

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGAL AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

October 14, 2025

Chair Luna called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

Members present: Directors Camacho, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Dick, Douglas, Katz, Kurtz, Luna, McMillan (teleconference posted location), and Miller.

Members absent: Directors Crawford and Ramos.

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Jay, Lewitt, Ortega, Seckel, and Shepherd Romey.

Committee Staff present: Beatty, Gaxiola, Hudson, Rubin, Scully, and Upadhyay.

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

None

2. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

A. Subject: General Counsel’s report of monthly activities

General Counsel Scully had nothing to add to her written report.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. COMMITTEE ACTION

- A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee for September 9, 2025.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

- | | | |
|-----|---------|---|
| 7-5 | Subject | Adopt a resolution authorizing electronic submissions of government claims, any amendment thereto, and applications for leave to present a late claim, pursuant to Government Code section 915(a)(3), and approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to conform to the authority set forth in the resolution; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA |
| | Motion | Adopt a resolution authorizing electronic submissions of Government Code claims, any amendments thereto, and applications for leave to present a late claim, pursuant to Government Code section 915(a)(3), and approve amendments and an addition to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to conform to the authority set forth in the resolution |
| 7-6 | Subject | Authorize and fund additional counsel position in the Office of the General Counsel; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA |
| | Motion | Authorize and fund additional counsel position in the Office of the General Counsel |

No presentations were given, Director Katz made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho, to approve item 3A, 7-5, and 7-6.

The vote was:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Ayes: | Directors Camacho, De Jesus, Dick, Douglas, Katz, Kurtz, Luna, McMillan, and Miller |
| Noes: | None |
| Abstentions: | None |
| Absent: | Directors Crawford and Ramos |

The motion for Items 3A, 7-5, and 7-6 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

Chair Luna called the meeting into closed session.

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

8-5 Subject Report on Oswalt v. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Diego County Superior Court Case No. 37-2023-00009934-CU-PO-NC; authorize an increase in maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Ryan and Associates in the amount of \$100,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$350,000 and consider authorizing settlement; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
[Conference with legal counsel—existing litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]

Presented by: Betty Kuo Brinton, Sr. Deputy General Counsel

8-6 Subject Report on Jones v. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 23STCV28217 and consider authorizing settlement; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
[Conference with legal counsel—existing litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]

Presented by: Tony Zepeda, Sr. Deputy General Counsel

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Report on pending claims related to the groundwater basin lying westerly of Diamond Valley Lake, commonly referred to as the Domenigoni Basin
[Conference with legal counsel regarding anticipated litigation based on existing facts and circumstances, including allegations of a breach of an agreement, there is significant exposure to litigation against Metropolitan: 1 potential case; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]

Presented by: Cathy Stites, Principal Deputy General Counsel

Director Camacho left the meeting.

Chair Luna reported the committee discussed and conferred with legal counsel regarding items 8-5, 8-6, and 7a. Chair Luna reported there were no reportable actions.

In open session, Director Katz made a motion, seconded by Director Miller to approve the contract increase for item 8-5.

8-5 Motion: Authorize an increase in maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Ryan and Associates in the amount of \$100,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$350,000 and consider authorizing settlement

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors De Jesus, Dick, Douglas, Katz, Kurtz, Luna, McMillan, and Miller

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Camacho, Crawford, and Ramos

The motion for Item 8-5 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Miguel Luna
Chair