

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 26, 2024

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Ortega called on Director Smith, who stated he was participating via teleconference using AB 2449 just cause due to illness.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Armstrong, Camacho, De Jesus, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gray (teleconference posted location, entered after roll call), Jung (teleconference posted location), Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Smith (AB2449 – just cause; illness), and Sutley.

Director Smith stated that he was alone in the room and appeared on camera.

Members absent: Directors Cordero and Goldberg.

Other Board members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Gualtieri, Kurtz, McMillian, Morris, Petersen, Peterson, and Seckel.

Committee staff present: Hagekhalil, Hudson, Salinas, Scully, Suzuki, Wheeler, and Upadhyay.

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

NONE

2. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

a. Subject: Chair's Report

Presented by: Chair Ortega

Chair Ortega stated he did not yet have a report and his written report would be forthcoming at the end of the month.

b. Subject: General Manager's Report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: General Manager Adel Hagekhalil

General Manager Hagekhalil reported on the following:

- State water project allocation
- Washington D.C. trip to advocate Metropolitan position on the Colorado River
- Member Agency Managers meetings and CAMP4W Task Force meetings
- Listening sessions with NGOs
- Monthly meetings with supervisors and managers

c. Subject: General Counsel's report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: General Counsel Marcia Scully

General Counsel Scully reported that there will be an update and discussion on the PFAS litigation at the April Legal and Claims Committee.

d. Subject: General Auditor's report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: General Auditor Scott Suzuki

General Auditor Suzuki reported that the first audit report was issued in the new audit format, and he is working on his business plan for the next fiscal year.

e. Subject: Ethics Officer's report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: Ethics Officer Abel Salinas

Ethics Officer Salinas reported that Form 700 is due on April 2, 2024, and his office will be hosting the Southern California Ethics Symposium on April 10, 2024.

Director Gray entered the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting for February 27, 2024.

Chair Ortega asked Directors if there were any additions, corrections, or omissions on the minutes of the February 27, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting. None were made.

- B. Approve the draft of the Committee and Board meeting agendas and schedule for April 2024.

Chair Ortega announced the Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling CAMP4W Task Force meetings will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month through the end of 2024.

Director Quinn left the meeting.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any additions or deletions to the April 2024 draft packet.

Board Vice Chair Camacho announced at the Legislation and Communications Committee the legislative placeholder subject updated to: Express support for broadening Metropolitan's bond priorities to include funding for Delta levee improvements in climate resiliency bond proposals, AB 1567 (Garcia – D) and SB 867 (Allen – D).

Board Vice Chair Sutley announced at the One Water and Stewardship Committee the following subjects were revised:

Review and consider the South Coast Water Agency's approved Final Environmental Impact Report and take related CEQA actions; Authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Municipal Water District of Orange County and South Coast Water District for the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project for up to 5,600 acre-feet per year of treated desalinated water for potable purposes in the Municipal Water District of Orange County service area.

Review and consider the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's certified Environmental Impact Report and Addendum and take related CEQA actions; Authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project for up to 19,500 acre-feet per year of potable recycled water through groundwater replenishment in the San Fernando Valley.

Board Item has been deleted:

Authorize the Supplemental Water Management Program and the General Manager to enter into agreements with participating member agencies to provide payments for water management actions that help Metropolitan manage supplemental supplies and provide a regional benefit.

Chair Ortega announced that a board item will be added to the draft board agenda. Update on Social Media and the First Amendment.

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Items 3A and 3B.

Director Sutley made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho, to approve the consent calendar Items 3A and 3B as listed and revised.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Armstrong, Camacho, De Jesus, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza (on Item 3B), Gray, Jung, Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Smith, and Sutley.

Abstention: Garza (on Item 3A)

Recusal: None

Absent: Cordero, Goldberg, and Quinn

Director Smith stated that he was alone in the room and appeared on camera.

The motion for Item 3A passed by a vote of 14 ayes; 0 noes; 1 abstention; and 3 absent.

The motion for Item 3B passed by a vote of 15 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 3 absent.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

NONE

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

5. COMMITTEE INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Subject: Report on the Colorado River Board Meeting.

Presented by: General Manager Hagekhalil

Mr. Hagekhalil reported on the Colorado River Board Meeting.

b. Subject: Colorado River Activities

Presented by: William Hasencamp, Manager of Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp reported on Colorado River activities.

Director Quinn entered the meeting.

Chair Ortega announced they are planning a dinner with the Colorado River Board. If directors are interested, please let staff know.

Director Luna left the meeting.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Alvarez
2. Fong-Sakai
3. De Jesus
4. Pressman

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

6. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Adán Ortega, Jr.
Chair of the Board