

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**April 7, 2025**

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Katz, Lewitt, Luna, and Ramos.

Members absent: None

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Bryant, Cordero, Faessel, Garza, Kurtz, Lefevre, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Ortega, and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Novoa, Rubin, Sims, Stites, and Upadhyay

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

Joe Mouawad	EMWD General Manager	Item 7-9
Raul Avila	CMWD President of the Board	Item 7-9
Scott Quady	CMWD Vice President of the Board	Item 7-9

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

Director Gray entered the meeting.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee held March 10, 2025.

### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

**7-9**     Subject:        Express support if amended for AB 523 (Irwin) Metropolitan water districts: alternative representative; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Rep, Legislative Services

Motion:        Express support if amended for AB 523 (Irwin) Metropolitan water districts: alternative representative

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1.     Dennstedt
2.     Camacho
3.     Kurtz
4.     Ortega
5.     Ramos
6.     Luna
7.     Garza
8.     Ackerman
9.     Cordero
10.    Katz
11.    Armstrong
12.    Upadhyay
13.    Lewitt
14.    Fellow

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation for item 7-9 the following votes were taken.

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho to approve the consent calendar item 2A.

Ayes:           Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, Lewitt, and Ramos

Noes:           None

Abstentions:   Directors Katz and Luna

Absent:         None

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 2 abstain, and 0 absent.

Director Dennstedt made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho, to approve the consent calendar item 7-9.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Kassakhian, Katz,  
Lewitt, and Luna  
Noes: Directors Ackerman, Jung, and Ramos  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: None

The motion for item 7-9 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 3 noes, 0 abstain, and 0 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 R. Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on FY25 Appropriations, House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee Hearing, Senate Environment and Public Works Nomination Hearing, and President Trump nominations and appointments.

- b. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento  
Presented by: Jay L. Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the legislative calendar, invasive golden mussel in the Delta, and Metropolitan's sponsored bill AB 580 (Wallis) regarding an exemption from the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. He also discussed several member agency proposals, including AB 259 (Rubio) on open meetings and local agencies' teleconferences, SB 394 (Allen) addressing water theft on fire hydrants, and AB 810 (Irwin) addressing local government on internet websites and email addresses.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Katz
- 2.) Luna

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

## **7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

a. Subject: External Affairs activities

Presented by: Sue Sims, External Affairs Group Manager

Ms. Sims provided an update on community outreach, conservation advertising spending, multimedia, multilingual and community-based messaging for California Friendly Landscapes.

## **8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

Director Luna requested us to follow legislation on AB52.

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Jay Lewitt  
Chair