director, Friends of the River | Item 7-6 |
| 7. | John Mendoza | City of Pomona | Item 7-9 |
| 8. | Philips Musgow | Executive Director San Diego Coast Keeper | Item 7-6 |

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

Director(s)

1. Dick

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

540213420 Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of March, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

540223421 Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, he announced that Metropolitan will observe Armenian History Month with recognition on social media platforms and celebrate Earth Week. Lastly, recognition of the efforts of the administrative team at the desert facilities on social media in honor of Administrative Professionals Day on April 23. Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions. None were made.

Director Kassakhian entered the meeting.

540233422 General Manager Upadhyay, in addition to his written report, on the following items: The San Jacinto Tunnel facility was named in honor of former Chair and Director Randy Record. During the event, staff conducted tunnel tours, and a video was shown of the tunnel. The Diamond Valley Lake naming event is approaching, so please RSVP. The process matters memorandum to the workforce, with a ninety-day deadline to receive feedback on streamlining and improving effectiveness.

Lastly, spotlight on Metropolitan Employee Robert Velasquez retiring with 32 years of service. JR Rhodes and Robert Velasquez made remarks. Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions. None were made.

540243423 General Counsel Scully stated she had nothing to add to her written report and that she will be absent from the May meetings, Assistant General Counsel Heather Beatty will be her delegate.

540253424 General Auditor Suzuki, in addition to his written report, the next audit committee meeting will be on April 22nd, and Kathryn Andrus has been promoted to Assistant General Auditor.

540263425 Ethics Officer Salinas, in addition to his written report, Ethics is reassessing the ethics program, the visit with City of Anaheim Ethics Officer, and Form 700 filers should be required to take AB1234, and a board letter will be presented on the item next month. Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions. None were made.

540273426 Induction of new Director Gretchen Shepherd Romey from City of San Marino. General Counsel confirmed the credentials are in order. Chair Ortega and Director Shepherd Romey made remarks.

Chair Ortega announced that the agenda would be taken out of order. Item 7-9 will be heard first followed by Item 6C.

540283427 Express support if amended for AB523 (Irwin) Metropolitan Water Districts: alternative representative, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-9 board letter.

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

Director(s)

1. Dick
2. De Jesus
3. Armstrong
4. Sutley
5. Katz
6. Ramos
7. Pressman
8. McMillan
9. Dennstedt
10. Luna
11. Lewitt
12. Camacho
13. Kassakhian
14. Shepherd Romey
15. Ackerman
16. Garza
17. Ortega

Motion by Armstrong, seconded by Camacho to approve Consent Calendar Items 7-9.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Item 7-9.

Director Gray left the meeting.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s): 7-9									
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel							
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x			x	3330		
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x					x	2543
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x			x	2766		
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x			x	16767		
		Petersen	x			x	16767		
		Quinn	x			x	16767		
		Luna	x			x	16767		
		Douglas	x			x	16767		
			Subtotal:				83835		
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x			x	17026		
		Seckel	x			x	17026		
		Dick	x			x	17026		
		Erdman	x			x	17026		
			Subtotal:				68102		
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x					x	4042
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17540				
		Goldberg	x	x	17540				
		Miller	x	x	17540				
		Katz	x	x	17540				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Shepherd Romey	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x			x	5055		
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x			x	9019		
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dis	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x			x	28764		
		Gray							
			Subtotal:				28764		
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				188984		200871		6585
Present and not voting									
Absent	9875								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 7-9 (**M.I. No. 540283427**) failed by a vote of 188,984 ayes; 200,871 noes; 6,585 abstain; 0 not voting; and 9,875 absent.

540293428 Nomination and Election of nonofficer member of the Executive Committee for two-year term effective March 11, 2025: Director Jung. (Agenda Item 6B)

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Item 6B.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	6B								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel							
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x	x	2766				
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	20959				
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	20959				
		Luna	x	x	20959				
		Douglas	x	x	20959				
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17540				
		Goldberg	x	x	17540				
		Miller	x	x	17540				
		Katz	x	x	17540				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Shepherd R	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				396440				
Present and not voting									
Absent	9875								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 6B (M.I. No. 540293428) passed by a vote of 396,440 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 9,875 absent.

540303429 Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any comments or discussions on the Approval of the Minutes of the Special Audit Subcommittee of the Executive Committee for November 20, 2024; Ethics, Organization, and Personnel Committee for February 10, 2025; Ethics, EEO, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee for March 10, 2025; and Board of Directors Meetings for February 11, 2025 and March 11, 2025 (Agenda Item 6A). None were made.

540313430 Approve and appoint Committee Assignments. Appoint Director Shepherd Romey as a member of the Legislation and Communications Committee and the One Water and Adaptation Committee (Agenda Item 6C).

Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions on the committee appointments. No comments were made.

Chair Ortega called on Directors who are requesting that any items be pulled from the Consent Calendar Action Items and to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures.

Director Bryant disclosed on Item 7-12 that he receives per diem reimbursements and other benefits from Foothill Municipal Water District for service on the Board, and due to section 56, he will not vote, including abstaining on the item, which is an agreement between Metropolitan and Foothill.

Director De Jesus disclosed on Item 7-13 that he receives per diem reimbursements and other benefits from Three Valleys Municipal Water District for service on the Board, and due to section 56, he will not vote, including abstaining on the item, which is an agreement between Metropolitan and Three Valleys.

Director Crawford disclosed on Item 7-14 that he receives per diem reimbursements and other benefits from Central Basin Municipal Water District for service on the Board, for which he declines reimbursement, and due to section 56, he will not vote, including abstaining on the item, which is an agreement between Metropolitan and Central Basin.

Director Garza disclosed on Item 7-14 that he receives per diem reimbursements and other benefits from Central Basin Municipal Water District for service on the Board, and due to section 56, he will not vote, including abstaining on the item, which is an agreement between Metropolitan and Central Basin.

Director Cordero disclosed on Items 7-14 and 7-15 that she receives per diem reimbursements and other benefits from the City of Long Beach for service on the Board. In addition, her spouse is a City of Long Beach employee. She can participate on the items.

Director Ackerman disclosed on Item 7-16 that she receives per diem reimbursements and other benefits from the Municipal Water District of Orange County for service on the Board. In addition, she is recusing herself because her spouse performs consulting services for the Municipal Water District of Orange County. She will not vote on the item and will leave the meeting until the completion of the item.

Director Ackerman left the meeting.

Director Dick disclosed on Item 7-16 that he receives per diem reimbursements and other benefits from Municipal Water District of Orange County for service on the Board, and due to section 56 he will not vote, including abstaining on the item, which is an agreement between Metropolitan and Municipal Water District of Orange County.

Director Erdman disclosed on Item 7-16, which is an agreement between Metropolitan and Municipal Water District of Orange County, that he receives per diem reimbursements and other benefits from Municipal Water District of Orange County for service on the Board. He can participate on the item.

Director Seckel disclosed on Item 7-16 that he receives per diem reimbursements and other benefits from the Municipal Water District of Orange County for service on the Board, and due to section 56 he will not vote, including abstaining on the item, which is an agreement between Metropolitan and the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

Director McCoy disclosed on Item 7-17, which is an agreement between Metropolitan and the City of Compton, that she does not receive per diem, but she is entitled to receive a per diem reimbursement or other benefits for her services on the Board. She can participate on the item.

Consent Calendar Items- Action

540323431 Authorize an increase of \$1.0 million to a professional services agreement with GridSME for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$1.245 million for electric transmission planning and NERC-related electric reliability compliance services, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

540333432 Authorize an agreement with Red8 in an amount not to exceed \$850,000 for the implementation of the Data Storage Infrastructure Refresh project, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

540343433 Authorize an agreement with Metal Toad Media Inc. for a new fixed cost of \$299,000 per year with a not-to-exceed amount of \$996,200 for the duration of the three-year agreement to host, manage, and maintain Metropolitan's external websites, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

540353434 Authorize an increase of \$3.3 million to an existing agreement with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$4.99 million for final design of a mechanical dewatering facility at the Jensen plant, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

540363435 Authorize an amendment to a reimbursable agreement with BH Luxury Residences LLC to provide design review and inspection-related activities for the relocation of the Santa Monica Feeder, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

540373436 Approve Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water Five-Year Implementation Strategy, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

540383437 Adopt resolutions fixing and adopting a Readiness-to-Serve Charge and a Capacity Charge for calendar year (CY) 2026, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-7 board letter.

540393438 Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to conform oversight of the General Auditor and Audit Department duties and responsibilities to the current committee structure, streamline reporting on professional services agreement, and make a minor non-substantive change as set forth in Agenda Item 7-8 board letter.

540403439 Approve the attached salary schedule, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-10 board letter.

540413440 Authorize the General Manager to extend California Contractor Forbearance for Intentionally Created Surplus, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-11 board letter.

540423441 Authorize the General Manager to terminate the Foothill Area Conjunctive Use Program Agreement, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-12 board letter.

540433442 Authorize the General Manager to terminate the Live Oak Basin Conjunctive Use Program Agreement, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-13 board letter.

540443443 Authorize the General Manager to terminate the Long Beach Conjunctive Use Program Agreement, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-14 board letter.

540453444 Authorize the General Manager to terminate the Long Beach Expansion into the Lakewood Conjunctive Use Program Agreement, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-15 board letter.

540463445 Authorize the General Manager to terminate the Orange County Conjunctive Use Program Agreement, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-16 board letter.

540473446 Authorize the General Manager to terminate the Compton Conjunctive Use Program Agreement, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-17 board letter.

540483447 Authorize the General Counsel to increase the amount payable under contract with outside counsel, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, in the amount of \$200,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$450,000, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-18 board letter.

Director Sutley moved, seconded by Director Camacho, that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6C, 7-1 through 7-8, and 7-10 through 7-18.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6C, 7-1 through 7-8, and 7-10 through 7-18.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):		6A, 6C, and 7-1 to 7-8 and 7-10 through 7-18							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel							
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x	x	2766				
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	16767				
		Petersen	x	x	16767				
		Quinn	x	x	16767				
		Luna	x	x	16767				
		Douglas	x	x	16767				
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	22701				
		Dick	x	x	22701				
		Erdman	x	x	22701				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17540				
		Goldberg	x	x	17540				
		Miller	x	x	17540				
		Katz	x	x	17540				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Shepherd R	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				396440				
Present and not voting									
Absent	9875								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6C, 7-1 through 7-8, and 7-10 through 7-18 (**M.I. No. 540303429 through 540483447***) passed by a vote of 399,980 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,335 absent.

*Director Bryant did not vote on Item 7-12 (M.I. 540423441) passed by a vote of 393,897 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 2,543 not voting; and 9,875 absent.

*Director De Jesus did not vote on Item 7-13 (M.I. 540433442) passed by a vote of 387,421 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 9,019 not voting; and 9,875 absent.

*Directors Crawford and Garza did not vote on Item 7-14 (M.I. 540443443) passed by a vote of 376,175 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 20,265 not voting; and 9,875 absent.

* Directors Dick and Seckel did not vote on Item 7-16 (M.I. 540463445) passed by a vote of 396,440 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 9,875 absent.

Director Ackerman entered the meeting.

540493448 Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the certified 2024 Final Environmental Impact Report and related documentation, and that no further environmental analysis or documentation is required and authorize an increase of \$12.4 million to an agreement with La Cañada Design Group Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$16.8 million for final design to upgrade the Michael J. McGuire Water Quality Laboratory (Board Item 8-1).

540503449 Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP, in the amount of \$250,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$750,000 (Board Item 8-2).

Director Garza moved, seconded by Director Camacho, that the Board approve Board Items 8-1 and 8-2.

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

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	8-1 & 8-2								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel							
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x	x	2766				
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	16767				
		Petersen	x	x	16767				
		Quinn	x	x	16767				
		Luna	x	x	16767				
		Douglas	x	x	16767				
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17540				
		Goldberg	x	x	17540				
		Miller	x	x	17540				
		Katz	x	x	17540				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Shepherd Ror	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dis	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				396440				
Present and not voting									
Absent	9875								

The motion to approve the Board Items 8-1 and 8-2 (M.I. No. 540493448 and 540503449) passed by a vote of 396,440 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 9,875 absent.

540513450 Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or a need for discussion on Board Information Items 9-1, 9-2 and 9-3. No requests were made.

540523451 Chair Ortega stated we have no other matters.

540533452 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. No requests were made.

540543453 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. No requests were made.

540553454 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.



RICKITA HUDSON
BOARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



ADÁN ORTEGA, JR.
CHAIR OF THE BOARD