

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
September 10, 2024

53769 The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Director Ackerman stated that she is using AB 2449 due to her disability.

Director Smith stated that he is using AB 2449 due to a contagious illness.

53770 The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Anthony Fellow, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District.

53771 The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Karl Seckel, Municipal Water District of Orange County.

53772 Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman (AB 2449), Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus (teleconference posted location available for the public), Dennstedt (teleconference posted location available for the public), Douglas, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Gray (teleconference posted location available for the public), Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kassakhian, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location available for the public), Lewitt, Luna, McCoy, McMillan (teleconference posted location available for the public), Miller, Morris, Ortega, Quinn, Ramos (teleconference posted location available for the public), Seckel, Smith (AB 2449), and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Cordero, Dick, Garza, Petersen, and Pressman.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Director(s) entered the meeting after the roll call: Directors Gold and Phan (teleconference posted locations available for the public).

Chair Ortega called on Director Dennstedt to introduce Member Agency Manager Guest Board President Mike Gardner and General Manager Craig Miller of Western Municipal Water District. Chair Ortega, Director Dennstedt, Mr. Gardner, and Mr. Miller made remarks.

Chair Ortega welcomed and thanked Misters Gardner and Miller for joining the board and encouraged them to comment on matters important to the Western Municipal Water District.

Chair Ortega announced Metropolitan will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. The social media team will be teaming up Hispanic Employees Association to create engaging posts that showcase the diverse talents and stories within our workforce.

Chair Ortega announced Director Lewitt requested to pull Item 7-6 regarding a proposed position on Proposition 4 the climate change bond initiative from the consent calendar. Metropolitan also received a request from Senator Ben Allen, one of the authors of the legislation to speak to the Board about Proposition 4. Senator Allen is not available to speak to the Board until 1:00 p.m. therefore, the item will be put to the end of the agenda to allow Senator Allen and other members of the public to comment prior to the Board's consideration of Item 7-6.

53773 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.	Darcy Burke	Elsinore Valley Water District	9/11 Remembrance and CAMP4W Initiatives Collaboration
2.	Justin Breck	LA Waterkeepers	Item 7-6
3.	Barbara Barrigan-Prilla	Restore the Delta	Item 7-6

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

53774 Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of August, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

53775 Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, Chair Ortega congratulated Director Kurtz as she is an honoree at the Business Life Magazine's 35th Annual Women Achievers 2024 Awards Luncheon will be held on October 11, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. in Pasadena. Lastly, the Palo Verde Irrigation District will be holding an election for two of the seven members of its Board of Trustees on September 17, 2024. Michael Mullion and Brad Robinson are the incumbents seeking re-election on PVID's Board of Trustees. Director Camacho will be casting votes on behalf of Metropolitan.

Chair Ortega asked if there are any questions. None were made.

53776 Interim General Manager Upadhyay reported on the issuance of the bonds with Assistant General Manager Kasaine providing an update. In addition, Interim GM Upadhyay provided an update on the wildfires, the Nation of Mexico requesting emergency water for Tijuana, and an update on the Perris Valley pipeline video.

53777 General Counsel Scully stated she had nothing to add to the written report. She congratulated the PVP team.

53778 General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to the written report.

53779 Ethics Officer Salinas stated that the AB1234 required training will be given at the November Board meeting.

53780 Presentation of 5-Year Service Pin to Director McCoy representing the City of Compton (Agenda Item 5G).

53781 Presentation of 5-Year Service Pin to Director Quinn representing the City of Los Angeles (Agenda Item 5H).

53782 Presentation Commendatory Resolution for Director Judy Abdo representing the City of Santa Monica (Agenda Item 5I).

Committee Chair Jung stated that at the Legislation and Communications Committee meeting, the Committee voted on Option 2 to take no action on Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildlife Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act 2024.

Chair Ortega stated that before any questions we will take additional public comment (in-person and via teleconference) for Agenda Item 7-6.

	Name	Affiliation	Comment
1.	Senator Allen		Item 7-6

Director Gold entered the meeting.

53784 Chair Ortega called for a motion on Item 7-6 .

Director Lewitt made a motion to express support Senator Allen's proposition on Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildlife Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act 2024.

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

Director(s)

1. Fellow
2. Sutley
3. Gold
4. Gray
5. Luna
6. Alvarez
7. Ortega

The public line was closed.

53784 Express support for Proposition 4, the Safe Drinking Water, Wildlife Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

Director Lewitt moved, seconded by Director Sutley that the Board approve Item 7-6 as follows:

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Item 7-6.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):		7-6							
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							
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza							
		Crawford	x	x	20265				
		Subtotal:			20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	12919	Armstrong	x	x	12919				
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							
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	20959				
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	20959				
		Luna	x	x	20959				
		Douglas	x	x	20959				
		Subtotal:			83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	22701				
		Seckel	x	x	22701				
		Dick							
		Erdman	x	x	22701				
		Subtotal:			68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70862	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17716				
		Goldberg	x	x	17716				
		Miller	x	x	17716				
		Smith	x	x	17716				
		Subtotal:			70862				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
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	14382				
		Gray	x	x	14382				
		Subtotal:			28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x					x	15689
Total	406315				375575				15689
Present and not voting									
Absent	15051								

The motion to approve Item 7-6 (**M.I. No. 53784**) passed by a vote of 375,575 ayes; 0 noes; 15,689 abstain; 0 not voting; and 15,051 absent.

Directors Ackerman and Smith, using AB 2449 just cause, did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

53783 Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any comments or discussions on the Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting for August 20, 2024 (Copies have been submitted to each Director any additions, corrections, or omissions) (Agenda Item 6A). No amendments were made.

53785 Approval of Committee Assignments (Agenda Item 6B).

Appoint Director Lewitt to the Ethics, Organization, and Personnel Committee.

Appoint Directors Garza and Armstrong to the Ad Hoc Committee for the Department Heads Evaluation Process.

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.

53786 Authorize an agreement with IDS Group Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 for preliminary design to rehabilitate the HVAC system at Metropolitan Headquarters Building, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

53787 Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the West Valley Feeder No. 1 Stage 3 Improvements Project and take related CEQA actions, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

53788 Award a \$1,285,000 contract to Resource Environmental Incorporated for abatement and roof replacement on houses at four Colorado River Aqueduct Pumping Plant villages, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

53789 Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with the Plumas Community Protection I Forest Resilience Bond LLC, North Feather I Forest Resilience Bond LLC, and Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resilience Bond LLC to establish watershed partnerships and forest health pilot investigations in the Northern Sierra Nevada, each agreement is not to exceed \$200,000 per year for a maximum of two years, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

53790 Approve the salary schedule, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

Director Morris moved, seconded by Director Sutley that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, and 7-1 through 7-5 as follows:

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, and 7-1 through 7-5.

Director De Jesus left the meeting.

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, and 7-1 through 7-5 (**M.I. No. 53783, 53785 through 53790**) passed by a vote of 391,264 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 15,051 absent.

Directors Ackerman and Smith, using AB 2449 just cause, did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

53791 Authorize a \$40 million increase to an existing design-build services agreement with J.F. Shea Construction Inc. to purchase long-lead equipment for the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations Project for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$50.4 million (Agenda Item 8-1).

Director Erdman moved, seconded by Director Sutley, that the Board approve the Board Item 8-1 as follows:

Chair Ortega called for a vote on the motion for Agenda Item 8-1 Option 1.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		8-1							
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							
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza							
		Crawford	x	x	20265				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	12919	Armstrong	x	x	12919				
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							
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	20959				
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	20959				
		Luna	x	x	20959				
		Douglas	x	x	20959				
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	22701				
		Seckel	x	x	22701				
		Dick							
		Erdman	x	x	22701				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70862	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17716				
		Goldberg	x	x	17716				
		Miller	x	x	17716				
		Smith	x	x	17716				
			Subtotal:		70862				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
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	14382				
		Gray	x	x	14382				
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				391264				
Present and not voting									
Absent	15051								

The motion to approve the Board Item 8-1 (**M.I. No. 53791**) passed by a vote of 391,264 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 15,051 absent.

Directors Ackerman and Smith, using AB 2449 just cause, did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

Director Fong-Sakai disclosed Item 8-2 involves authorizing an agreement with AECOM, she currently owns stock and will recuse herself from all participation in this matter.

Director Fong-Sakai left the meeting.

53792 Authorize an amended and restated agreement with County Sanitation District No. 2 of Los Angeles County for shared implementation of Pure Water Southern California (Agenda Item 8-2).

Director Erdman moved, seconded by Director Morris, that the Board approve the Board Item 8-2 as follows:

Chair Ortega called for a vote on the motion for Agenda Item 8-2 Option 1.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		8-2							
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							
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza							
		Crawford	x	x	20265				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	12919	Armstrong	x	x	12919				
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							
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	20959				
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	20959				
		Luna	x	x	20959				
		Douglas	x	x	20959				
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	22701				
		Seckel	x	x	22701				
		Dick							
		Erdman	x	x	22701				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70862	Fong-Sakai							
		Goldberg	x	x	23621				
		Miller	x	x	23621				
		Smith	x	x	23621				
			Subtotal:		70862				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
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	14382				
		Gray	x	x	14382				
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				391264				
Present and not voting									
Absent	15051								

The motion to approve the Board Item 8-2 (M.I. No. 53792) passed by a vote of 391,264 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 15,051 absent.

Fong-Sakai entered the meeting.

53793 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.

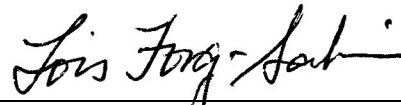
53794 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. Director Camacho requested a status report on the design of the first pipeline for the Pure Water Conveyance Project.

53795 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. Directors Fellow and Armstrong a review of the major project costs for the Sites Reservoir, Delta Conveyance, and Pure Water.


Chair Ortega, Director Quinn, and staff responded.

Director Phan stated her presence at the meeting.

53796 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.



**LOIS FONG-SAKAI
BOARD SECRETARY**



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