

# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## MINUTES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**March 25, 2025**

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

Members present: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Douglas, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gray (teleconference posted location), Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan (alternate), Ortega, Pressman, Seckel, and Sutley.

Members absent: Directors Goldberg, Luna, Miller (Alvarez), and Quinn (Katz).

Other Board members present: Directors Bryant, Cordero, De Jesus, Dick, Fellow, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), and Morris.

Committee staff present: Chapman, Hudson, Rubin, Salinas, Scully, Suzuki, Upadhyay, and Zinke.

#### **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 had nothing to add to the report.

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

General Manager Upadhyay reported international relations with the federal government and the International Boundary and Water Commission Treaties and provided an update on the SWP allocation

The following Director(s) asked questions or made comments:

Director(s)

1. Pressman
2. Sutley
3. Armstrong

## 4. Cordero

The General Manager responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

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

General Counsel Scully reported that a late item will be added to the legal and claims agenda for an increase in outside legal counsel funds to support the board matters.

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

General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to the report.

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

Ethics Officer Salinas reported that Form 700 is due April 1<sup>st</sup> to the FPPC. A memorandum was sent regarding criteria for an extension.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

#### **3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting for February 25, 2025.

Chair Ortega asked Directors if there were any additions, corrections, or omissions on the minutes of the February 25, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting. None were made.

- B. Approve the draft of the Committee and Board meeting agendas and schedule for April 2025.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any additions or deletions to the April 2025 draft packet.

Chair Ortega reported that at the Finance, Affordability, Asset Management, and Efficiency Committee the following subjects are revised:

The following item has been deferred to June:

- Overview of potential business model financial requirements.

Board Vice Chair Sutley reported that at the One Water and Adaptation Committee the following items have been added:

- Report on the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority meeting.
- Report on the Colorado River Board meeting.

Committee Chair Erdman reported that at the Engineering, Operations & Technology Committee the following subject has been revised:

- Adopt the CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the certified 2024 Final EIR and related documentation, and that no further environmental analysis or documentation is required and authorize an increase of \$12.4 million to an agreement with La Cañada Design Group Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$16.8 million for final design to upgrade the Michael J. McGuire Water Quality Laboratory.

The following item has been added:

- Garvey Reservoir Update.

Committee Chair Lewitt reported that at the Legislation and Communications Committee the following subjects have the following edits:

- Express support for AB 523 (Irwin-D) Metropolitan water districts: alternate representative.

Board item will be revised as follows:

- New language has been submitted to the Legislative Counsel's Office to amend AB 523 to authorize member agencies with only one Metropolitan director to appoint a proxy rather than an alternate to vote on their representative's behalf.
- If the language is in print before the board letter is posted, the title and position will change to reflect a "support as amended" position. If the language is not in print by the posting deadline, the title and position will change to reflect a "support if amended" position and the draft amendments will be attached to the board letter.

Committee Vice Chair McMillan reported that at the Legal and Claims Committee the following subject has been revised:

- Report on litigation in Maria Carmen Zarate v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 23STCV15786; and authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP, in the amount of \$250,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$750,000.

The following item has been added:

- Authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with outside counsel, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, in the amount of \$200,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$450,000.

#### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

NONE

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

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

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Douglas, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gray, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan, Ortega, Pressman, Seckel, and Sutley

Abstention: None

Recusal: None

Absent: Directors Goldberg, Luna, Miller (Alvarez), and Quinn (Katz)

The motion for Items 3A and 3B passed by a vote of 15 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 4 absent.

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

#### **5. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

NONE

#### **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

NONE

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Adán Ortega, Jr.  
Chair of the Board