

# **THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

## **MINUTES**

### **SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE ONE WATER AND ADAPTATION COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMPORTED WATER**

**December 8, 2025**

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Cordero, Denham (AB2449 Just Cause), Erdman, Garza, Gold (teleconference posted location, entered after rollcall), Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, Miller, Pressman, Quinn, Seckel, and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: Directors Camacho, De Jesus, and McMillan.

Other Board Members present: Directors Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Jay, and Ramos (teleconference posted location).

Director Denham indicated he was participating under AB 2449 Just Cause due to a contagious illness. He appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee Staff present: Bednarski, Crosson, Deshmukh, Goshi, Harms, Horton, Hudson, Martin, Rossett, Rubin, Schlotterbeck, and Upadhyay.

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

##### Public Speakers included:

1. John Belperio, Northern California Carpenters Union referencing the Sites Reservoir Project.
2. Neil Desai, National Parks Conservation Association referencing the Cadiz Project.

Director Gold entered the meeting.

#### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Joint One Water and Adaptation and Subcommittee on Imported Water Meeting for November 17, 2025, was deferred.

### **3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

**7-5** Subject: Review and consider the Yuba County Water Agency certified Final 21-5264 Supplemental Environmental Impact Report; Authorize an amendment to the Dry Year Water Purchase Program Agreement with the California Department of Water Resources to purchase water supply under the Yuba Accord Long-Term Water Transfer Program

Presented by: Jessica Arm, Resource Specialist

Motion: Authorize the Yuba County Water Agency certified Final 21-5264 Supplemental Environmental Impact Report; Authorize an amendment to the Dry Year Water Purchase Program Agreement with the California Department of Water Resources to purchase water supply under the Yuba Accord Long-Term Water Transfer Program

**7-6** Subject: Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was 21-5265 previously addressed in the 2019 Mitigated Negative Declaration, and authorize an amendment extending the term to December 31, 2029 for the Rancho Los Cerritos – Looking Back to Advance Forward Project Agreement under the Stormwater for Direct Use Program

Presented by: Jessica Arm, Resource Specialist

Motion: Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was 21-5265 previously addressed in the 2019 Mitigated Negative Declaration, and authorize an amendment extending the term to December 31, 2029 for the Rancho Los Cerritos – Looking Back to Advance Forward Project Agreement under the Stormwater for Direct Use Program

No presentations were given.

Director Cordero read a disclosure statement regarding item 7-6. Director Katz made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz, to approve the Consent Calendar Items consisting of items 7-5 and 7-6. These items were voted on by members of the One Water and Adaptation Committee only.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Cordero, Denham, Erdman, Gold, Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, McMillan, Miller, Pressman, Seckel, and Shepherd Romey.

Noes: None.

Absent: Director McMillan.

The motion for items 7-5 and 7-6 passed by a vote of 14 ayes, no noes, and 1 absent.

Director Denham stated he was alone in the room for the vote.

**4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

None.

**5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

None.

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)**

a. Subject: Report on Water Surplus and Drought Management

Presented by: Noosha Razavian, Resource Specialist

Mr. Brandon Goshi, Group Manager, Water Resource Management, provided background information and introductory remarks.

Ms. Razavian reported a 10% initial State Water Project allocation for 2026, with higher allocations and potential surplus supplies possible, while hydrologic conditions remain generally favorable despite low snowpack. For 2025, Metropolitan's imported supply slightly exceeds demand, resulting in a small surplus and projected year-end storage of about 3.8 million acre-feet supply versus 1.96 million acre-feet of demand, resulting in a small surplus and projected year-end storage of about 3.8 million acre-feet.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Pressman
2. Katz

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

b. Subject: Update on Local Resources Program and Local Resource Development Workshop, was deferred.

c. Subject: Delta Conveyance Project Update

Presented by: Maureen Martin, Interim Group Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives

Mr. Bednarski, Assistant General Manager, provided background information and introductory remarks.

Ms. Martin updated the Board on the Delta Conveyance Project, highlighting the Department of Water Resources' commitment to near-term State Water Project reliability improvements. new design options are expected to reduce costs by about \$1.25 billion (6%), with updated design and cost estimates anticipated in early 2027 following geotechnical work. Regulatory and legal processes are ongoing through 2026–2027, with geotechnical work resuming, project payments starting in January 2026, and off-ramps allowing Metropolitan to withdraw if costs or benefits change materially.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel
2. Ackerman
3. Pressman

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

## **7. SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS**

a. Subject: A pilot program for early retirement of alfalfa in the Palo Verde Valley, was deferred.

b. Subject: Update on Colorado River negotiations and protection of Metropolitan's Colorado River water rights [Conference with legal counsel – anticipated litigation – deciding whether to initiate litigation; unknown number of potential cases; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)], was deferred

**8. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

- a. Subject: Bay-Delta Resources activities  
Colorado River Resources activities  
Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation activities  
Water Resource Management activities

Assistant General Manager John Bednarski apologized for the deferred agenda items and stated that there was nothing to report beyond the written reports that were previously issued.

**9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None.

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Director Katz inquired on our input for Sites vendors.
2. Director Lewitt would like a report on ground banking (storage) in the Central Valley.
3. Director Erdman requested a presentation on the restoration of Suisun Marsh.

The next meeting will be held on January 12, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Tracy Quinn  
Chair, One Water and Adaptation Committee

Mark Gold  
Chair, Subcommittee on Imported Water