

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

April 8, 2024

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow (teleconference posted location), Garza, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, McMillan, Phan (teleconference posted location), Pressman (teleconference posted location), Ramos (teleconference posted location), and Smith.

Members absent: Director Luna.

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong (AB 2449 just cause), Camacho, Erdman, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson and Seckel.

Director Armstrong indicated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding illness. Director Armstrong appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Horton, Novoa, Wheeler, and Zinke

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

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Legislation and Communications Committee for March 11, 2024.

Director Garza made a motion, seconded by Director Kassakhian to approve item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, McMillan, Phan, Pressman, Ramos and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Luna.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 1 absent

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-6 Express Support for broadening Metropolitan’s board priorities to include funding for Delta levee maintenance in the State of California’s climate resiliency bond proposals, AB 1567 (Garcia-D) and SB 867 (Allen-D); the General Manager has determined that the action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Jay L. Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Rep, State Legislative

Motion: Express support for broadening Metropolitan’s Board priorities to include funding for Delta levee maintenance in the State of California’s climate resiliency bond proposals, AB 1567 (Garcia-D) and SB 867 (Allen-D).

The following Directors provided comments or asked a question:

1. Jung
2. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors’ comments or questions.

After completion of the presentation, Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Garza to approve item 7-6.

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, McMillan, Phan, Pressman, Ramos and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Luna.

The motion for item 7-6 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 1 absent

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Quarterly State and Federal Regulatory Matrices

Chair Jung stated board reports are available on the website.

- b. Subject: Update on Activities for the 50th Anniversary of the Water Quality Program

Presented by: Paul Rochelle, Section Manager – Water Quality
Andrew Au, Principal Graphic Art Designer

Mr. Rochelle and Mr. Au provided an update on the Water Quality Lab and the celebration of its 50th anniversary. With a slideshow displaying the new installation and the different features that it showcases.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Jung
- 2.) Garza
- 3.) Gray
- 4.) Fellow
- 5.) Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- c. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the state budget, Sacramento legislative calendar, GM Hagekhalil's legislative meetings, two year bills of interest: climate bonds and water rights.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Dennstedt
- 2.) Gray
- 3.) Garza
- 4.) Jung
- 5.) Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- d. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Chair Jung stated board reports are available on the website.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs Activities
Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on federal issues, integrating research into messaging, Earth Day community events and outreach, May 2024 Water Awareness Month and Metropolitan's Year End Review.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

1. Peterson
2. Morris
3. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Fred Jung
Chair