

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**June 13, 2024**

**53681** The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in a special session on Thursday, June 13, 2024.

Chair Ortega called meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**53682** The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Board Vice Chair Camacho, Inland Empire Utilities Agency.

**53683** Board Executive Secretary Hudson administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Abdo, Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero, Crawford, De Jesus (teleconference posted location available for the public), Dennstedt, Douglas, Erdman, Faessel (teleconference posted location available for the public), Fellow, Garza, Goldberg, Gray (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location available for the public), Lewitt (teleconference posted location available for the public), McCoy, McMillan, Morris, Ortega, Pressman (teleconference posted location available for the public), Quinn, Ramos (teleconference posted location available for the public), and Seckel (teleconference posted location available for the public).

Those not responding were: Directors Fong-Sakai, Jung, Kassakhian, Luna, Miller, Petersen, and Smith.

Directors entered the meeting after the roll call: Ackerman (teleconference posted location available for the public), Armstrong (teleconference posted location available for the public), Dick (teleconference posted location available for the public), Phan (teleconference posted location available for the public), and Sutley.

Board Executive Secretary Hudson declared a quorum present.

**53684** Chair Ortega requested a motion to waive confidentiality about the close session on June 11, 2024.

Director Fellow moved, seconded by Director Morris that the Board approve the waiver of confidentiality of the closed session as follows:

Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Phan, and Sutley entered the meeting.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		Waive of confidentiality of closed session item							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6038	Faessel	x	x	6038				
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman	x	x	4493				
Burbank	3175	Ramos	x	x	3175				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan	x	x	13073				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Crawford	x	x	9662				
			Subtotal:		19324				
Compton	641	McCoy	x	x	641				
Eastern Municipal Water District	12060	Armstrong	x	x	12060				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung							
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian							
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Lewitt	x	x	3090				
Long Beach	6558	Cordero	x	x	6558				
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley	x	x	26724				
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	26724				
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	26724				
			Subtotal:		80172				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman	x	x	21545				
		Seckel	x	x	21545				
		Dick							
		Erdman	x	x	21545				
			Subtotal:		64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67201	Fong-Sakai							
		Goldberg	x	x	67201				
		Miller							
		Smith							
			Subtotal:		67201				
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris	x	x	800				
Santa Ana	3431	Phan	x			x	3431		
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre	x	x	3590				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x	x	13532				
		Gray	x	x	13532				
			Subtotal:		27064				
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
<b>Total</b>	<b>386141</b>				<b>376164</b>		<b>3431</b>		
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>6546</b>								

The motion to approve the motion to waive confidentiality about the close session on June 11, 2024 (**M.I. No. 53684**) passed by a vote of 376,164 ayes; 3,431 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,546 absent.

Chair Ortega made remarks regarding the closed session discussion June 11, 2024.

**53685** Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board limited to the items listed on the agenda (in-person and teleconference).

	Name	Affiliation	Comment
1.	Evelyn Wendell	We Tap.org	Items 5A, B, and C
2.	Karen Quog	City of Glendale	Items 5A, B, and C
3.	Bruce Reznick	LA Waterkeeper	Items 5A, B, and C
4.	Connor Everts	Environmental Water Caucus and Environmental Justice Coalition for Water	Items 5A, B, and C
5.	Alan Shanahan	AFSCME, Local 1902	Items 5A, B, and C
6.	Mark Gold	National Resource Defense Council	Items 5A, B, and C
7.	Liz Crosson	MWD Employee	Items 5A, B, and C
8.	No Name Provided	MWD Employee	Items 5A, B, and C
9.	Lauren Ahkiam	Climate Co Director	Items 5A, B, and C
10.	Caty Wagner	Sierra Club, California	Items 5A, B, and C
11.	Ruben Lopez	Hines Village Resident	Items 5A, B, and C
12.	Barbra Barrigan	Executive Director, ReStore the Delta	Items 5A, B, and C
13.	Mike Jones	MWD Employee	Items 5A, B, and C
14.	Lina Morris	Individual	Items 5A, B, and C
15.	Trish Gonzalez	Former MWD Employee	Items 5A, B, and C
16.	Deegan Newton	MWD Employee	Items 5A, B, and C
17.	Ashley Overhouse	Policy Advisor for Defenders of Wildlife and Private Citizen	Items 5A, B, and C
18.	John Munson	Sierra Club Water Committee	Items 5A, B, and C
19.	Jan Warren	Member Environmental Community	Items 5A, B, and C
20.	Hans Johnson	President East Area, Democratic Club of LA County	Items 5A, B, and C

21.	Sidney Pitcher		Items 5A, B, and C
22.	Ellen Mackey	MWD Employee	Items 5A, B, and C
23.	Neal Desai	National Parks Conservation Association	Items 5A, B, and C
24.	Penelope Home		Items 5A, B, and C
25.	Wes Chong	LA Resident	Items 5A, B, and C
26.	Crystal Moreno	Ecological Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	Items 5A, B, and C
27.	Charming Evelyn	Sierra Club CA	Items 5A, B, and C
28.	John Mendoza	City of Pomona	Items 5A, B, and C
29.	Annette Eckhardt	WAM and Metropolitan Employee	Items 5A, B, and C
30.	Juan Martinez	Delegate of the 64 Districts	Central Basin
31.	Fernando East	Central Basin Resident	Central Basin

Chair Ortega called the meeting into closed session to discuss Agenda Items:  
5A Review of Department Head Performance Evaluation for the General Manager; 5B  
Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release; and 5C Discussion of Correspondence  
Alleging Employment Violations and to Provide Direction on Potential Interim Measures.

Director Dick entered the meeting during closed session.

Directors McMillian, Quinn, and Goldberg left the meeting during closed session.

The Board returned to open session at 3:27 p.m.; in closed session, the Board discussed  
and conferred with legal counsel regarding Items 5A, 5B, and 5C.

**53686** For Item 5A, there was no reportable action.

**53687** For Item 5B, there was no reportable action.

**53688** For Item 5C (Discussion of correspondence alleging employment violations and to  
provide direction on potential interim measures), the Board voted to place the General  
Manager on administrative leave effective immediately and to temporarily appoint Deven  
Upadhyay as the Interim General Manager.

A record of the votes made in closed session are attached to the minutes.

Chair Ortega made remarks to the public and employees regarding the future of Metropolitan.

**53689** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-up Items. There were none.

**53690** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. There were none.

**53691** There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.



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



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**RICKITA HUDSON**  
**BOARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

The following is a record of the vote:

Director Fellow moved, seconded by Director Camacho, that the Board approve placing the General Manager on administrative leave effective immediately.

Record of Vote on Item:		5C-1							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6038	Faessel	x	x	6038				
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman							
Burbank	3175	Ramos	x	x	3175				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Crawford	x	x	9662				
			Subtotal:		19324				
Compton	641	McCoy	x	x	641				
Eastern Municipal Water District	12060	Armstrong	x	x	12060				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung							
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian							
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Lewitt	x	x	3090				
Long Beach	6558	Cordero	x	x	6558				
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley	x	x	40086				
		Petersen							
		Quinn							
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	40086				
			Subtotal:		80172				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman	x	x	16159				
		Seckel	x	x	16159				
		Dick	x	x	16159				
		Erdman	x	x	16159				
			Subtotal:		64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67201	Fong-Sakai							
		Goldberg	x	x	67201				
		Miller							
		Smith							
			Subtotal:		67201				
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris	x	x	800				
Santa Ana	3431	Phan							
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre	x	x	3590				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x					x	13532
		Gray	x	x	13532				
			Subtotal:		13532				13532
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
<b>Total</b>	<b>386141</b>				<b>345066</b>				<b>13532</b>
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>27543</b>								

The motion to approve the motion (Item 5C1) (M.I. No. **53686**) passed by a vote of 345,066 ayes, 0 noes, 13,532 abstain, 0 not voting, and 27,543 absent.

Director Morris moved, seconded by Director Bryant, that the Board approve temporarily appointing Deven Upadhyay as the Interim General Manager.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		5C - 2							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6038	Faessel	x	x	6038				
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman							
Burbank	3175	Ramos	x	x	3175				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Crawford	x	x	9662				
			Subtotal:		19324				
Compton	641	McCoy	x	x	641				
Eastern Municipal Water District	12060	Armstrong	x	x	12060				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung							
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian							
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Lewitt	x	x	3090				
Long Beach	6558	Cordero	x	x	6558				
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley							
		Petersen							
		Quinn							
		Luna							
		Douglas	x					x	80172
			Subtotal:						80172
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	21545				
		Dick	x	x	21545				
		Erdman	x	x	21545				
			Subtotal:		64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67201	Fong-Sakai							
		Goldberg							
		Miller							
		Smith							
			Subtotal:						
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris	x	x	800				
Santa Ana	3431	Phan							
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre	x	x	3590				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x	x	13532				
		Gray	x	x	13532				
			Subtotal:		27064				
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
<b>Total</b>	<b>386141</b>				<b>211225</b>				<b>80172</b>
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>94744</b>								

The motion to approve the motion (Item 5C2) (**M.I. No. 53686**) passed by a vote of 211,225 ayes; 0 noes; 80,172 abstain; 0 not voting; and 94,744 absent.