

# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## MINUTES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**June 25, 2024**

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

Board Executive Secretary Hudson announced that 34819 Calle Del Sol, Capistrano Beach, CA 92624, the address listed on the agenda, is no longer available to the public.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Armstrong, Camacho, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Goldberg, Jung (AB2449 Just Cause - entered after roll call), Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Gray, Quinn, and Sutley.

Other Board members present: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Dick, Fellow (teleconference posted location), Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McMillan, and Morris.

Committee staff present: Andrus, Chapman, Hudson, Salinas, Scully, Upadhyay, and Wheeler.

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

1.	Connor Everts, Southern California Watershed Alliance and Statewide Environmental Water Caucus	Personnel Matter
2.	Shiram Karagoni, Retired Engineer City of LA	Personnel Matter
3.	Mark Sanchez, Executive Director Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority	Personnel Matter
4.	Caty Wagner, Sierra Club CA	Personnel Matter
5.	Rita Robinson, Former Director LA Bureau of Sanitation	Personnel Matter
6.	Maura Monagan, LA Water Keeper	Personnel Matter
7.	Ellen Mackey, MWD Employee	Personnel Matter
8.	Marty Adams, Former General Manager LADWP	Personnel Matter
9.	Ali Poosti, Retiree City of LA	Personnel Matter
10.	Yvonne Martinez Watson, Chair of Environmental and Social Justice Committee for Sierra Club	Personnel Matter

Chair Ortega made remarks regarding the public comment.

Director Jung entered the meeting.

## **2. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS**

a. Subject: Chair's Report

Presented by: Chair Ortega

Chair Ortega requested to add the two following items to the Consent Calendar for July:

- Commendatory resolution honoring The Rancho California Water District for 2024 recipient of the Outstanding Public Service Announcement Emmy Awards "Be a Water Hero" Campaign; and
- Commendatory resolution honoring Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District recipient of the American Water Works Association National 2024 Hydrant Hysteria Competition

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

Presented by: Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay

Interim General Manager Upadhyay reported on the following:

- State Water Project
- Message to the partner agencies, federal entities that Metropolitan remains focused on providing reliable service in a sustainable way.
- Update on message to Metropolitan staff.
- Update on roundtable with member agency managers.
- Update on meeting with executive management team.
- Update on interim positions.
- Update on legislative matters.

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

Presented by: General Counsel Marcia Scully

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

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

Presented by: Assistant General Auditor Kathryn Andrus

Assistant General Auditor Andrus reported on the secured site and ask for any feedback on the accessing the document on the site.

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

Presented by: Ethics Officer Abel Salinas

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

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

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

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting for May 28, 2024.

Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any additions, corrections, or omissions on the minutes of the May 28, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting. None were made.

B. Approve the draft of the Committee and Board meeting agendas and schedule for July 2024.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any additions or deletions to the July 2024 draft packet.

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

- Authorize an agreement with Arcadis, U.S. Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$1.525 million for Data Management and Data Analytics Consulting & Implementation Services to implement Phase 1 of the Data Analytics project; and:
- Colorado River Housing Community Planning Update.

Committee Chair Luna reported that at the Legal and Claims Committee, the following item subject has been added:

- General Counsel Business Plan for FY 2024-2025;
- and the following subject has been revised: Closed session report and to authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP, for legal services by \$TBD to an amount not-to-exceed \$TBD; and to authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Exponent, Inc. for consulting services by \$TBD to an amount not-to-exceed \$TBD.

Chair Ortega reported that at the One Water and Stewardship Committee, the following item subject has been deleted:

- Authorize the General Manager to enter into: (1) a forbearance agreement with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, and the City of Needles to allow water conserved under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's conservation program to be added to Lake Mead; and (2) an agreement with Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's conservation program to add water conserved by Imperial Irrigation District to Lake Mead that would otherwise accrue to Metropolitan and San Diego County Water Authority;
- and the following subject has been revised: Authorize entering into a funding agreement with Inland Empire Utilities Agency under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program for the Chino Basin Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Facility.

#### **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 Garza, to approve the consent calendar Items 3A and 3B as listed and revised.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Armstrong, Camacho, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Goldberg, Jung, Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, and Smith.

Abstention: Fong-Sakai (3A)

Recusal: None

Absent: Gray, Quinn, and Sutley.

The motion for Item 3A passed by a vote of 14 ayes; 0 noes; 1 abstention; and 3 absent.

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

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

#### **5. COMMITTEE INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. Subject: Spotlight on Metropolitan Employee(s) Retiring with over Twenty Years of Service.
- Presented by: Joseph Ortega, Team Manager

Joseph Ortega recognized Theo Newman for his years of service at Metropolitan.

b. Subject: Report on the Colorado River Board Meeting.

Presented by: Director Cordero

Director Cordero reported on the Colorado River Board Meeting.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega

c. Subject: Colorado River Activities

Presented by: Shanti Rosset, Program Manager III

Ms. Rosset reported on Colorado River activities.

## **6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

Chair Ortega announced that the next Audit Subcommittee of the Executive Committee will be July 23, 2024.

## **7. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

NONE

## **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

NONE

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m. in memory of the tragic event of the San Fernando Tunnel methane gas explosion that occurred in 1971, claiming the lives of sixteen miners and one Metropolitan inspector who was working on the Foothill Feeder Tunnel near Sylmar.

Adán Ortega, Jr.  
Chair of the Board