



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

● Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – June 2024

Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board during the month of June 2024 on matters relating to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's business.

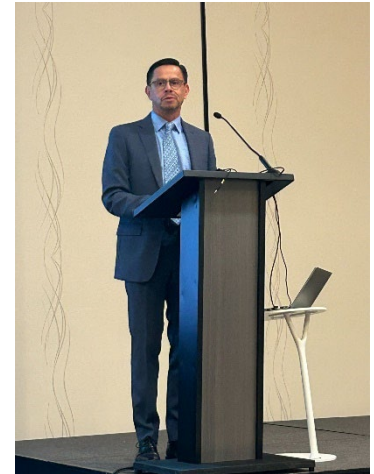
Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- Attended Member Agency Board and City Council meetings with General Manager Adel Hagekhalil and Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay. I made two stops in June and one virtually: Foothill Municipal Water District, Western Municipal Water District, and the City of Beverly Hills Public Works Commission (virtual). We addressed the interrelation between CAMP4Water, the Biennial Budget Process, Bay-Delta Issues, and the Colorado River, as well as our collective resiliency in addressing the State Water Project Exclusive Areas challenges. We also answered questions and comments from the member agency directors and, in some instances, members of the public, including local elected officials.



- Attended the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Annual Conference and Exposition Public Officials Breakfast, where I provided welcoming remarks and congratulated Heather Collins on her new position as president-elect of AWWA. We are proud of her election to lead AWWA.



- Participated in Pasadena's public forum panel "Where Will Pasadena Get Our Water?" alongside water experts to discuss how we will ensure water reliability and affordability in the face of a hotter and drier climate and other water supply challenges. Pasadena Councilmember-Elect Rick Cole moderated the panel, which besides myself, included Chief Executive Officer of Mouton Niguel Water District Joone Kim-Lopez, Executive Director of Stewards of the Arroyo Seco and former Metropolitan Water District Board Chair Tim Brick, and Assistant General Manager of Pasadena Water and Power Stacie Takeguchi. Metropolitan Water District Board Director Cynthia Kurtz was also in attendance.



- I joined Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay in the virtual Pride event and delivered a toast with closing remarks to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, embracing diversity and inclusion and honoring our progress toward equality. Joining us virtually was Director Judy Abdo.



Other Activities

- Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay and I held a virtual All-Staff Update to address the Metropolitan Board's decision to place General Manager Adel Hagekhalil on leave and appoint Deven Upadhyay as Interim General Manager. With about 1,000 staff members present, we reassured the staff of our commitment to due process and maintaining a safe working environment for everyone. We emphasized our dedication to upholding high service standards and encouraged the team to stay focused on our mission of providing safe and reliable drinking water to the community. The internal broadcast was recorded for later viewing by anyone who missed it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NV3gFUHZVWU>



- I was interviewed by Ian James of the Los Angeles Times and a reporter for Politico regarding the Board's decision to place the General Manager on temporary leave.

Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

- I continue to meet regularly to review the Board's organizational issues and coordinate activities with the Board Vice Chairs and Department Heads.