

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**June 9, 2026**

**54495** The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Tuesday, June 09, 2026.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:17 p.m.

Director Miller stated that he is using just cause due to caretaker responsibilities and that he is alone in the room.

**54496** The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Karl Seckel, Municipal Water District of Orange County.

**54497** The Pledge of Allegiance led by Director Seckel.

**54498** Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Crane, Crawford, Daniels, De Jesus (teleconference posted location available for the public), Dennstedt, Erdman, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Jay, Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kassakhian, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan (teleconference posted location available for the public), Miller (Just-Cause-Caretaker), Ortega, Paule, Petersen, Pressman, Quinn, Seckel, and Shepherd Romey.

Those not responding were: Directors Ackerman, Cordero, Denham, Douglas, Faessel, Gold, Gray, Katz, Phan, Ramos, and Sutley.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

**54499** Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction (in-person and via teleconference). None were made.

The public comment was closed.

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

**54500** Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of May, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

**54501** Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, he announced that the new Berkeley Spring banner

awarding Metropolitan for the best-tasting water in the United States for 2026 is hanging in the boardroom; Metropolitan has won the gold three times, silver three times, and the bronze. Director McCoy was elected to the Compton Unified School District. June is National Safety Month and Pride Month, and Juneteenth Metropolitan will highlight significant events on social media. Lastly, the World Cup Fan Zone will be at Union Station from June 25 to 28, 2026. There will be a street closure in front of Union Station. Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions. None were made.

**54502** General Manager Deshmukh provided an update: Bill Hasencamp will testify before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, focusing on the Colorado River Basin and the ongoing post 2026 operations negotiations; the Central Arizona project tour of Bay Delta Facilities; National Safety Month; and the upcoming all-hands meeting on June 15, 2026, with all Metropolitan staff. Lastly, recognizing retiree Steve Martin for 36 years of service at Metropolitan. Steve Martin made remarks.

**54503** General Counsel Scully stated she had nothing to add to her written report.

**54504** General Auditor Suzuki requested that the Board adjourn the meeting in honor of the late Gerry Riss, retired General Auditor for Metropolitan.

**54505** Ethics Officer Salinas stated he had nothing to add to his written report.

**54506** Presentation of 5-year Service Pin to Director Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District. Chair Ortega and Director Dennstedt made remarks.

**54507** Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting for April 14, 2026, May 12, 2026 and the Special Board of Directors meeting for May 11, 2026 (Item 6A).

**54508** Approve Committee Assignments. Appointed Board Vice Chair Pressman and Director Gold to the Ad Hoc Committee on Delta Islands on June 4, 2026. Appoint Director Shepherd Romey as Vice Chair of the Legal and Claims Committee. Appoint Director Paule as alternate on the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority and the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (Item 6B).

Chair Ortega announced Director McMillian's retirement and thanked her for her service to Metropolitan.

**54509** Award a \$698,352.64 contract to Tintometer Inc. to furnish 128 turbidity meters for the Robert A. Skinner and Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plants (Item 7-1)

**54510** a. Award a \$4,542,000 construction contract to J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for upgrades to the Hollywood Tunnel North Portal Pressure Control Structure; b. Amend Metropolitan's Project Labor Agreement to include the subject project; and c. Authorize the General Manager to acquire a temporary construction easement for an amount not to exceed \$60,000 (Item 7-2).

**54511** Approve the resolution adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan (Item 7-4).

**54512** Approve up to \$2.65 million to purchase insurance coverage for Metropolitan's Property and Casualty Insurance Program to renew or replace all the expiring excess liability and specialty insurance policies and maintain the \$25 million self-insured retention for general liability coverage (Item 7-5).

**54513** Approve Metropolitan's Statement of Investment Policy for fiscal year 2026/27; and delegate authority to the Treasurer to invest Metropolitan's funds for fiscal year 2026/27 (Item 7-6).

**54514** Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 6451 regarding the Audit Department Charter (Item 7-7).

**54515** Approve the General Auditor's Internal Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2026/27 (Item 7-8).

**54516** Award a \$789,356 construction contract to Ortiz & Son Inc. to rehabilitate the toe of the slope supporting Basin No. 8 at the Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant (Item 7-9).

**54517** Approve the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's salary schedules pursuant to CalPERS regulations (Item 7-10).

Chair Ortega called on Directors to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures on Consent Calendar Items 7-1 through 7-2, Items 7-4 through 7-10.

Director Fong-Sakai abstained from Item 6A May minutes as she was absent.

Director Jay abstained from Item 6A April minutes as he was absent.

Chair Ortega announced we will consider the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-2, and 7-4 through 7-10.

Director Erdman moved, seconded by Director Camacho, that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-2, and 7-4 through 7-10.

Chair Ortega called for a vote for the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-2, and 7-4 through 7-10.

The following is a record of the vote:

| Record of Vote on Consent Item(s): 6A, 6B, 7-1, 7-2, 7-4 through 7-10 |               |                |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|-----|---------------|----|---------|---------|--------------|
| Member Agency                                                         | Total Votes   | Director       | Present | Yes | Yes Vote      | No | No Vote | Abstain | Abstain Vote |
| Anaheim                                                               | 6706          | Faessel        |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| 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         |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                                                       |               | Petersen       | x       | x   | 28945         |    |         |         |              |
|                                                                       |               | Quinn          | x       | x   | 28945         |    |         |         |              |
|                                                                       |               | Daniels        | x       | x   | 28945         |    |         |         |              |
|                                                                       |               | Douglas        |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                                                       |               | Subtotal:      |         |     | 86834         |    |         |         |              |
| Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County                                | 71574         | Ackerman       |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                                                       |               | Seckel         | x       | x   | 23858         |    |         |         |              |
|                                                                       |               | Crane          | x       | x   | 23858         |    |         |         |              |
|                                                                       |               | Erdman         | x       | x   | 23858         |    |         |         |              |
|                                                                       |               | 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           |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| 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>398771</b> |    |         |         |              |
| <b>Present and not voting</b>                                         |               |                |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| <b>Absent</b>                                                         | <b>26215</b>  |                |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A\*, 6B, 7-1 through 7-2, and 7-4 through 7-10 (**M.I. No. 54507 through 54517\***), passed by a vote of 398,771 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 26,215 absent.

Director Miller stated he is alone in the room during the vote.

\*Director Jay abstained on Consent Item 6A April Minutes (**M.I. 54507**), it passed by a vote of 394,822 ayes; 0 noes; 3,949 abstain; 0 not voting; and 26,215 absent.

\*Director Fong-Sakai abstained on Consent Item 6A May Minutes (**M.I. 54507**), it passed by a vote of 333,044 ayes; 0 noes; 65,727 abstain; 0 not voting; and 26,215 absent.

\*Director Jay abstained on Consent Item 7-10 (**M.I. 54517**), it passed by a vote of 394,822 ayes; 0 noes; 3,949 abstain; 0 not voting; and 26,215 absent.

Chair Ortega called on Directors to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures on Board Item 8-2. None were made.

Director Alvarez left the meeting.

**54518** Authorize an increase under contract with Van Ness Feldman, LLP in the amount of \$500,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 and with Milbank, LLP in the amount of \$1,000,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,250,000 for legal advice on Colorado River matters (Board Item 8-2).

Director Kassakhian moved, seconded by Director Kurtz, that the Board approve Board Item 8-2.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Item 8-2.

The following is a record of the vote:

| Record of Vote on Item:                  |               | 8-2            |           |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|-----|---------------|----|---------|---------|--------------|
| Member Agency                            | Total Votes   | Director       | Present   | Yes | Yes Vote      | No | No Vote | Abstain | Abstain Vote |
| Anaheim                                  | 6706          | Faessel        |           |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| 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         |           |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Petersen       | x         | x   | 28945         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Quinn          | x         | x   | 28945         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Daniels        | x         | x   | 28945         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Douglas        |           |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               |                | Subtotal: |     | 86834         |    |         |         |              |
| Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County   | 71574         | Ackerman       |           |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Seckel         | x         | x   | 23858         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Crane          | x         | x   | 23858         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Erdman         | x         | x   | 23858         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               |                | 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           |           |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| 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        |           |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Gray           |           |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               |                | Subtotal: |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| Western Municipal Water District         | 16502         | Dennstedt      | x         | x   | 16502         |    |         |         |              |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>424986</b> |                |           |     | <b>368981</b> |    |         |         |              |
| <b>Present and not voting</b>            |               |                |           |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| <b>Absent</b>                            | <b>56005</b>  |                |           |     |               |    |         |         |              |

The motion to approve the Board Item 8-2 (**M.I. No. 54518**) passed by a vote of 368,981 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 56,005 absent.

Director Miller stated he is alone in the room during the vote.

Director Kassakhian left the meeting.

**54519** Chair Ortega if there was any discussion on Items 9-1 through 9-5. No requests were made.

**54520** Discuss department head performance [Public employee performance evaluation— Ethics Officer, General Auditor, General Counsel, and General Manager; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957] (Board Agenda Item 10-1).

Chair Ortega asked the Committee Chairs if they wanted to discuss Item 10-1. No requests were made.

**54521** Approve a cost of wage increase of 3.4% for each of the department heads - the General Manager (annual base pay is \$495,040), General Counsel (annual base pay is \$427,627.20), General Auditor (annual base pay is \$346,569.60), and Ethics Officer (annual base pay is \$335,691.60), with an effective date of June 21, 2026, for competent or better review. The final increased pay rate for these positions would be reflected on the salary schedules, which would be submitted for Board approval at the August 2026 meeting (Board Item 10-2).

Chair Ortega moved, seconded by Camacho, that the Board approve Board Item 10-2.

Item 10-2 presentation given by Mr. Mark Brower. Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions. None were made.

Director Jay left the meeting.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Item 10-2.

The following is a record of the vote:

| Record of Vote on Item:                  |               | 10-2           |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|-----|---------------|----|---------|---------|--------------|
| Member Agency                            | Total Votes   | Director       | Present | Yes | Yes Vote      | No | No Vote | Abstain | Abstain Vote |
| Anaheim                                  | 6706          | Faessel        |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| 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     |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| Inland Empire Utilities Agency           | 18220         | Camacho        | x       | x   | 18220         |    |         |         |              |
| Las Virgenes                             | 3346          | Lewitt         | x       | x   | 3346          |    |         |         |              |
| Long Beach                               | 7105          | Cordero        |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| Los Angeles                              | 86834         | Sutley         |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Petersen       | x       | x   | 28945         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Quinn          | x       | x   | 28945         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Daniels        | x       | x   | 28945         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Douglas        |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Subtotal:      |         |     | 86834         |    |         |         |              |
| Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County   | 71574         | Ackerman       |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Seckel         | x       | x   | 23858         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Crane          | x       | x   | 23858         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Erdman         | x       | x   | 23858         |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | 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           |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| Santa Monica                             | 5256          | Gold           |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| 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        |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Gray           |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
|                                          |               | Subtotal:      |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| Western Municipal Water District         | 16502         | Dennstedt      | x       | x   | 16502         |    |         |         |              |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>424986</b> |                |         |     | <b>360706</b> |    |         |         |              |
| <b>Present and not voting</b>            |               |                |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |
| <b>Absent</b>                            | <b>64280</b>  |                |         |     |               |    |         |         |              |

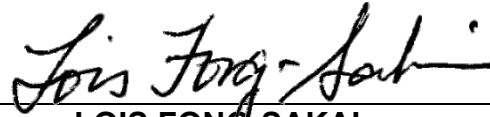
The motion to approve the Board Items 10-2 (**M.I. No. 54521**) passed by a vote of 360,706 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 64,280 absent.

Director Miller stated he is alone in the room during the vote.

**54522** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. No requests were made.



**54523** There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned in honor of the late Former General Auditor Gerry Riss at 3:50 p.m.



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**LOIS FONG-SAKAI  
BOARD SECRETARY**



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