

MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
October 21, 2024

53825 The Executive Committee and Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in a special session on Monday, October 21, 2024.

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Director Pressman stated that he is using AB 2449 just cause for caretaker responsibilities.

53826 Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero, Crawford De Jesus (teleconference posted location available for the public), Dennstedt, Douglas (teleconference posted location available for the public), Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gold, Goldberg, Gray, Jung, (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location available for the public), Lewitt, Luna, McCoy, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Phan (teleconference posted location available for the public), Pressman (AB2449 Just Cause), Seckel, Smith (teleconference posted location available for the public), and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Director Dick.

Board Executive Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Directors entered the meeting after the roll call: Directors Armstrong (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kassakhian, McMillan (teleconference posted location available for the public), Petersen, Quinn, and Ramos.

Chair Ortega made remarks regarding the items on the agenda.

53827 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.	Connor Everts	Statewide Environmental Water Caucus and other organizations	Item 9 a-c
2.	Crystal Moreno		Item 9 a-c

3.	Darcy Burke	Elsinore Valley Water District	Item 9 a-c
4.	Annette Eckhardt	President of Women at Met	Item 9 a-c
5.	Phyvin Mok	Metropolitan Employee	Item 9 a-c
6.	Adel Hagekhalil	Metropolitan Employee	Item 9 a-c
7.	Oscar Yanez	Metropolitan Employee	Item 9 a-c
8.	Bob Bloomfield	Council member City of Los Angeles	Item 9 a-c
9.	Wendy Brugette	Sanitation	Item 9 a-c
10.	Emilo Cruz		Item 9 a-c
11.	Rick Hidrazi		Item 9 a-c
12.	Barbara Barrigan-Prilla	Restore the Delta	Item 9 a-c
13.	Andy Lipkus	Accelerate \Resilience LA	Item 9 a-c
14.	Michelle Plais		Item 9 a-c
15.	Randall Neudeck	Metropolitan Employee	Item 9 a-c
16.	Bruce Reznik	Los Angeles Water Keeper, Executive Director	Item 9 a-c
17.	Evelyn Wendell	WeTap	Item 9 a-c
18.	Paul Caretz	For BOD Member	Item 9 a-c
19.	David Hethon	LA Resident	Item 9 a-c
20.	John Popoch	Los Angeles City Council, Deputy Chief of Staff	Item 9 a-c
21.	Hilary Norton	Former Chair of the CA Transportation Commission	Item 9 a-c
22.	Alan Shanahan	Metropolitan Employee	Item 9 a-c
23.	Rickita Hudson	Metropolitan Employee	Item 9 a-c
24.	Kerry Garvis Wright	Attorney at Glaser Weil for Adel Hagekhalil	Item 9 a-c
25.	Behat Zinjani	IEM President	Item 9 a-c

26.	Lisa Hart		Item 9 a-c
27.	Steve Pedersen		Item 9 a-c
28.	Caty Wagner	Sierra Club of California	Item 9 a-c
29.	Dina Zaroo		Item 9 a-c
30.	Rita Robinson	Director of the Bureau of Sanitation	Item 9 a-c
31.	Jose Lozano		Item 9 a-c
32.	Nancy Velasco		Item 9 a-c
33.	Teresa Viegas		Item 9 a-c
34.	Venu Khali		Item 9 a-c
35.	Stephanie Clemens	Assistant Director Chief Financial Officer Bureau of Street Services	Item 9 a-c
36.	Andrew Pizzula		Item 9 a-c
37.	Aura Garcia	Former President of LA Public Works	Item 9 a-c
38.	Trish Gonzales	Metropolitan Retiree	Item 9 a-c
39.	Margaret Shiroko Roucher		Item 9 a-c
40.	Charming Evelyn	Sierra Club of California	Item 9 a-c
41.	Hans Johnson	President, East Area Progressive	Item 9 a-c
42.	Sydney		Item 9 a-c
43.	Brandi Vanderjagt	Metropolitan Employee	Item 9 a-c
44.	Jan Warren	Walnut Creek Resident	Item 9 a-c
45.	Welsey Trung		Item 9 a-c
46.	Karen Jacques	Sacramento Resident	Item 9 a-c
47.	Cristina Gomez		Item 9 a-c
48.	Elizabeth Reid Wainslo		Item 9 a-c

49.	Gabriela Ortiz	Streets of LA	Item 9 a-c
50.	Tracy Shabria		Item 9 a-c
51.	Lane Fujot	Delta Resident	Item 9 a-c
52.	Ellen Mackey	Metropolitan Employee	Item 9 a-c
53.	Osmin Pena	Metropolitan Employee	Item 9 a-c
54.	Seth Chipman	Member of Public	Item 9 a-c
55.	Alip Hosi		Item 9 a-c
56.	Bernadette Robertson	Metropolitan Employee	Item 9 a-c
57.	No Name Provided	Civil Engineering	Item 9 a-c
58.	David Abel		Item 9 a-c
59.	Drew Boronkay	MAPA Union Representative	Item 9 a-c
60.	Bart Fisher	Palo Verde Irrigation District, Board Member	Item 9 a-c

Directors Armstrong, Kassakhian, McMillan, Petersen, Quinn, and Ramos entered the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS

5. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

- a. Subject: Chair's Report
Presented by: Chair Ortega

Chair Ortega stated that the report on international travel for the third quarter of 2024, July through September 2024, was posted online. He asked if there were any questions or comments. In addition, the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Water Quality Section and the Safe Drinking Water Act will be on October 24, 2024.

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

Director(s)

1. Gray

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

- b. Subject: Interim General Manager's Report of Metropolitan Activities
Presented by: Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay

Interim General Manager Upadhyay reported on the following:

- Update on the outreach meetings with Member Agencies
- Update on the workshop with Member Agencies General Managers
- Report on the passing of Metropolitan employee Jonathan Holm, O&M Tech IV at Lake Matthews

- c. Subject: General Counsel's report of Metropolitan activities
Presented by: Assistant General Counsel Torres

Assistant General Counsel Torres stated he had nothing to add to the report.

- d. Subject: General Auditor's report of Metropolitan activities
Presented by: General Auditor Suzuki

General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to his report.

- e. Subject: Ethics Officer's report of Metropolitan activities
Presented by: Ethics Officer Abel Salinas

Ethics Officer Salinas stated he had nothing to add to his report.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting for September 24, 2024.

Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any additions, corrections, or omissions on the minutes of the September 24, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting. None were made.

- B. Approve the draft of the Committee and Board meeting agendas and schedule for November 2024.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any additions or deletions to the November 2024 draft packet. No comments were made.

- C. Approve Candidates for Board Secretary for two-year term effective January 1, 2025.

Director Quinn nominated Board Secretary Fong-Sakai and the nomination was accepted.

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Items 6A, 6B and 6C.

Director Sutley made a motion, seconded by Director Garza, to approve the consent calendar Items 6A, 6B and 6C as listed and revised.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Goldberg, Gray, Jung, Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Smith and Sutley.

Abstention: None

Recusal: None

Absent: None

The motion for Items 6A, 6B and 6C passed by a vote of 17 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 0 absent.

Director Pressman using AB 2449 just cause, did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

7. COMMITTEE INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Subject: Report on the Colorado River Board Meeting

Director Camacho deferred the report.

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

Director(s)

1. Luna

- b. Subject: Colorado River Activities

Presented by: Shanti Rosset

Ms. Rosset reported on Colorado River activities.

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

Director(s)

1. Gold

Staff responded to the Director's comments and questions.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- a. Committee Chair Armstrong announced nothing to report. The next Audit Subcommittee of the Executive Committee meeting was scheduled for November 19, 2024.

SPECIAL BOARD ITEMS

9. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

Chair Ortega called the meeting into closed session to discuss Agenda Items 9a, 9b, and 9c.

53827 Status of investigations and provide direction on potential interim measures; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA. [Conference with legal counsel—anticipated litigation; based on existing facts and circumstances, including receipt of correspondences containing allegations of serious Equal Employment Opportunity, retaliation, and other violations; there is significant exposure to litigation against Metropolitan; two potential cases; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]. (Agenda Item 9a).

53828 Review of Department Head Performance Evaluation [Public employee performance evaluation: General Manager, to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957]. (Agenda Item 9b)

53829 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release [to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957]. (Agenda Item 9c)

Director Miller left the meeting.

The Board returned to open session at 3:25 p.m.; in closed session, the Board discussed Items 9a, 9b, and 9c. Chair Ortega called on Assistant General Counsel Torres to report the action.

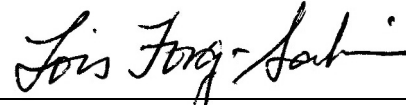
Mr. Torres reported Item 9a, the Board voted to continue the General Manager's administrative leave until receipt of the Chief Financial Officer's investigative report, and the Board and Executive Committee have time to meet to consider the report. On Items 9b and 9c, there are no reportable actions.

A record of the votes made in closed session are attached to the minutes.

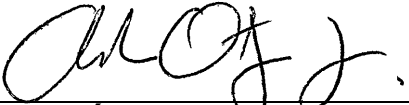
Record of Vote on Item:		Item 9A - Motion to continue General Manager's administrative leave until receipt of CFO investigative report, and we have time for the Board and Executive Committee to meet to consider the report.							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			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	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	16767				
		Petersen	x	x	16767				
		Quinn	x	x	16767				
		Luna	x	x	16767				
		Douglas	x	x	16767				
			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	23621				
		Goldberg	x	x	23621				
		Miller							
		Smith	x	x	23621				
			Subtotal:		70862				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan	x	x	3569				
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				384859		21456		
Present and not voting									
Absent	0								

The motion to approve the Item 10A Closed Session (M.I. No. 53827) passed by a vote of 384,859 ayes; 21,456 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and absent.

53828 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned in honor of the late Jonathan Holm at 3:26 p.m.



**LOIS FONG-SAKAI
BOARD SECRETARY**



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