

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
December 5, 2023

53457 The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in a special session on Tuesday, December 05, 2023.

Board Vice Chair Sutley called the hybrid in-person and teleconference meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

53458 The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Larry D. Dick, Municipal Water District of Orange County.

53459 Board Vice Chair Sutley called on Chair Ortega from the Metropolitan Gene Pumping Plant remote location to introduce and welcome Chairwoman Amelia Flores, Colorado River Indian Tribal Council.

Chairwoman Flores provided a blessing over the meeting and made remarks on the partnership between the Tribal Council and Metropolitan.

Director Peterson provided a blessing over the meeting.

53460 Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Abdo (teleconference posted location), Alvarez (teleconference posted location), Armstrong (teleconference posted location), Bryant, Camacho (teleconference posted location), Chacon, Cordero (teleconference posted location), De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Dick, Douglas (teleconference posted location), Erdman (teleconference posted location), Faessel (teleconference posted location), Fellow (teleconference posted location), Fong-Sakai, Garza (teleconference posted location), Goldberg, Jung (teleconference posted location), Kurtz (teleconference posted location), Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McCoy (teleconference posted location), Miller (teleconference posted location), Morris (teleconference posted location), Ortega (teleconference posted location), , Peterson (teleconference posted location), Phan (teleconference posted location), Pressman (teleconference posted location), Ramos (teleconference posted location), Seckel, , and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Ackerman, Luna, Petersen, and Smith.

Directors entered the meeting after the roll call: Directors Dennstedt, Gray, Kassakhian, McMillan, and Quinn.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Directors McMillan and Kassakhian entered the meeting.

53461 Board Vice Chair Sutley invited members of the public to address the Board limited to the items listed on the agenda (in-person and teleconference).

	Name	Affiliation	Item
1.	Gonzalo Pantoja	AFSCME Local 1902	10-1
2.	Erin Monasmith	Metropolitan Employee	10-1
3.	Ellen Mackey	Metropolitan Employee	10-1

Directors Luna, Garza, Dennstedt, and Quinn entered the meeting.

53462 Board Vice Chair Sutley asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of November, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. No amendments were made.

53463 Board Vice Chair Sutley referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. Board Vice Chair Sutley asked if there were any questions regarding the report. None were made.

53464 General Manager Hagekhalil summary of activities monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, General Manager Hagekhalil reported on the following:

- Historical meeting at Gene Pumping Plant and acknowledged the essential employees that are a significant part of Metropolitan.
- Acknowledged the public speaker's workplace concerns and stated that management is committed to improving the conditions in housing and ensuring workplace retaliation will not be tolerated along with fair and equitable workplace conditions.
- Update on State Water Project allocation.
- Update on Delta Project.
- Update on Task Force evaluation criteria.
- Update on the upcoming State Water Resource Control Board hearing.

53465 General Counsel Scully's monthly report was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, General Counsel Scully reported that Metropolitan has opted out of the Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) settlement proposal as directed by the Board in November.

53466 General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to the written report.

53467 Ethics Officer Salinas monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, Ethics Officer Salinas reported that in 2024, the Ethics Office will provide live ethics training at the Gene Pumping Plant.

53467 Approval of Committee Assignments (Agenda Item 7A). No assignments were made. Chair Ortega announced he is recommending committee assignments in January. In addition, the Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling (CAMP4W Task Force) meetings are open to all board members and the public.

53468 Board Vice Chair Sutley called on Directors who are requesting an item be pulled from the Consent Calendar Action Items.

Chair Ortega recused himself on Item 7-4, as it involves Honeywell, a company that is a source of income to him within the past 12 months.

Director Erdman recused himself on Item 7-4, as it involves Raytheon and 3M, companies in which he currently owns stock.

Director Miller recused himself on Item 7-4, as it involves 3M, a company in which he currently owns stock.

Director Dick recused himself on Item 7-4, as it involves Bayer, 3M, and Corteva Companies in which he currently owns stock.

Director Phan recused herself on Item 7-4, as it involves clients that are involved in litigations of her employer Rutan & Tucker, LLP.

53469 Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed actions related to the following programs were previously addressed in various CEQA documents and related actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements for Reclamation to fund the generation of up to 408,000 AF of conserved Colorado River system water through 2026 and to enter into agreements with other Colorado River contractors to forbear rights to water generated in California under Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

53470 Award a \$250,974 contract to Access General Contracting, Inc. for improvements of the courtyard area located at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

53471 Award a \$698,000 procurement contract to B&K Valves & Equipment Inc. for five globe valves, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

Board Vice Chair Sutley asked if anyone would like to discuss Agenda Item 7-4 in closed session. No requests were made.

53472 Authorize an increase in maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Marten Law LLP in the amount of \$150,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$400,000, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

Director Morris moved, seconded by Director Peterson that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 7-1 through 7-4 as follows:

Director Quinn left the meeting.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):		Items: 7-1 through 7-4							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6038	Faessel	x	x	6038				
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman	x	x	4493				
Burbank	3175	Ramos	x	x	3175				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan	x	x	13073				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Chacon	x	x	9662				
			Subtotal:		19324				
Compton	641	McCoy	x	x	641				
Eastern Municipal Water District	11559	Armstrong	x	x	11559				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung	x	x	2561				
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian	x	x	3985				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Peterson	x	x	3090				
Long Beach	6558	Cordero	x	x	6558				
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley	x	x	40086				
		Petersen							
		Quinn							
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	40086				
			Subtotal:		80172				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	21545				
		Dick	x	x	21545				
		Erdman	x	x	21545				
			Subtotal:		64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67702	Fong-Sakai	x	x	22567				
		Goldberg	x	x	22567				
		Miller	x	x	22567				
		Smith							
			Subtotal:		67702				
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris	x	x	800				
Santa Ana	3431	Phan	x	x	3431				
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre	x	x	3590				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x	x	27064				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		27064				
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
Total	386141				386141				
Present and not voting									
Absent	0								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 7-1 through 7-4* (**M.I. No. 53469 through 53472**)* passed by a vote of 386,141 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 0 absent.

Note* individual vote tally for Item 7-4:

Chair Ortega, Erdman, Miller, Dick, and Phan recused themselves for Item 7-4.

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 7-4 (**M.I. No. 53472**) passed by a vote of 382,450 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 3,691 not voting; and 0 absent.

53473 District Housing & Property Improvement Program Update, Agenda Item 10-1.

Board Vice Chair Sutley called on Shane Chapman, Assistant General Manager, to introduce Agenda Item 10-1.

The following Directors asked questions or made comments:

	Director(s)
1.	Camacho
2.	Ortega
3.	Miller
4.	Peterson
5.	Dennstedt
6.	Faessel
7.	Garza
8.	Fellow
9.	Kurtz
10.	Cordero
11.	Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

Board Vice Chair Sutley left the meeting.

Board Vice Chair Goldberg chaired the meeting in Board Vice Chair Sutley's absence.

Directors Gray and Quinn entered the meeting.

Board Vice Chair Golberg called on William Hasencamp, Manager of Colorado River Resources, to introduce Agenda Item 10-2.

53474 Discussion regarding the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's development of post-2026 Colorado River reservoir operations guidelines and strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead, was heard in open and closed session. Closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) (Agenda Item 10-2).

The Board Office redisplayed the Consent Calendar Vote to reflect Director Abdo's vote correctly for the record.

Director Phan left the meeting.

Board Vice Chair Goldberg called the meeting into closed session at 11:20 a.m. to discuss a portion of Agenda Item 10-2.

Board Vice Chair Sutley entered the meeting.

Director Gray left the meeting.

The Board returned to open session at 12:42 p.m. In closed session, the Board discussed and conferred with legal counsel regarding Item 10-2. No action was taken on Item 10-2.

Director Kassakhian left the meeting.

53475 Board Vice Chair Sutley asked if there were any Follow-up Items. There were none.

53476 Board Vice Chair Sutley asked if there were any Future Agenda Items.

Director Peterson requested that an assessment survey that was conducted in the past be sent to all Metropolitan employees.

Chair Ortega thanked the General Manager and all the Metropolitan staff for the efforts it took to host the Special Board Meeting at Gene Pumping Plant. He also thanked the Directors who attended the meeting remotely at Gene Pumping Plant.

Chair Ortega offered condolences for the loss of Orange County Water District Director Kelly Rowe and Chair Emeritus Gray for the loss of her significant other, the late Mr. Leonard Tibbs. Chair Ortega asked that the meeting be adjourned in his honor on behalf of the Board.

53477 There being no objection, at 12:45 p.m., Board Vice Chair Sutley adjourned the meeting in honor of Mr. Leonard Tibbs.



LOIS FONG-SAKAI
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD



NANCY SUTLEY
VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD