

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**July 11, 2023**

**53295** The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 11, 2023.

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Chair Ortega announced that we do not have any Directors participating in the meeting using AB 2449.

**53296** The Meeting was opened with an invocation by John Morris, City of San Marino.

**53297** The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Fong-Sakai, San Diego County Water Authority.

Chair Ortega welcomed Director McMillan, Calleguas Municipal Water District to introduce the guest Member Agency Manager Tony Goff, General Manager of Calleguas Municipal Water District. Director McMillan and Mr. Goff made brief remarks.

Chair Ortega announced that Metropolitan will be showcasing on social media the newest class of eleven engineering interns and feature the employee resources group VOICE to highlight Disabilities Independence Day which marks the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

**53298** Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Abdo, Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, Chacon, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Douglas, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Goldberg, Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Kurtz, Lefevre, Luna, McCoy (teleconference posted location), McMillan, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Petersen, Peterson, Phan (teleconference posted location), Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Seckel, Smith, and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Ackerman, Cordero, Erdman, and Gray.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

**53299** Jordan D. Joaquin, President Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe

Chair Ortega introduced Jordan D. Joaquin, President of Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe. President Joaquin made remarks regarding the tribal perspective on the ongoing negotiations of the Colorado River.

**53300** Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction (in-person and via teleconference). None were made.

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

**53301** Chair Ortega asked if there were any changes to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of June as previously posted and distributed to the Board. Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any corrections on the item. No amendments were made.

**53302** Chair Ortega referred to Chair's monthly report was previously posted and distributed to the Board.

Chair Ortega announced that the department head evaluations are due July 24, 2023. Due to technical issues, an email link was forwarded from Debra Gill, Human Resources Group Manager. A reminder that the Board Office is sending surveys every two weeks to remind Directors of the requirements to use Zoom, when using traditional Brown Act teleconferencing procedures and when plans change to notify the Board Office on a timely basis.

Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any questions on the item. None were made.

**53303** General Manager Hagekhalil referred to the General Manager's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, General Manager Hagekhalil reported on the following:

1. Acknowledged the Fourth of July holiday weekend and welcomed Director Bryant and Douglas to the Board.
2. The Climate Adaptation Master Plan and information is on the mwdh2o website.
3. The State Audit completion.
4. The Organizational Assessment and upcoming organizational changes.

**53304** General Counsel Scully's monthly report was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, General Counsel Scully reported on the following:

1. Litigation settlement of the case *Stronghold Engineering vs. Metropolitan*.
2. Reminder regarding Directors' tours and visits to the desert, that there should be less than a quorum, and that members refrain from discussing the visit until they are at a noticed meeting.
3. Supreme Court decisions regarding the *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College*; and *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis* cases; a joint report from legal, DEI, and EEO will be forthcoming to the Board on how the two matters may or may not impact Metropolitan.
4. Staffing for the fourth Tuesday Committee meetings.
5. New Director Carl E. Douglas and Director Garry E. Bryant credentials were received and in order.

**53305** General Auditor Suzuki's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, General Auditor Suzuki reported on the following:

1. The quality assessment and improvement program confidential survey that will be distributed to the Board.

**53306** Ethics Officer Salinas stated he had nothing to add to the written report.

**53307** Induction of new Director Gary E. Bryant of Foothill Municipal Water District.

Chair Ortega called on Nina Jazmadrian, General Manager of Foothill Municipal Water District to introduce Director Bryant.

Director Bryant made brief remarks.

Chair Ortega called on Director Sutley, to introduce Director Douglas.

Director Douglas made brief remarks.

**53308** Presentation of 5-year Service Pin to Director Tim M. Smith, San Diego County Water Authority.

Director Smith made brief remarks.

**53309** Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any comments or discussions on the Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting for June 13, 2023. (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) (Agenda Item 7A). No amendments were made.

**53310** Approve Commendatory Resolution for Director Richard Atwater representing Foothill Municipal Water District. Chair Ortega made brief remarks regarding Director Atwater tenure at Metropolitan (Agenda Item 7B).

**53311** Approval of Committee Assignments (Agenda Item 7C). Director Pressman was removed from the Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee and he was appointed to the One Water Stewardship Committee. Board Vice Chair Camacho was appointed to Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee as Vice Chair; Director Petersen was removed from that Committee. Director Sutley was appointed to be the Board Vice Chair for Climate Action. Establish an Ad Hoc Committee on Policy Impacts of Third Party Changes to Member Agency Boundaries. The committee membership appointment was Director Miller, Chair; Director Armstrong, Vice Chair; Directors Erdman, McMillan, and McCoy are members.

Chair Ortega called on Finance, Audit, Insurance, and Real Property Committee Chair Smith. Director Smith appointed Director Petersen as Chair and Director Seckel as Vice Chair to the Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Processes and Business Modeling.

Chair Ortega called on Committee Chairs to give a report on Consent Calendar Action Items and to hear abstentions or recusals before any discussion on the items.

**53312** Authorize an increase of \$950,000 in change order authority for the contract with W.A. Chester LLC to terminate 6.9 kV power cables at all five CRA pumping plants, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

**53313** Authorize an increase of \$2 million to an existing agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$2.65 million for final design of the first stage of security upgrades at all five CRA pumping plants and the Camino Electrical Switching Station, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

**53314** Award a \$452,886 contract to Best Contracting Services Inc. to replace the roofs of the administration and warehouse buildings at the Lake Mathews site, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

**53315** Award a \$349,527.80 procurement contract to TechnoFlo Systems Inc. for 50 flow meters to comply with surface water diversion regulations on Metropolitan's Delta Island properties, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

**53316** By two-thirds vote, adopt Ordinance No. 152, determining that the interests of Metropolitan require the use of revenue bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$500 million to finance a portion of Metropolitan's capital expenditures and waive the full reading of Ordinance No. 152, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

**53317** Review and consider the Lead Agency's adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration and take related CEQA actions, and adopt resolution for 114th Fringe Area Annexation to Eastern Municipal Water District and Metropolitan, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

**53318** Award a \$359,725 contract to Mesa Energy Systems Inc. for the repair of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning chiller #2 located at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-7 board letter.

**53319** Approve General Auditor's Business Plan for fiscal year 2023-2024, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-8 board letter.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Consent Calendar Items 7A, 7B, 7C, 7-1 through 7-8 (**M.I. No. 53309 through 53319**).

Director Quinn left the meeting.

Director Garza moved, seconded by Director Morris that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 7A, 7B, 7C, 7-1 through 7-8 as follows:

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s): 7A, 7B, 7C and 7-1 through 7-8									
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	5627	Faessel	x	x	5627				
Beverly Hills	4267	Pressman	x	x	4267				
Burbank	2893	Ramos	x	x	2893				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	12368	McMillan	x	x	12368				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	18216	Garza	x	x	9108				
		Chacon	x	x	9108				
			Subtotal:		18216				
Compton	599	McCoy	x	x	599				
Eastern Municipal Water District	10502	Armstrong	x	x	10502				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2290	Bryant	x	x	2290				
Fullerton	2390	Jung	x	x	2390				
Glendale	3814	Kassakhian	x	x	3814				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	14663	Camacho	x	x	14663				
Las Virgenes	2927	Peterson	x	x	2927				
Long Beach	6151	Cordero							
Los Angeles	75699	Sutley	x	x	18925				
		Petersen	x	x	18925				
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	18925				
		Douglas	x	x	18925				
			Subtotal:		75699				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	60913	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	30457				
		Dick	x	x	30457				
		Erdman							
			Subtotal:		60913				
Pasadena	3716	Kurtz	x	x	3716				
San Diego County Water Authority	63232	Fong-Sakai	x	x	15808				
		Goldberg	x	x	15808				
		Miller	x	x	15808				
		Smith	x	x	15808				
			Subtotal:		63232				
San Fernando	238	Ortega	x	x	238				
San Marino	770	Morris	x	x	770				
Santa Ana	3228	Phan	x	x	3228				
Santa Monica	4619	Abdo	x	x	4619				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8254	De Jesus	x	x	8254				
Torrance	3416	Lefevre	x	x	3416				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist	12688	Fellow	x	x	12688				
West Basin Municipal Water District	25453	Alvarez	x	x	25453				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		25453				
Western Municipal Water District	13541	Dennstedt	x	x	13541				
<b>Total</b>	<b>362474</b>				<b>356323</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>6151</b>								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 7A, 7B, 7C, and 7-1 through 7-8 (M.I. No. 53309 through 53319)\* passed by a vote of 356,323 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,151 absent.

**\*Note: Individual vote tally for Item 7-5**

Item 7-5 required two-thirds vote of the Board. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 7-5 passed by a vote of 356,323 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,151 absent.

Chair Ortega called on the Committee Chairs to give a report on Board Items for action and to hear recusals, abstentions, and disclosures before any discussion on the items.

**53320** Award a \$3,740,792 contract to M.S. Construction Management Group Inc. to replace a portion of the existing fire sprinkler system's piping and network components at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building, as set forth in Agenda Item 8-1 board letter.

Director Quinn returned to the meeting.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Item 8-1 (**M.I. No. 53320**)

Director Camacho moved, seconded by Director Chacon that the Board approve the Board Item 8-1 as follows:

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	8-1								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	5627	Faessel	x	x	5627				
Beverly Hills	4267	Pressman	x	x	4267				
Burbank	2893	Ramos	x	x	2893				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	12368	McMillan	x	x	12368				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	18216	Garza	x	x	9108				
		Chacon	x	x	9108				
			Subtotal:		18216				
Compton	599	McCoy	x	x	599				
Eastern Municipal Water District	10502	Armstrong	x	x	10502				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2290	Bryant	x	x	2290				
Fullerton	2390	Jung	x	x	2390				
Glendale	3814	Kassakhian	x	x	3814				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	14663	Camacho	x	x	14663				
Las Virgenes	2927	Peterson	x	x	2927				
Long Beach	6151	Cordero							
Los Angeles	75699	Sutley	x	x	15140				
		Petersen	x	x	15140				
		Quinn	x	x	15140				
		Luna	x	x	15140				
		Douglas	x	x	15140				
			Subtotal:		75699				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	60913	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	30457				
		Dick	x	x	30457				
		Erdman							
			Subtotal:		60913				
Pasadena	3716	Kurtz	x	x	3716				
San Diego County Water Authority	63232	Fong-Sakai	x	x	15808				
		Goldberg	x	x	15808				
		Miller	x	x	15808				
		Smith	x	x	15808				
			Subtotal:		63232				
San Fernando	238	Ortega	x	x	238				
San Marino	770	Morris	x	x	770				
Santa Ana	3228	Phan	x	x	3228				
Santa Monica	4619	Abdo	x	x	4619				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8254	De Jesus	x	x	8254				
Torrance	3416	Lefevre	x	x	3416				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist	12688	Fellow	x	x	12688				
West Basin Municipal Water District	25453	Alvarez	x	x	25453				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		25453				
Western Municipal Water District	13541	Dennstedt	x	x	13541				
<b>Total</b>	<b>362474</b>				<b>356323</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>6151</b>								

The motion to approve the Board Item 8-1 (**M.I. No. 53320**) passed by a vote of 356,323 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,151 absent.

**53321** Award a \$16,490,000 contract to J. F. Shea Construction Inc. for furnishing and installation of pre-engineered storage buildings at the Hinds, Eagle Mountain, and Iron Mountain pumping plants, as set forth in Agenda Item 8-3 board letter.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Item 8-3 (**M.I. No. 53321**)

Director Camacho moved, seconded by Director Morris that the Board approve the Board Item 8-3 as follows:



The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	8-3								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	5627	Faessel	x	x	5627				
Beverly Hills	4267	Pressman	x	x	4267				
Burbank	2893	Ramos	x	x	2893				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	12368	McMillan	x	x	12368				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	18216	Garza	x	x	9108				
		Chacon	x	x	9108				
		Subtotal:			18216				
Compton	599	McCoy	x	x	599				
Eastern Municipal Water District	10502	Armstrong	x	x	10502				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2290	Bryant	x	x	2290				
Fullerton	2390	Jung	x	x	2390				
Glendale	3814	Kassakhian	x	x	3814				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	14663	Camacho	x	x	14663				
Las Virgenes	2927	Peterson	x	x	2927				
Long Beach	6151	Cordero							
Los Angeles	75699	Sutley	x	x	15140				
		Petersen	x	x	15140				
		Quinn	x	x	15140				
		Luna	x	x	15140				
		Douglas	x	x	15140				
		Subtotal:			75699				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	60913	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	30457				
		Dick	x	x	30457				
		Erdman							
		Subtotal:			60913				
Pasadena	3716	Kurtz	x	x	3716				
San Diego County Water Authority	63232	Fong-Sakai	x	x	15808				
		Goldberg	x	x	15808				
		Miller	x	x	15808				
		Smith	x	x	15808				
		Subtotal:			63232				
San Fernando	238	Ortega	x	x	238				
San Marino	770	Morris	x	x	770				
Santa Ana	3228	Phan	x	x	3228				
Santa Monica	4619	Abdo	x	x	4619				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8254	De Jesus	x	x	8254				
Torrance	3416	Lefevre	x	x	3416				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	12688	Fellow	x	x	12688				
West Basin Municipal Water District	25453	Alvarez	x	x	25453				
		Gray							
		Subtotal:			25453				
Western Municipal Water District	13541	Dennstedt	x	x	13541				
<b>Total</b>	<b>362474</b>				<b>356323</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>6151</b>								

The motion to approve the Board Item 8-3 (**M.I. No. 53321**) passed by a vote of 356,323 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,151 absent.

**53322** Approve amendment of the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to delete the requirement that matters may not be placed on consent if a roll call is required and increase the cost of items that may be placed on the Consent Calendar from \$2 million to \$10 million (Agenda Item 8-2).

Director Luna left the meeting.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Item 8-2 (**M.I. No. 53322**)

Director Sutley moved, seconded by Director Chacon that the Board approve the Board Item 8-2 as follows:

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	8-2								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	5627	Faessel	x	x	5627				
Beverly Hills	4267	Pressman	x	x	4267				
Burbank	2893	Ramos	x	x	2893				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	12368	McMillan	x	x	12368				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	18216	Garza	x	x	9108				
		Chacon	x	x	9108				
			Subtotal:		18216				
Compton	599	McCoy	x	x	599				
Eastern Municipal Water District	10502	Armstrong	x	x	10502				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2290	Bryant	x	x	2290				
Fullerton	2390	Jung	x	x	2390				
Glendale	3814	Kassakhian	x	x	3814				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	14663	Camacho	x	x	14663				
Las Virgenes	2927	Peterson	x	x	2927				
Long Beach	6151	Cordero							
Los Angeles	75699	Sutley	x	x	18925				
		Petersen	x	x	18925				
		Quinn	x	x	18925				
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	18925				
			Subtotal:		75699				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	60913	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	30457				
		Dick	x	x	30457				
		Erdman							
			Subtotal:		60913				
Pasadena	3716	Kurtz	x	x	3716				
San Diego County Water Authority	63232	Fong-Sakai	x	x	15808				
		Goldberg	x	x	15808				
		Miller	x	x	15808				
		Smith	x	x	15808				
			Subtotal:		63232				
San Fernando	238	Ortega	x	x	238				
San Marino	770	Morris	x	x	770				
Santa Ana	3228	Phan	x	x	3228				
Santa Monica	4619	Abdo	x	x	4619				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8254	De Jesus	x	x	8254				
Torrance	3416	Lefevre	x	x	3416				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist	12688	Fellow	x	x	12688				
West Basin Municipal Water District	25453	Alvarez	x	x	25453				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		25453				
Western Municipal Water District	13541	Dennstedt	x	x	13541				
<b>Total</b>	<b>362474</b>				<b>356323</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>6151</b>								

The motion to approve Agenda Item 8-2 (**M.I. No. 53322**) passed by a vote of 356,323 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,151 absent.

**53323** Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or need for discussion for Board Information Item 9-1 or wish to see the presentation on Item 9-2. No requests were made.

**53324** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Other Matters Items. There were none.

**53325** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. There were none.

**53326** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. There were none.

**53327** There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.



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**LOIS FONG-SAKAI**  
**SECRETARY OF THE BOARD**



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**ADÁN ORTEGA**  
**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**