

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

January 23, 2024

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Camacho, Cordero, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Jung (teleconference posted location), Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, and Sutley (entered after roll call).

Members absent: Directors Chacon, Gray, and Smith.

Other Board members present: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Dick, Garza, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McMillan, Miller, Morris, and Seckel.

Committee staff present: Hagekhalil, Hudson, Salinas, Scully, Suzuki, Wheeler, and Upadhyay.

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 Ortega

Chair Ortega stated that Director Chacon will be replaced as a director on the Metropolitan Board and thanked him for his service. He thanked the staff that worked on the Delta Counties Coalition Tour. The report on International Travel – Fourth Quarter 2023, October to December 2023 was posted. Lastly, that he received an invitation from Congresswoman Napolitano to greet the Vice President for her visit to California.

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

Presented by: General Manager Adel Hagekhalil

General Manager Hagekhalil reported on the following:

- Update on climate change and the financial stress it is creating for Metropolitan.
- Overview of the dashboard and smart tracker
- Acknowledge Heather Collins, President of AWWA.
- Update on the briefing to the Colorado River Board
- Report on the comment letters received regarding the Water Quality Control Plan
- Report on the member agencies visits with Chair Ortega

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

Presented by: General Counsel Marcia Scully

General Counsel Scully stated she had nothing to add to her report.

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

Presented by: General Auditor Scott Suzuki

General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to her report.

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

Presented by: Ethics Officer Abel Salinas

Ethics Officer Salinas reported on the following:

- Visits to the Metropolitan facilities to update staff on ethics rules and how to contact the ethics office.

Chair Ortega announced that in the interest of time, the Committee will not hear the reports from Committee Chairs (Items f-I) and that Item 3B on the draft agenda packet would be approved as posted, with any additions or deletions.

Committee Chair Erdman reported that the subject on the Engineering, Operations & Technology Committee was revised as follows:

- Authorize increases in change order authority for three contracts to conduct urgent rehabilitation of prestressed concrete cylinder pipe on the Allen-McColloch Pipeline.

Committee Vice Chair Dick reported that the subject on the Finance, Audit, Insurance and Real Property Committee was revised as follows:

- Proposed biennial budget, which includes the Capital Investment Plan and revenue requirements for fiscal years 2024/25 and 2025/26; proposed water rates and charges for calendar years 2025 and 2026 to meet revenue requirements for fiscal years 2024/25 and 2025/26; ten-year forecast; and
- Cost of Service Report; and Set a public hearing on March 12, 2024 regarding the proposed water rates and charges for calendar years 2025 and 2026 necessary to meet the revenue requirements for fiscal years 2024/25 and 2025/26.

Committee Chair Luna reported that the subject on the Legal and Claims Committee was revised as follows:

- Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to adjust benefits for unrepresented employees to correspond with benefits provided to Metropolitan's management unit and to conform personnel regulations and the salary schedule for unrepresented employees to current law, practices, regulations, and agreements with the employee bargaining units; and
- Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to modify the structure and duties of various committees; and

The following items have been added:

- In closed session, a report on Sierra Club et al. v. California Department of Water Resources and;
- An update on multiple new lawsuits challenging Department of Water Resources' Delta Conveyance Project Final Environmental Impact Report and Project Approval.

Committee Chair Quinn reported that the subject on the Finance, Audit, Insurance and Real Property Committee was revised as follows:

- Authorize the General Manager to: (1) secure one-year water transfers and water exchanges with various water districts for up to \$50 million from Water Supply Program and State Water Project budgets for such transfers; (2) secure storage and conveyance agreements with the Department of Water Resources and various water districts to facilitate these transfers; (3) grant final decision-making authority to the General Manager subject to the terms set forth in this letter

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting for November 28, 2023.

Chair Ortega asked Directors if there were any additions, corrections, or omissions on the minutes of the November 28, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting. None were made.

- B. Approve draft Committee and board meeting agendas, and schedule for February 2024. The February 2024 schedule was updated due to the number of committee items added to the schedule. A copy of the revised schedule was provided to the committee.

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Items 3A and 3B.

Director Pressman made a motion, seconded by Director Quinn, to approve the consent calendar Items 3A and 3B as listed.

The vote was:

- Ayes: Directors Abdo, Camacho, Cordero, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Jung, Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, and Sutley.
- Abstention: None
- Recusal: None
- Absent: Chacon, Gray, and Smith.

The motion for Items 3A and 3B passed by a vote of 14 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 3 absent.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**5. COMMITTEE INFORMATION ITEMS**

- b. Subject: Report on the Colorado River Board Meeting.
- Presented by: Director Cordero

Director Cordero reported on the Colorado River Board Meeting.

- a. Subject: Colorado River Activities
Presented by: William Hasencamp, Manager of Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp reported on Colorado River activities.

- c. Subject: Review proposed amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to modify the structure and duties of various Committees.
Presented by: Chair Ortega

Chair Ortega reported on the proposed amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code.

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

Director(s)

- 1. Kurtz

Chair Ortega responded to the Director'(s) comments or questions.

6. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Adán Ortega, Jr.
Chair of the Board