

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

June 8, 2026

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Members present: Directors Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray (teleconference posted location), Jay, Lewitt, Paule, and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: Director Ackerman, Jung, Kassakhian, Katz, Ramos, and Sutley.

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Denham, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Kurtz, Miller (alternative teleconferencing), Ortega, and Seckel.

Director Miller stated he was participating using alternative teleconferencing due to caregiving and was alone in the room.

Committee Staff present: Deshmukh, Hudson, Novoa, Rubin, Schaffer, and Stites.

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

- a. Maura Monagan – LA Waterkeeper

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for May 11, 2026.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

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

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

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 6 absent.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

9-2 Subject: SB 707 Implementation: Public Outreach Efforts
Presented by: Brittany Foust – Section Manager, Media Services

Ms. Foust provided an update on Metropolitan's compliance with SB 707: efforts will enhance public participation by providing multilingual meeting agendas, improving website accessibility, and expanding outreach to underrepresented and non-English-speaking communities to encourage engagement in Metropolitan's public meetings.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1) Shepherd Romey

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

9-5 Subject: Provide for review of proposed updates to the criteria, policies, and procedures for the naming of District facilities.

Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer – Group Manager, External Affairs

Ms. Schaffer presented recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Facilities Naming to update Metropolitan's facilities naming policies and procedures. The recommendations aim to strengthen board review, enhance existing standards, introduce additional policy safeguards, and implement a temporary moratorium on facility naming nominations while the updates are under consideration.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1.) Paule
- 2.) Ortega
- 3.) Fellow
- 4.) Jay
- 5.) Shepherd Romey
- 6.) Bryant
- 7.) Fong-Sakai
- 8.) Camacho

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

- a. Subject: Highlights of the Community Partnering Program

Presented by: Joseph Chavez – Principal Public Affairs Representative

Mr. Chavez provided an overview of the 25th anniversary of the Community Partnering Program, highlighting its history of supporting water education and outreach projects through funding for nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and educational institutions. The presentation also recognized key program achievements during fiscal year 2025/26.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1.) Lewitt
- 2.) Fellow
- 3.) Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Director Gray left the meeting.

- b. Subject: Proposed CAMP4W Community Engagement Standards

Presented by: Rupam Soni – Section Manager, Member Services and Public Outreach

Ms. Soni provided an update on the proposed CAMP4W Community Engagement Standards, which are intended to guide community engagement efforts and support project and program assessments for the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water. The Standards may also serve as a framework for Metropolitan's broader external engagement activities.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1.) Crane
- 2.) Fong-Sakai
- 3.) Paule
- 4.) Ortega
- 5.) Dennstedt
- 6.) Seckel

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

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

Presented by: Morgan Leonard, Senior Legislative Representative

Ms. Leonard provided a federal legislative update from Washington, D.C., highlighting Bureau of Reclamation funding to protect Hoover Dam hydropower, developments related to the FY 2027 Department of the Interior budget request, and discussions during a House Natural Resources Subcommittee hearing on the future of the federal reclamation program. .

- e. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on activities from Sacramento, including key legislative deadlines, a legislative staff educational tour, the Governor's May Revision, and Metropolitan's positions on several water, climate, affordability, and infrastructure-related bills. The presentation also highlighted legislative efforts related to wildfire preparedness, invasive mussel prevention, and tribal community and cultural resource protections.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1.) Ortega
- 2.) Kurtz
- 3.) Fellow
- 4.) Lewitt
- 5.) Shepherd Romey

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: External Affairs Activities

Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer – Group Manager, External Affairs

Ms. Schaffer provided an update on Water Awareness Month outreach efforts, including public tours of the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant, the Water Quality Laboratory, and the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center, including a special tour with Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano and her family. She also highlighted activities promoting Drinking Water Week and Tap Water Day, as well as community events and sponsorships aimed at increasing public awareness of water issues and Metropolitan's programs.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Paule requested a briefing on propositions on the November 2026 ballot and Metropolitan's position.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Jay Lewitt
Chair