

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE**

**October 7, 2024**

Chair McCoy called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Members present: Directors Cordero, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Luna, and McCoy

Members absent: Directors Dennstedt, De Jesus, Dick, and Gray

Other Members present: Ackerman, Bryant, Camacho, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Morris, Ortega, and Seckel

Committee Staff present: Brual, Kasaine, Redin, Upadhyay, and Wheeler

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

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS — ACTION**

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

- A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee for September 24, 2024 (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, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Luna, and McCoy

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Dennstedt, De Jesus, Dick, and Gray

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 4 absent.

Senior Board Specialist Aldrete announced that Director De Jesus is no longer a member of the committee.

## **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

### **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

a Subject: Workforce Development

Presented By: Liji Thomas, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer  
Brenda Martinez, Workforce Development Manager

Ms. Kasaine introduced the item and Ms. Thomas presented the committee with an overview of DEI's Workforce Development goals, strategies, and initiatives. Her presentation highlighted the key efforts aimed at advancing these objectives.

Ms. Martinez provided an update on workforce development progress, highlighting key opportunities and outlining a roadmap for future advancements. She also compared the various functions of DEI Workforce Development with internal partners, including EEO, HR, and Project Labor Agreement initiatives, as well as the Apprenticeship Program and collaboration with member agencies.

Director Luna left the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Faessel
2. Ortega
3. Fong-Sakai
4. Cordero

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

## **7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

a. Subject: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities

Presented By: Liji Thomas, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

Ms. Thomas presented the DEI Activities for September 2024, highlighting Business Outreach initiatives like the Contractor Academy Seminars and attendance at partner events. The Workforce Development team is working with the City of Carson, LACSD, and West Basin MWD to bifurcate the MOU, focusing on community outreach, K-12 education, and a young adult internship program, while also planning a separate MOU with CSUDH for training partnerships. Additional discussions included a grant awarded to Long Beach City College for climate resiliency workforce development, a partnership with JVS for digital skills training, and engagements with organizations like the Los Angeles Metro Women and Girls Governing Council and Boyle Heights Technology Youth Center to promote gender equity and youth initiatives. The Tribal Outreach & Engagement Team also provided pre-apprenticeship testing assistance and explored workforce development opportunities with CRIT leaders.

## **8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Tana McCoy  
Chair