

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
February 11, 2025

53951 The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Director Ackerman stated that she is using AB 2449 just cause due medical condition.

53952 The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Tana McCoy, City of Compton.

53953 The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Garry E. Bryant, Foothill Municipal Water District.

53954 Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman (AB2449-Just Cause), Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Douglas, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gold, Goldberg, Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kassakhian, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location available for the public), Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan, Miller (teleconference posted location available for the public), Morris, Ortega, , Pressman (teleconference posted location available for the public), Quinn, Ramos, Seckel, and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Crawford, Gray, Katz, Luna, and Petersen.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Those entered after roll call: Director Phan (teleconference posted location available for the public)

Chair Ortega called on Director Alvarez to introduce Member Agency Manager Guest E.J. Caldwell, General Manager of West Basin Water District. Chair Ortega, Director Alvarez, and Mr. Caldwell made remarks.

Chair Ortega welcomed and thanked Mr. Caldwell for joining the board and encouraged them to comment on matters important to West Basin Municipal Water District.

53955 Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction (in-person and via teleconference).

	Name	Affiliation	Comment
1.	Richard Atwater	President, Foothill Municipal Water District	Eaton Fire response from Metropolitan
2.	Nina Jazmadarian	General Manager, Foothill Municipal Water District	Eaton Fire response from Metropolitan
3.	Darcy Burke	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	Eaton Fire response from Metropolitan
4.	Laura Garcia	Metropolitan Employee, VP, AFSCME	Item 7-3
5.	John Mendoza	Resident of the City of Pomona	Alternate Board Members

53956 Chair Ortega discussed his Second Term Priorities with Key Objectives: proposed committee structures and appointments to align oversight and policy initiatives around three critical goals: 1. Stabilizing Metropolitan internally by addressing longstanding issues that have disrupted morale and occasionally diverted us from our mission; 2. Redoubling commitment to climate action and long-term water supply sustainability through responsible stewardship of the Metropolitan workforce, resources, and infrastructure; 3. Working towards long-term financial stability to ensure operations remain sustainable. (Agenda Item 5A).

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

53957 Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of January, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

53958 Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, the Black Employees' Association kicked off its Black History Month celebration with an event honoring the legacy of activism in the fight for racial equality. Lastly, we invite the Board to the dedication ceremony of the Water Quality Laboratory, which will be named in Honor of Dr. Michael J. McGuire, on February 20th at 1:30 p.m. In addition, on behalf of the board, Director Dennstedt presented a monetary gift to Directors Bryant and Quinn as they were affected by the Eaton fires. Chair Ortega asked if there are any questions. None were made.

53959 General Manager Upadhyay reported in addition to the written report previously posted, he reported on the public comment speakers Eaton fire response from Metropolitan; at the Executive Committee, he will present the 2025 vision and priorities plan. Lastly, he highlighted the Jensen Safety Committee.

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

Director(s)

1. Gold
2. Sutley
3. Ortega
4. Fellow

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

53960 General Counsel Scully stated she had nothing to add to her written report.

53961 General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to his written report.

53962 Ethics Officer Salinas stated he had nothing to add to his written report.

53963 Presentation of 10-year service pin to Director Ramos, the City of Burbank. Director Ramos made remarks. (Agenda Item 5H)

53964 Presentation commendatory resolution for Former Director Tim Smith representing San Diego County Water Authority. Former Director Tim Smith made remarks. (Agenda Item 5I)

53965 Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any comments or discussions on the Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board of Directors meeting for January 11, 2025, and the Board of Directors meeting for January 14, 2025 (Agenda Item 6A). None were made.

53966 Approve Chairs and Vice Chairs for the term commencing on February 11, 2025, governance changes to Committees and Committee formation including the modification of Standing Committees and the creation and elimination of Ad Hoc Committees as set in the board letter, and direct staff to bring back the required changes to the Administrative Code for Board approval. Chair Ortega asked if there are any questions. (Agenda Item 6B). None were made.

53967 Chair asked Directors to email Jon Rubin or himself of their committee assignment preference for the current term. The Committee members will remain in place until the March Board meeting. (Agenda Item 6C)

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

53968 Award a \$2,556,478.19 construction contract to MasTec Network Solutions LLC for upgrades to the desert microwave communication tower sites; B. awarded a \$1,531,044 procurement contract to Logicalis Inc. for communications site network equipment; C. authorized an increase of \$591,000 to the agreement with Nokia of America Corporation for a

new not-to-exceed amount of \$5,888,000 for network materials and manufacturer's field services; and D. authorized an increase of \$680,000 to the agreement with Hatfield & Dawson Consulting Engineers LLC for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1,410,000 to provide specialized technical support during construction and commissioning, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

53969 Award a \$1,931,217 contract to Fencecorp. Inc. for perimeter fencing for housing and playground areas and shade improvements for the playground area at four CRA pumping plant villages, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

53970 Authorize an agreement with Computer Aid, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$6 million for co-managed support services for the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan Cybersecurity Operations Center, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

53971 Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Palo Verde Irrigation District to jointly fund community investment in Palo Verde Irrigation District's service area, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

53972 Authorize the General Manager to approve a new three-year agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc. for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program, for a total agreement not to exceed \$200,000/year, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

53973 Authorize the General Manager to expand the Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program and amend the System Conservation Implementation Agreement for Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program to increase its program size from 3,000 acres to 6,000 acres for the years 2025 and 2026, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

53974 Review and consider the Lead Agency's certified Environmental Impact Report and Initial Study, took related CEQA actions, and adopted a resolution for the 117th Fringe Area Annexation concurrently to Eastern Municipal Water District and Metropolitan, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-7 board letter.

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

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

Director(s)

1. Kurtz
2. DeJesus
3. Garza

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

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

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):		6A, 6B, and 7-1 through 7-7								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote	
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306					
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677					
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330					
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627					
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	20265					
		Crawford								
			Subtotal:		20265					
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678					
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623					
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543					
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x	x	2766					
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165					
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103					
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224					
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805					
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	27945					
		Petersen								
		Quinn	x	x	27945					
		Luna								
		Douglas	x	x	27945					
			Subtotal:		83835					
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026					
		Seckel	x	x	17026					
		Dick	x	x	17026					
		Erdman	x	x	17026					
			Subtotal:		68102					
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042					
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	23386					
		Goldberg	x	x	23386					
		Miller	x	x	23386					
		Katz								
			Subtotal:		70158					
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274					
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836					
Santa Ana	3569	Phan	x	x	3569					
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055					
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019					
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781					
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079					
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764					
		Gray								
			Subtotal:		28764					
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689					
Total	406315				406315					
Present and not voting										
Absent	0									

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-7 (**M.I. No. 53965 through 53974**) passed by a vote of 406,315 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 0 absent.

Director Ackerman stated during the vote that she was alone.

Chair Ortega called on Directors who would request to vote on Board Items 8-1, 8-2, or 8-3 separately or discuss Board Items 8-2 or 8-3 in closed session.

Chair Ortega requested if there are any changes and reports from the Committee Chairs on the recommendation from the Committee.

Committee Chair Quinn announced Board Item 8-1 changes reflected below.

Committee Vice Chair Dick announced Board Item 8-2 changes reflected below.

53975 Authorize the General Manager to execute transfers, exchanges, and other State Water Project management transactions during 2025 and 2026 and grant final decision-making authority to the General Manager subject to the terms set forth in this letter with the understanding that 1) such transactions will only be pursued under conditions when Metropolitan projects adding to or spilling stored supplies accessible by the State Water Project -dependent areas; 2) staff will monitor, evaluate, and report on the efficacy and impacts of this program as it progresses; and 3) an Ad Hoc Committee will be established to provide ongoing oversight and review of this program (Board Item 8-1).

53976 Authorize the execution of lease amendments with existing tenants, D&L Farms, Inc., Dinelli Farms, and Sierra Cattle Company, to extend the term up to two years for Dinelli Farms, Sierra Cattle, and provide D&L Farms with up to a one-year, move-out period while adjusting the rent for all three tenants, thereby allowing the existing tenants to continue farming on Metropolitan's fee-owned property in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, subject to the price and terms direction given in closed session and with temporary tenant replacement and land preservation procedures in the event of tenant default or surrender of land (Board Item 8-2).

53977 Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under the contract for legal services in Ryan Tiegs v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of \$300,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$825,00 (Board Item 8-3).

Director Sutley moved, seconded by Director Dick, that the Board approve the Board Items 8-1, 8-2, and 8-3 as follows:

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

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		8-1, 8-2, and 8-3							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	20265				
		Crawford							
				Subtotal:	20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x	x	2766				
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	27945				
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	27945				
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	27945				
				Subtotal:	83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
				Subtotal:	68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	23386				
		Goldberg	x	x	23386				
		Miller	x	x	23386				
		Katz							
				Subtotal:	70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan	x	x	3569				
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
				Subtotal:	28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				406315				
Present and not voting									
Absent	0								

The motion to approve the Board Items 8-1, 8-2, and 8-3 (M.I. No. 53975 through 53977) passed by a vote of 406,315 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 0 absent.

Director Ackerman stated during the vote that she was alone.

53978 Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or need for discussion on Board Information Items 9-1, 9-2 or 9-3. No requests were made.

53979 Chair Ortega announced we do not have any other matters.

53980 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. No requests were made.

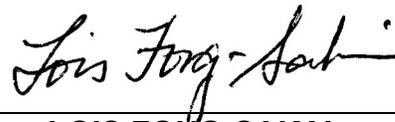
53981 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. No requests were made.

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

Director(s)

1. Fellow

53982 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned in remembrance of Ralph Ramirez and San Diego Director Mel Katz's mother, Beatrice Katz. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



**LOIS FONG-SAKAI
BOARD SECRETARY**



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