

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

August 18, 2025

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray (teleconference posted location), Jay, Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Katz, Lewitt, Ramos (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: Directors Camacho, and Luna

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Dick, Faessel, Garza, McMillan, Miller, Ortega, Pressman (teleconference posted location), and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Garcia Tarin, Rubin, Schaffer, Stites, Upadhyay, and Zinke

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

None

2. COMMITTEE ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee held July 7, 2025.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Director Dennstedt made a motion, seconded by Director Fellow, to approve the consent calendar item 2A.

Ayes:	Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Jay, Jung, Kassakhian, Katz, Lewitt, and Shepherd Romey
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Camacho, Luna, and Ramos

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 3 absent.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

- a. Subject: Update on 2025-26 Inspection Trip Program
- Presented by: Rupam Soni, Section Manager, Member Services & Public Outreach

Ms. Soni provided a report on the Inspection Trip Program, including updates for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, enhancements at Gene Camp, and an overview of the budget.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Dennstedt
- 2) Ortega
- 3) Fellow
- 4) Dick
- 5) Kassakhian
- 6) Garza
- 7) Faessel

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments

Director Ramos entered the meeting.

- b. Subject: Building Public Trust in Drinking Water
- Presented by: Heather Collins, Section Manager, Water Treatment

Ms. Collins provided an informational update highlighting perspectives and examples of how the water sector engages the public to advance trust in drinking water.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Sheperd Romey
- 2) Fellow
- 3) Ortega
- 4) Lewitt

c. Subject: Quarterly State and Federal Regulatory Update

Presented by: Christopher Gabelich, Interim Team Manager, Operations
Regulatory Services

Mr. Gabelich provided an update on Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), Food & Water Watch Inc. et al. v. EPA regarding fluoridated drinking water, California Air Resources Board Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation, State Water Resources Control Board Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, and South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 1171 for Solvent Cleaning Operations.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Jay
- 2) Seckel
- 3) Dennstedt
- 4) Ortega

Staff responded to the Director's comments or questions.

d. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act, Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency and Bureau of Reclamation, and nominations approved by the Senate for Brian Nesvick as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Adam Telle as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

- e. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the state legislative calendar, Metropolitan's sponsored bill AB 580 on a Surface Mining and Reclamation Act exemption, member agency proposals and other legislation, and Metropolitan's trailer bill priorities for the Delta Conveyance Project and golden mussels.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Ortega

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs Activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, External Affairs Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on public outreach activities and shared a social media influencer video of Metropolitan.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Jay Lewitt
Chair