

# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## MINUTES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

January 24, 2023

Chair Ortega called the hybrid teleconference and in-person meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Camacho, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Gray, Jung, Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Repenning, Smith, and Sutley.

Members absent: Director Cordero.

Other Board members present: Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Atwater, Chacon, Dick, Faessel, Fellow, Kurtz, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Peterson, and Seckel.

Committee staff present: Beatty, Chapman, Hagekhalil, Hudson, Kasaine, Salinas, Scully, Andrus, Upadhyay, and Zinke.

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

No members responded.

#### **2. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS**

a. Subject: Chair's Report

Presented by: Chair Adán Ortega, Jr.

Chair Ortega reported on the following:

- Margie Wheeler will be the Board Executive Officer
- Director Russell Lefevre was elected Vice President of the Bay Delta Finance Authority
- Director Miguel Luna is a member of the Bay Delta Construction Authority
- Request to the Governor to expedite appointment of Director Gloria Cordero to the Colorado River Board

b. Subject: General Manager's report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: General Manager Adel Hagekhalil

General Manager Hagekhalil reported on the following:

- Condolences to the family and friends of the late Robert J. Hunter, General Manager for Municipal Water District of Orange County
- Expressed Metropolitan solidarity to stop the violence in the wake of the Lunar New Year tragedy
- Acknowledge the exhibit hosted by the MWD Photography Club
- Board Retreat will be February 12-14, 2023 at the Member Agency Managers meeting; our office requested input from the Member Agency Managers

c. Subject: General Counsel's report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: General Counsel Marcia L. Scully

Nothing to add to her report.

d. Subject: Interim General Auditor's report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: Interim General Auditor Kathryn Andrus

Nothing to add to her report.

e. Subject: Ethics Officer's report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: Ethics Officer Abel Salinas

Nothing to add to his report.

f. Subject: Report from Engineering, Operations, and Technology

Presented by: Committee Chair Erdman

Committee Chair Erdman announced that the Board will hear the following items at the February 13, 2023 Board meeting:

- Award a \$407,800.33 procurement contract to Cascade Consultants, LLC for a 20-inch triple offset ball valve to rehabilitate Service Connection CB-11; and

- Adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Colorado River Aqueduct Master Reclamation Plan for San Bernardino and Riverside Counties and take related CEQA actions; approve Master Reclamation Plan for San Bernardino and Riverside Counties

j. Subject: Report from Legal and Claims Committee

Presented by: Committee Chair Sutley

Committee Chair Sutley announced that the Committee will hear a report on the General Counsel's monthly activities

In closed session, the Committee will hear reports on the following items and consider authorizing increases in the maximum amounts payment under contract with:

- Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP for legal services and Exponent, Inc. for consultant services in the Baker Electric, Inc. v. Metropolitan litigation;
- Renne Public Law Group by \$100,000 to an amount not to exceed \$200,000 in the AFSCME, Local 1902 v. Metropolitan matter; and
- Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, PLC by \$150,000 to an amount not to exceed \$250,000 in Sierra Club, et al. v. California Department of Water Resources litigation

l. Subject: Report from One Water and Stewardship Committee

Presented by: Committee Chair Quinn

Committee Chair Quinn announced in lieu of the One Water and Stewardship Committee, the Board will consider the following item:

- Adopt resolutions to support three applications for the California Department of Water Resources 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Program totaling \$38 million

Chair Ortega announced that the Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee; Ethics, Organization, and Personnel Committee; Finance, Audit, Insurance, and Real Property Committee; and Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and Communications Committee will not meet in February.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION****3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Executive Committee Meeting for December 13, 2022.

Chair Ortega asked Directors if there were any comments or discussion on the minutes of December 13, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting. Chair Ortega announced a correction to the minutes The reference to Rosa Batista, Moheres de la Tierra should be corrected to Mujeres de la Tierra.

Director Luna entered the meeting.

- B. Approve draft committee and board meeting agendas, and schedule for February 2023.

Chair Ortega asked Directors if there were any comments, additions, or corrections to the February 2023 draft packet. Chair Ortega announced Item 6 on the Board Retreat Agenda should be an action item should the Board decide to provide direction to staff at the retreat.

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

Director(s)

1. Peterson

Staff responded to the Director(s) questions or comments.

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Item 3A.

Director Pressman made a motion, seconded by Director Sutley to approve the consent calendar Item 3A as listed.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, Camacho, Dick, Fellow, Gray, Jung, Kurtz, Luna, McCoy, Peterson, Pressman, Ramos, Smith, and Sutley

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Cordero and DeJesus

The motion for Item 3A passed by a vote of 16 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 2 absent.

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Item 3B.

Director Goldberg made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho to approve the consent calendar Item 3B as listed.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Camacho, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Gray, Jung, Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Repenning, Smith, and Sutley

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Cordero

The motion for Item 3B passed by a vote of 16 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 1 absent.

#### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

#### **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

#### **5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

- A. Authorize Out-of-State Travel for Director(s) to attend the Association of California Water Agencies, Washington D.C. Water Conference from February 28, 2023 to March 2, 2023.

Directors Peterson, Jung, Ortega, and Repenning requested to attend the conference.

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

Director(s)

1. Repenning

Staff responded to the Director(s) questions or comments.

Director Camacho made a motion, seconded by Director Goldberg to approve the consent calendar Item 5A as listed.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Camacho, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Gray, Jung, Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Repenning, Smith, and Sutley

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Cordero

The motion for Item 5A passed by a vote of 16 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 1 absent.

## **6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

## **7. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

## **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Armenian American Employee Resource Group will host a Lunar New Year celebration in the Café immediately following the committee meetings. In addition, on February 9, 2023, Municipal Water District of Orange County will host a retrospective policy forum of the late Robert J. Hunter, General Manager for Municipal Water District of Orange County tenure.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned in honor of the late Robert J. Hunter, General Manager for Municipal Water District of Orange County and Director Jeff Armstrong's mother, who recently passed away at 12:25 p.m.

Adán Ortega, Jr.  
Chair of the Board