

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE

August 14, 2023

Chair McCoy called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Members present: Directors Cordero, Dick, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Gray (teleconference posted location), and McCoy.

Members absent: Directors De Jesus, Dennstedt, Garza, Luna, and Sutley.

Other Members present: Armstrong, Goldberg, Kurtz, Ortega, Peterson (teleconference posted location), and Pressman (teleconference posted location).

Committee Staff present: Crosson, Hagekhalil, Kasaine, Rohen, Ros, and Thomas.

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

Caty Wagner, Sierra Club California commented.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS — ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- a. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee for July 25, 2023 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, Any additions, corrections, or omissions)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Fong-Sakai, to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2a.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Cordero, Dick, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Gray, and McCoy.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors De Jesus, Dennstedt, Garza, Luna, and Sutley.

The motion for items 2a passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 5 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: A Survey of Member Agency Programs offered to Disadvantaged Communities as defined in Water Code 79505.5
Presented by: Patty Quilizapa, Senior Deputy General Counsel
Adrian Hightower, Special Projects Manager

Ms. Katano introduced the item. Ms. Quilizapa presented the committee with an overview of Metropolitan's customers, Metropolitan services, and Affordability at Metropolitan. Mr. Hightower continued the presentation with the results of the Member Agency Survey. The survey results included community programs, Agency programs offered to disadvantaged communities, and the percentage of disadvantaged community customers within the Member Agency service area.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Fong-Sakai
2. Armstrong
3. Goldberg
4. Ortega
5. Fellow
6. Cordero

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

- b. Subject: Panel Discussion on Affordability:
- Ismahan Abdullahi, National Executive Director at Muslim American Society: Public Affairs and Civic Engagement; San Diego County Water Authority Board Member
 - Maura Allaire, Assistant Professor, University California Irvine School of Social Ecology
 - Jennifer Capitolo, California Water Association
 - Dan Denham, General Manager at San Diego County Water Authority
 - Mauricio Guardado, General Manager United Water Conservation District
- Presented by: Liz Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Officer
 Liji Thomas, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

Ms. Kasaine introduced the item and Ms. Crosson introduced Ms. Thomas, the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, who moderated today's panel. Ms. Thomas provided an overview of the objectives of the panel. She then introduced the panelist Mauricio Guardado, General Manager of United Water Conservation District; Maura Allaire, Assistant Professor, at the University of California Irvine School of Social Ecology; Dan Denham, General Manager at San Diego County Water Authority; Jennifer Capitolo, California Water Association; Ismahan Abdullahi, National Executive Director at Muslim American Society: Public Affairs and Civic Engagement; SDCWA Board Member; Mary Matava, President & Agronomist at Agri Service Inc.

Ms. Thomas asked the panel the following questions: 1. a. What specific factors do you see increasing affordability challenges facing the water sector and water customers? b. Where do think MWD plays the most significant role affecting affordability aging infrastructure, regulatory changes, imported water costs, contaminated groundwater, labor needs, climate pressures, supply chain issues, rulemaking process, and changes in rates? c. How do MWD's programs help to offset these factors/pressures? 2. a. What do you think Metropolitan's role is in addressing affordability challenges at the wholesale level? Are there other types of support that Met can offer to address these challenges? Is there a role at the retail level? b. Thoughts on Metropolitan's approach to California's mandate on the Human Right to water; 3. a. How have you seen utilities address affordability challenges related to climate investments? 4. What are potential strategies for distributing the costs of water infrastructure investments among ag users and water agencies?

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega
2. Fong-Sakai
3. Dick

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a. Subject: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager's Report

No report was given.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Tana McCoy
Chair