

# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## MINUTES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

January 27, 2026

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Members present: Directors Camacho, Douglas (teleconference posted location-entered after roll call), Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gray (teleconference posted location), Jung (teleconference posted location), Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan (alternate), Miller, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn (entered after roll call), Ramos, Seckel, Sutley.

Members absent: Director Kassakhian.

Other Board members present: Directors Ackerman, Bryant, Cordero, Crane, Denham, Faessel, Fellow, Jay, and Shepherd Romey.

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

#### **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 a copy of the fourth-quarter international travel report for the period of October 2025 through December 2025 was posted. In addition, he will recommend to the board that the Ethics Committee be a standing Committee in March. The Palo Verde Irrigation District will be reconducting its election of its Board of Trustees on February 17, 2026. Director Camacho will serve as the proxy for Metropolitan. Lastly, he will be out for the month of February, and Board Vice Chairs Sutley and Camacho will act in an ex officio capacity in his absence.

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

General Manager Deshmukh reported on the Sepulveda Feeder Groundbreaking, the LA Waterkeeper event, the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting, the Southern California Water Coalition, the Municipal Water District of Orange County policy dinner, the upcoming Washington, D.C. trip, the Pure Water Southern California Environmental Impact Report, the upcoming biennium budget meetings, the Colorado River negotiations, and staff update.

Director Douglas entered the meeting.

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

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

- 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.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions or comments. None were made.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **3. COMMITTEE ACTION**

- A. Approve the draft of the Committee and Board meeting agendas and schedule for February 2025.

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

Committee Vice Chair McMillan stated that at the Legal and Claims Committee, the following items were added:

- Amend Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 6521 to reflect the current practice of paying Employer-Paid Member Contributions and reporting these payments to CalPERS as special compensation

- In closed session:
  - Report on litigation in Systems Integrated, LLC v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21STCV18292; and
  - Conference with legal counsel for anticipated litigation; receipt of a government claim threatening litigation, there is significant exposure to litigation against Metropolitan; one potential case.

Committee Chair Lewitt stated that at the Legislation and Communications Committee, the following item was added:

- Report on the Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Facilities Naming

Director Quinn entered the meeting.

Committee Chair Quinn stated at the One Water and Adaptation Committee the following item was withdrawn:

- Proposed terms for a pilot program for early retirement of alfalfa in the Palo Verde Valley

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Item 3A.

Director Garza made a motion, seconded by Director Sutley, to approve the consent calendar 3A as presented, listed, and revised.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Camacho, Douglas, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gray, Jung, Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan (alternate), Miller, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Seckel, Sutley.

Abstention: None

Recusal: None

Absent: Director Kassakhian

The motion for Item 3A passed by a vote of 19 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstentions; and 1 absent.

### **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

#### **4. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

NONE

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

NONE

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Adán Ortega, Jr.  
Chair of the Board