

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL JOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

November 18, 2025

54301 The Special Joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

54302 The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Gretchen Shepherd Romey, City of San Marino.

54303 The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Mel Katz, San Diego County Water Authority.

54304 Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero, De Jesus (teleconference posted location available for the public), Denham, Dennstedt, Dick, Douglas, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gold, Jay, Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt (teleconference posted location available for the public), McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Ortega, Petersen, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Crawford, Gray, and Phan.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Director(s) entered after roll call: Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kassakhian, and Seckel (Just-Cause AB2449).

Director Seckel entered the meeting and stated that he is using AB 2449 just cause for a health issue, and he is alone in the room.

54305 Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction.

Chair Ortega opened the Public Hearing regarding the review of the applicability of Metropolitan Water District Act Section 124.5 ad valorem property tax limitation for fiscal years 2026/27 through 2035/36, consistent with the Ten-Year Financial Forecast (in-person and via teleconference).

	Name	Affiliation	Comment
1.	Eric Frecking	Senior Account Manager, Allied Universal Technology Services	Item # 8-3
2.	Kelly Gardner	Water Master, Main San Gabriel Basin	Pure Water
3.	Caty Wagner	Sierra Club California	Item # 7-2 and Public Hearing
4.	John Medoza	City of Pomona resident	Rent Stabilization Water Usage

Director Jung entered the meeting.

Public hearing was closed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS

5. COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve the minutes of the Executive Committee of October 28, 2025.
- B. Approve the draft of the Committee and Board meeting agendas and schedule for December 2025.

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

Committee Chair Kassakhian reported that the following subject has been added to the Legal and Claims Committee:

- Amend the Metropolitan Administration Code regarding contracting provisions and reporting requirements.

Chair Ortega reported that the following subject have been revised to the Joint One Water and Adaptation and Subcommittee on Imported Water:

- The Basin States Plan is being deleted and replaced with an Update on Colorado River negotiations and protection of Metropolitan's Colorado River water rights [Conference with legal counsel – anticipated litigation – deciding whether to initiate litigation; unknown number of potential cases; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)].

Committee Chair Miller reported that the following subject has been added to the Finance, Affordability, Asset Management, and Efficiency Committee:

- Foothill Municipal Water District's Point of Delivery.

Committee Chair Erdman reported that the following subject has been added to the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee:

- Power Cost Exposure with Lower Lake Mead Storage.
- Guiding Principles for Pure Water Southern California Partnerships.

The following items has been removed:

- Approve guiding principles for Pure Water Southern California partnerships; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Chair Ortega reported that proxy vote authorization item will be added to the Board Agenda.

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Items 5A and 5B.

Director Katz made a motion, seconded by Director McCoy to approve the committee Action Items 5A and 5B as presented, listed, and revised.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Douglas, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Jung, Kassakhian, Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, Miller, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Seckel, and Sutley

Abstention: None

Recusal: None

Absent: Gray.

The motion for Item 5A and 5B passed by a vote of 18 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 1 absent.

Director Seckel stated he is alone in the room.

END OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS

BOARD OF DIRECTOR ITEMS

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

54306 Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of October, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

54307 Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, he announced that in honor of Veterans Day and in collaboration with Metropolitan's Employee Resource Group, MVETs, Metropolitan paid tribute to many of our Veterans through a social media video. The video featured 21 Metropolitan employees from across the district who have served in the military. Metropolitan is proud to count so many Veterans among our colleagues. Also, the Chair highlighted General Counsel Marcia Scully and General Manager Deven Upadhyay for their years of dedicated service.

54308 General Manager Upadhyay, in addition to his written report, reported the collaboration with General Manager designate Deshmukh, the meeting with Southern Nevada Water Authority, Colorado River Indian Tribe, Palo Verde Irrigation District, the filtration plant in Yorba Linda, and DWR funding.

54309 General Counsel Scully, in addition to her written report, provided an update on the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of the Army announcement of the proposed revision to the definition of waters of the United States.

54310 Ethics Officer Salinas, in addition to his written report, provided an update on the upcoming State Ethics Laws that will be effective January 1, 2026.

54311 General Auditor Suzuki, in addition to his written report, updated on the next Audit meeting scheduled for December 8, 2025.

54312 Presentation of Commendatory Resolution for Director S. Gail Goldberg representing San Diego County Water Authority.

54313 Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors for July 8, 2025; and the Special Board of Directors Meeting for August 11, 2025; and the Board of Directors Workshop on Finance, Affordability, Asset Management and Efficiency for September 23, 2025; and the Board of Directors Workshop Engineering, Operations, and Technology for September 23, 2025 (Agenda Item 7A).

Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any additions, corrections, or omissions on the minutes. None were made.

54314 Approve and appoint Committee Assignments. Approval Creating a Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships with membership of Director Kurtz, Committee Chair, Director Cordero, Committee Vice Chair, Directors Armstrong, De Jesus, Erdman, Garza, McMillan, and Miller as Members. Appointing Director Denham to the Ad Hoc Committee on Colorado River Negotiations. (Agenda Item 7B).

Chair Ortega announced we will consider the consent calendar items 7A, 7B, 7-1 through 7-6.

Chair Ortega asked for a briefing on Item 7-2 regarding approval of Appendix A. Briefing was presented by Senior Deputy General Counsel Juan Redín.

Chair Ortega called on Directors who are requesting that any items be pulled from the Consent Calendar Action Items and to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures. None were made.

Consent Calendar Items- Action

54315 (a.) Authorize agreement with HDR Engineering Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1.80 million for a comprehensive investigation of Metropolitan's 230 kV transmission system; and (b.) Authorize an agreement with Towill, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$270,000 to perform an aerial survey of the 230 kV transmission system, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

54316 (a.) Approve the draft of Appendix A (Attachment 1) attached to the board letter; (b.) Authorize the General Manager, or other designee of the Ad Hoc Committee, to finalize, with changes approved by the General Manager and General Counsel, Appendix A; and (c.) Authorize distribution of Appendix A, finalized by the General Manager or other designee of the Ad Hoc Committee, in connection with the sale and/or remarketing of bonds, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

54317 Authorize the General Manager to grant a permanent access easement to Pacific Gas and Electric for electrical transmission purposes on a portion of Metropolitan-owned real property in the Sacramento San Joaquin Bay Delta known as Bouldin Island and also identified as Assessor Parcel Number 069-030-38, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

54318 Authorize the General Manager to execute a new license agreement with Eastmore Partners, LLC for up to twenty years for access and supplemental parking purposes on Metropolitan fee-owned property in the city of Riverside and identified as County of Riverside Assessor Parcel Number 263-290-059, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

54319 Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Best, Best & Krieger, LLP for legal advice on environmental review and permitting issues related to Pure Water Southern California by \$100,000 to a maximum amount payable of \$350,000, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

54320 Approve the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's salary schedules pursuant to CalPERS regulations, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

Director Pressman moved, seconded by Director Camacho, that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 7A, 7B, 7-1 through 7-6.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Items 7A, 7B, 7-1 through 7-6.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s): 7A, 7B, 7-1 through 7-6									
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel	x	x	6706				
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman	x	x	4853				
Burbank	3416	Ramos	x	x	3416				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	14206	McMillan	x	x	14206				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	21215	Garza	x	x	21215				
		Crawford							
			Subtotal:		21215				
Compton	718	McCoy	x	x	718				
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Armstrong	x	x	14725				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2444	Bryant	x	x	2444				
Fullerton	2840	Jung	x	x	2840				
Glendale	4326	Kassakhian	x	x	4326				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	18220	Camacho	x	x	18220				
Las Virgenes	3346	Lewitt	x	x	3346				
Long Beach	7105	Cordero	x	x	7105				
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley	x	x	21709				
		Petersen	x	x	21709				
		Quinn	x	x	21709				
		Vacant							
		Douglas	x	x	21709				
			Subtotal:		86834				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Dick	x	x	17894				
		Erdman	x	x	17894				
			Subtotal:		71574				
Pasadena	4190	Kurtz	x	x	4190				
San Diego County Water Authority	73565	Fong-Sakai	x	x	18391				
		Denham	x	x	18391				
		Miller	x	x	18391				
		Katz	x	x	18391				
			Subtotal:		73565				
San Fernando	288	Ortega	x	x	288				
San Marino	878	Shepherd Romey	x	x	878				
Santa Ana	3732	Phan							
Santa Monica	5256	Gold	x	x	5256				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9536	De Jesus	x	x	9536				
Torrance	3949	Jay	x	x	3949				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14772	Fellow	x	x	14772				
West Basin Municipal Water District	29790	Alvarez	x	x	29790				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		29790				
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
Total	424986				421254				
Present and not voting									
Absent	3732								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 7A, 7B, 7-1 through 7-6 (M.I. No. 54313 through 54320) passed by a vote of 421,254 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 3,732 absent.

Director Seckel stated he was alone in the room.

Chair Ortega announced Board Item 8-4 was deferred at Committee.

54321 (a.) Award a \$35,722,000 contract to Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. to replace utilities at Eagle Mountain and Julian Hinds pumping plants; and (b.) Authorize an increase of \$320,000 to an existing agreement with AECOM Technical Services Inc. for a new not-to-exceed total of \$550,000 for technical support during construction (Board Item 8-1).

54322 Adopt the resolution finding that the ad valorem property tax rate limitation of Metropolitan Water District Act Section 124.5 is not applicable because it is essential to Metropolitan's fiscal integrity to collect ad valorem property taxes in excess of the limitation for fiscal years 2026/27 through 2035/36, consistent with the Ten-Year Financial Forecast (Board Item 8-2).

54323 Authorize an agreement with Securitas to provide security guard services for a maximum period of five years at a total cost not to exceed \$84 million (Board Item 8-3).

54324 Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Intersect Power, LLC for mitigation of impacts to the Colorado River Aqueduct Transmission System (Board Item 8-5).

Chair Ortega called on Directors to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures. Chair Ortega asked if any Director wanted to discuss and/or vote separately on Items 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, or 8-5.

Director Fong-Sakai stated Item 8-1 involves an agreement with AECOM. She currently owns AECOM stock. Therefore, she will recuse herself from all participation in the matter.

Directors Cordero, Erdman, and Katz stated that Items 8-5 and 9-6 involve a project and agreement potentially impacting Southern California Edison. They currently own Edison stock, therefore they are recusing themselves from all participation in the matter.

Chair Ortega called on Directors to state if they wanted to discuss Item 8-5 in closed session. None were made.

Chair Ortega called on Directors to state if there were any objections to voting on the board action items all together. None were made.

Director Bryant moved, seconded by Director Dennstedt, that the Board approve Board Items 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, or 8-5.

Directors Quinn and Sutley left the meeting.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Items 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, and 8-5.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		8-2, 8-3							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel	x	x	6706				
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman	x	x	4853				
Burbank	3416	Ramos	x	x	3416				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	14206	McMillan	x	x	14206				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	21215	Garza	x	x	21215				
		Crawford							
					Subtotal:				21215
Compton	718	McCoy	x	x	718				
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Armstrong	x	x	14725				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2444	Bryant	x	x	2444				
Fullerton	2840	Jung	x	x	2840				
Glendale	4326	Kassakhian	x	x	4326				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	18220	Camacho	x	x	18220				
Las Virgenes	3346	Lewitt	x	x	3346				
Long Beach	7105	Cordero	x	x	7105				
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley							
		Petersen	x	x	43417				
		Quinn							
		Vacant							
		Douglas	x	x	43417				
					Subtotal:				86834
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Dick	x	x	17894				
		Erdman	x	x	17894				
					Subtotal:				71574
Pasadena	4190	Kurtz	x	x	4190				
San Diego County Water Authority	73565	Fong-Sakai	x	x	18391				
		Denham	x	x	18391				
		Miller	x	x	18391				
		Katz	x	x	18391				
					Subtotal:				73565
San Fernando	288	Ortega	x	x	288				
San Marino	878	Shepherd Romey	x	x	878				
Santa Ana	3732	Phan							
Santa Monica	5256	Gold	x	x	5256				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9536	De Jesus	x	x	9536				
Torrance	3949	Jay	x	x	3949				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14772	Fellow	x	x	14772				
West Basin Municipal Water District	29790	Alvarez	x	x	29790				
		Gray							
					Subtotal:				29790
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
Total	424986				421254				
Present and not voting									
Absent	3732								

The motion to approve the Board Items 8-1*, 8-2, 8-3, and 8-5* (M.I. No. 54321 through 54324) passed by a vote of 421,254 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 3,732 absent.

Director Seckel stated he is alone in the room.

*Director Fong-Sakai recused herself and Director Miller voted no on Board Item 8-1 (**M.I. 54321**) passed by a vote of 396,732 ayes; 24,522 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 3,732 absent.

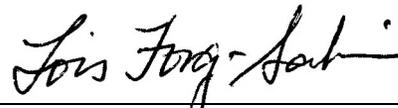
*Directors Cordero, Erdman, and Katz recused themselves on Board Item 8-5 (**M.I. 54324**) passed by a vote of 414,149 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 10,837 absent.

54325 Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or a need for discussion on Board Information Items 9-1, 9-2, 9-3, 9-4, 9-5, or 9-6. No requests were made.

54326 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. No requests were made.

54327 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. No requests were made.

54328 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m. in memory of Former Director Steve Blois, Former Director Arlene Post, and Former Information Technology Manager David Edwards.



**LOIS FONG-SAKAI
BOARD SECRETARY**



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