

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 24, 2026

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Members present: Directors Camacho, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Kassakhian (Just-Cause Contiguous Illness – alone in the room), Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt (teleconference posted location), McCoy, Miller, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos (teleconference posted location), Seckel (entered after roll), and Sutley.

Members absent: Director Douglas, Gray, and Jung.

Other Board members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Cordero, Crane, Dennstedt, Faessel, Fellow, McMillan, Paule, and Shepherd Romey.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Deshmukh, Katano, Hudson, Rubin, Salinas, Scully, Suzuki, and Zinke.

Pledge of Allegiance: Director Tana McCoy, City of Compton.

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 reported that he is appointing Board Vice Chair Garza as an alternate member to the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority and to the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority.

He is sunsetting the Ad Hoc Committee on Management Transition.

Lastly, he requested that an item be added to the April draft packet, "renaming the Cesar Chavez Holiday."

Director Seckel entered the meeting.

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

Presented by: General Manager Deshmukh

General Manager Deshmukh reported he will be reporting on his observations and recommendations for his first one hundred days; the upcoming biennium budget workshop; an April information item memorandum of understanding with the San Diego County Water Authority; interstate transfers; how the Middle East war could potentially impact Metropolitan and staff stands ready and prepared by increasing awareness for cyber and physical security; on the Sacramento delegation meeting with board leadership; and his vacation is scheduled for April 6-11, 2026 with delegation of authority to Assistant General Manager Bednarski.

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

Director(s)

1. Ortega

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

General Counsel Scully reported that Member Agencies interested in water transfers should review the operative agreement which is the amended exchange agreement that allows San Diego County Water Authority to give member agencies the opportunity to take a portion of the exchange that would be going to them to be directed to another member agency, and invited the board to Assistant General Counsel Henry Torres' retirement celebration at 3:30.

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

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

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. COMMITTEE ACTION

- A. Approval of the minutes of the Executive Committee of February 24, 2026.
- B. Approve the draft of the Committee and Board meeting agendas and schedule for April 2026.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any additions or deletions to the April 2026 draft packet.

Committee Chair Kurtz stated that for the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnership, the following item was revised:

- Central Valley Agriculture Perspective: Cannon Michael, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bowles Farming Company.

Chair Ortega stated that the Committee recommends adding Metropolitan to rename the Caesar Chavez Holiday.

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

The vote was:

- Ayes: Directors Camacho, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Kassakhian, Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, Miller, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Seckel, and Sutley.
- Abstention: None
- Recusal: None
- Absent: Directors Douglas, Gray, and Jung.

The motion for Items 3A and 3B passed by a vote of 16 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstentions; and 3 absent.

Director Kassakhian announced he is alone in the room.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

4. COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL ITEM

- a. Subject: Discuss and consider potential updates to the department head evaluation process, performance expectations, and business plans, including possible amendments to Metropolitan's Administrative Code.

Presented by: Rickita Hudson, Board Executive Secretary

Ms. Hudson reported on proposed changes.

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

Director(s)

1. Seckel
2. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

5. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

NONE

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Adan Ortega
Chair of the Board