**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**March 9, 2026**

Chair Erdman called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai (entered after roll call), Jay, Lewitt, McMillan, Miller (entered after roll call), Petersen, and Seckel.

Members absent: Director Crawford

Other board members present: Chair Ortega, Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Crane, Denham (teleconference posted location), Fellow, Gray (teleconference posted location), Katz, Kurtz, Paule, and Shepherd Romey.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Boyd, Chaudhuri, Deshmukh, Eckstrom, Hattar, Hudson, Nobriga, Parsons, Rhoads, Rubin

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

None

**<u>CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION</u>**

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for February 9, 2026.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS ACTION**

None

Director Seckel made a motion, seconded by Director Bryant, to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A.

The vote was:

| | |
|---|---|
| Ayes: | Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Jay, Lewitt, McMillan, Petersen, and Seckel. |
| Noes: | None |
| Abstentions: | None |
| Absent: | Directors Crawford, Fong-Sakai, and Miller |

The motion to approve item 2A passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 3 absent.

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

## 4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

Director Fong-Sakai entered the meeting.

## 5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

**9-1** Subject: Capital Investment Plan Quarterly Report for Period Ending December 2025

Presented by: Jeffrey Nikolas, Sr Engineer, Capital Investment Plan Team, Engineering Services Group

Mr. Nikolas reported on the following:

- Informational summary of infrastructure projects, comparison of projected spending and actual spending, and project activities listed in the written report.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions.

1. Bryant

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Miller entered the meeting.

## 6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

a. Subject: State Water Project Invasive Mussels Mitigation and Control Update

Presented by: Ying Wu, Team Manager, Treatment & Water Quality Group
Jinny, Huang-Uy, Engineer, Engineering Services Group/Program Management

Staff gave an update on the SWP Invasive Mussel Mitigation and Control Program.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel
2. Ortega
3. Miller
4. Faessel
5. Denham
6. Erdman

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

b. Assessment of alternatives to stage the development of the Pure Water Southern California Program.

This item was deferred.

c. Subject: Integrated Strategy for Infrastructure Reliability Progress Update

Presented by: Rosa Lau, Engineer, Engineering Services Group, Engineering Planning Section
Eugenia Lin, Sr. Engineer, Engineering Services Group, Program Management Section

Staff provided an overview of the ISIR process and an update on recent developments of equitable supply reliability projects.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Miller
2. Faessel
3. Seckel
4. Ortega
5. Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

**7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

a. Subject: Engineering Services, Information Technology, and Water System Operations Activities

Presented by: John Bednarski, Assistant General Manager, Water Resources and Technical Services
JR. Rhoads, Group Manager, Conveyance & Distribution
Charlie Eckstrom, Group Manager, Information Technology

Mr. Bednarski reported on the following:

- Engineering support on CRA Shutdown
- $14^{th}$ annual Engineering Career Launch Program
- Correction to January 2026 Board action for HDR Engineering Inc. which was a new agreement prequalified under RFQ 1404.

Mr. Rhoads reported on the following:

- Completion of the 2026 Annual Operating Plan, which includes a review of 2025 operations and challenges, and plans for a full range of operating conditions in 2026
- Completion of essential system maintenance during the 2026 CRA Shutdown
- Weymouth receiving silver medal for Best Municipal Water at the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting competition

Mr. Eckstrom reported on the following:

- The Wi-Fi Upgrade project for the facilities in the Los Angeles is nearing completion.
- Replaced legacy wi-fi access points with modern, high-capacity units Reduced dead zones by expanding coverage and implemented improved roaming to ensure uninterrupted connectivity across all areas
- Improved security posture through updated encryption and centralized management controls.

Chair Ortega requested that staff consider putting up a banner in the boardroom to mark Metropolitan winning the Berkeley Springs Silver Medal award for best tasting water.

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

Director Erdman requested a full presentation on the Colorado River Aqueduct shutdown, including details on accommodations for shutdown staff.

Director Faessel suggested a follow-up on Director Bryant's request for a list of outstanding small cap projects from biennium 2020/21-2021/22.

Director Faessel suggested a follow-up on Chair Ortega, Directors Fong-Sakai and Seckel's request for additional information on CAMP4W portfolios, preferably prior to the vote for budget approval.

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be on April 13, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Dennis Erdman
Chair