

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION, REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

January 8, 2024

Chair of the Board Ortega called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Jung (teleconference posted location), Luna, McMillan, Ramos, and Smith (entered after rollcall).

Members absent: Directors Gray, Kassakhian, Phan and Pressman.

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Cordero, De Jesus, Dick, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, McCoy, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Zinke, Stites, Sims, and Novoa.

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

1) Caty Wagner, Sierra Club California

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communications and Legislation Committee held November 14, 2023.

Director Smith entered the meeting.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-11 Subject: Adopt legislative priorities and principles for 2024; the general manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Lana Haddad, Section Manager, Legislative Services

Motion: Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024 with the revisions by staff and the committee members

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Smith
- 2) Peterson

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

Chair Ortega announce item 7-11 would be voted on separately.

After completion of the presentation, Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Abdo to approve item 7-11 as amended.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Luna, McMillan, Ramos and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, Phan and Pressman.

The motion for item 7-11 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 5 absent

Director Dennstedt made a motion, seconded by Director Fellow to approve item 2A.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, McMillan, Ramos and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: Luna

Absent: Directors Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, Phan and Pressman.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 5 absent

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on Appropriations, National Defense Authorization Act, Farm bill, PFAS, and the Water Resource Development Act bill.

b. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on Proposed 2024/25 Fiscal Year Budget, Sacramento legislative leadership, Assembly committee leadership, two year bills of interest: Climate Bonds, Water Rights and Water Plan.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs Management Announcements and Highlights

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke introduced Coro Fellow David Caddle who is currently working with Metropolitan on outreach to young adults. Recognized Education Team and shared a short video on Metropolitan's Agents of Discovery app. Provided an update on the Community Partnership Program.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Ramos requested a report on the State Water Resource Control Board's (SWRCB) conservation regulations and the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) report on the regulations. Staff will bring the report back to appropriate committee.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Adán Ortega Jr.
Chair of the Board