

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGAL AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

September 9, 2025

Chair Luna called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

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

Members absent: Directors Crawford and Ramos.

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Cordero, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Jay, Lewitt, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman (teleconference posted location), Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Committee Staff present: Beatty, Boucher, 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. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee for July 8, 2025.

Director Katz made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho, to approve item 3A.

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 Item 3A passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

Agenda was reordered to take Item 7a first.

- 7.a. Subject: Recap of Recent Completed Employment Cases
Presented by: Marcia Scully, General Counsel

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Kurtz
2. Douglas
3. Dick

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

Chair Luna called the meeting into closed session on Items 8-1 and 8-2.

5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

- 8-1** Subject Report on litigation in Encarnacion Gutierrez v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 23STCV11052; and authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with BDG Law Group, APLC, in the amount of \$400,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$900,000; and consider options for 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
- No motion, contract increase deferred
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- 8-2** Subject Report on litigation in Dane Crawford v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Riverside County Superior Court Case No. CVPS2304015, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of \$300,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,200,000; report on litigation in Dannelle-Mimi Phan v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 25STCV13693, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of \$350,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$700,000; report on litigation in Gina Chavez v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVSB2521200, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of \$450,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,000,000; report on litigation in Ryan Tiegs v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Riverside County Superior Court Case No. CVPS2306176, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of \$250,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,075,000; and report on litigation in Maria Carmen Zarate v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 23STCV15786; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are 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: Marcia Scully, General Counsel

Motion: Authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in Dane Crawford v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in the amount of \$300,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,200,000; authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in Phan v. Metropolitan in the amount of 350,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$700,000; authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in Chavez v. Metropolitan in the amount of \$450,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,000,000; and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in Tiegs v. Metropolitan in the amount of \$250,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,075,000

Chair Luna reported there was no action taken in closed session.

In open session, Director Camacho made a motion, seconded by Director Katz to approve the contract increases.

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 Item 8-2 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS

None

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Miguel Luna
Chair