

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
March 11, 2025

53983 The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 12:16 p.m.

53984 The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Brenda Dennstedt, Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County.

53985 The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Jacque McMillan, Calleguas Municipal Water District.

53986 Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero (teleconference posted location available for the public), Crawford, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Douglas, Erdman (teleconference posted location available for the public), Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gold, Goldberg, Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kassakhian, Katz, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location available for the public), Lewitt, Luna, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Pressman, Ramos, and Seckel.

Those not responding were: Directors Gray, Petersen, Phan, Quinn, and Sutley.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

53987 Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction (in-person and via teleconference).

	Name	Affiliation	Comment
1.	Alan Shanahan	Metropolitan Employee AFSCME Local 1902	Info Tech Contract and Workforce Development
2.	Brett Barbre	Yorba Linda Water District	Item 7-1
3.	Jeff Froehlich	Metropolitan Employee	Safety/Workforce Development
4.	John Medoza	Pomona resident	Climate Change
5.	Quinn Connor	Metropolitan Employee	Safety/Workforce Development
6.	Anthony Ortega	Metropolitan Employee	Safety/Workforce Development

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

53988 Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of February, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

53989 Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, the month of March is Women's History Month, and March 8 is International Women's Day. In partnership with Metropolitan's employee resource groups, Women at Metropolitan and the Society of Women Engineers will highlight on social media how they both helped support and foster a more inclusive workplace environment for women in water. March is also Persian Heritage Month, with Nowruz, the beginning of the New Year, on March 21st. Metropolitan plans to celebrate the Persian and Iranian communities' rich cultural and historical contributions. Lastly, on March 31st is Cesar Chavez Day; Metropolitan will highlight the Labor Leader's contributions and legacy. Chair Ortega asked if there are any questions. None were made.

53990 General Manager Upadhyay acknowledged Women's History Month and reported on the shutdown. In addition, it highlights Metropolitan employees retiring Lori Lalla, Sue Sims, and Gary Syfers.

53991 General Counsel Scully stated she had nothing to add to her written report.

53992 General Auditor Suzuki, in addition to his written report, the first audit committee is on March 25th.

53993 Ethics Officer Salinas stated he had nothing to add to the written report.

53994 Presentation of commendation to Eduardo Rosado Lux Bus Company. Eduardo Rosado made remarks. (Agenda Item 5G)

53995 Presentation of 35-year service pin to Director John Morris, City of San Marino. Director Morris made remarks. (Agenda Item 5H)

Chair Ortega announced the agenda will be taken out of order. Item 6C will be heard first.

53996 Nomination and Election of nonofficer members of the Executive Committee for two-year term effective March 11, 2025: Cynthia Kurtz, Carl E. Douglas, and Karl W. Seckel. (Agenda Item 6C)

Motion by Bryant, second by Camacho to elect Director Kurtz, Director Douglas, and Director Seckel as nonofficer members.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Item 6C.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		6C							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung							
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley							
		Petersen							
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	41918				
		Douglas	x	x	41918				
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17540				
		Goldberg	x	x	17540				
		Miller	x	x	17540				
		Katz	x	x	17540				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				399980				
Present and not voting									
Absent	6335								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 6C (**M.I. No. 53996**) passed by a vote of 399,980 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,335 absent.

53997 Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any comments or discussions on the Approval of the Minutes of the Special Joint Executive Committee and Board of Directors meeting for January 21, 23, and 29, 2025 (Agenda Item 6A). None were made.

53998 Approve Resolution confirming Director Jacque McMillan for Association of California Water Agencies Region 8 Board Member. (Agenda Item 6B).

53999 Approve and appoint Committee Assignments. In addition to the committee assignment sent to the directors the following was added:

Ad Hoc Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships: Jeffrey D. Armstrong, as a member

Legal and Claims Committee and Legislation and Communications Committee: Michael Camacho, as a member

Organization, Personnel, and Effectiveness: Nancy Sutley, as a member

Director Katz appointed to the Subcommittee on Imported Water: Mark Gold, D. Env., Chair; Linda Ackerman, Vice Chair, Desi Alvarez, Jeffrey D. Armstrong, Michael Camacho, Gloria Cordero, David D. De Jesus, Juan Garza, Cynthia Kurtz, Jay Lewitt, Miguel Angel Luna, Jacque McMillan, and Marty Miller as members.

Director Miller appointed to the Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling: Matt S. Petersen, Chair, Karl W. Seckel, Vice Chair, Desi Alvarez, Dennis Erdman, Stephen J. Faessel, Anthony R. Fellow, Lois Fong-Sakai, Mark Gold, D. Env., Jacque McMillan, Tracy Quinn, and Nancy Sutley as members. (Agenda Item 6D)

Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions on the committee appointments. No comments were made.

Chair Ortega called on Directors who are requesting that any items be pulled from the Consent Calendar Action Items and to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures.

Director McMillan disclosed on Item 7-4 that she receives per diem reimbursements and other benefits from Calleguas for service on the Board, and she will not vote on the item, which is an agreement between Metropolitan and Calleguas.

Director Faessel disclosed on Item 7-6 that he previously received salary and benefits from the City of Anaheim for his service with the city which ended on December 10, 2024. He no longer receives any salary or any other benefits, and he may participate on this item.

Director Dick disclosed that Item 7-8 involves authorizing an agreement with Verizon. He currently owns Verizon stock. Therefore, he will recuse from all participation on this item.

Director Miller disclosed that Item 7-8 involves authorizing an agreement with Verizon. He currently owns Verizon stock. Therefore, he will recuse from all participation on this item.

Consent Calendar Items- Action

54000 Award a \$407,740.66 procurement contract to Ireland Inc. dba Core Rosion Products to furnish two 15,000-sodium hypochlorite tanks for the Copper Basin Reservoir, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

53401 Award a \$321,575 procurement contract to Integrated 8a Solutions Inc. to furnish two 24-inch diameter gate valves; and a \$2,151,947 contract to Bailey Valve to furnish two 24-inch diameter sleeve valves for the Hollywood Tunnel pressure control structure, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

53402 Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Palo Verde Irrigation District to jointly fund community investment in Palo Verde Irrigation District's service area, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

53403 Authorized the General Manager to enter into a Stormwater for Recharge Pilot Program agreement with the City of Anaheim with a maximum amount of up to \$980,000 for the State College Stormwater Tank Project, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

53404 Authorized the General Manager to forbear water conserved by two Coachella Valley Water District projects, thus allowing the conserved water to be added to Lake Mead under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-7 board letter.

53405 Reviewed and considered the County of Riverside negative declaration and authorized the General Manager to execute a new ground license agreement with Verizon Wireless for up to 25 years for a new telecommunication site on Metropolitan's fee-owned property in the unincorporated community of Winchester, identified as County of Riverside Assessor Parcel Number 964-030-005, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-8 board letter.

53406 Reviewed and considered the County of Riverside Final Environmental Impact Report certified by the Lead Agency, adopted the Lead Agency's findings, and authorized the General Manager to execute a thirty-year license agreement with Intersect Power, LLC for renewable energy infrastructure purposes on Metropolitan fee-owned property in the County of Riverside and identified as Assessor Parcel Numbers 808-023-022 and 808-023-030, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-9 board letter.

53407 Authorized the General Counsel to increase the amount payable under its contract with Hanson Bridgett LLP by \$100,000 to an amount not-to-exceed \$600,000, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-11 board letter.

53408 Approved amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to modify the structure and duties of various committees and the roles of specified board and committee officers, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-12 board letter.

Director Camacho moved, seconded by Director Garza, that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6D, 7-1, 7-2, 7-4, 7-6 through 7-9, 7-11, and 7-12.

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

Director(s)

1. Pressman

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6D, 7-1, 7-2, 7-4, 7-6 through 7-9, and 7-11, and 7-12.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):	Items: 6A, 6B, 6D, and 7-1, 7-2, 7-4, 7-6 THRU 7-9, 7-11, AND 7-12								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung							
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley							
		Petersen							
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	41918				
		Douglas	x	x	41918				
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17540				
		Goldberg	x	x	17540				
		Miller	x	x	17540				
		Katz	x	x	17540				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				399980				
Present and not voting									
Absent	6335								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6D, 7-1, 7-2, 7-4 7-6 through 7-9, 7-11, and 7-12 (**M.I. No. 53997 through 53408**) passed by a vote of 399,980 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,335 absent.

*Director McMillian did not vote on Item 7-4. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 7-4 passed by a vote of 386,353 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 13,627 not voting; and 6,335 absent.

*Director Dick and Miller recused on Item 7-8. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 7-8 passed by a vote of 399,980 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,335 absent.

53409 Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract with Richardson & Company LLP for auditing services related to State Water Project charges from \$5,125,000 to an amount not to exceed \$8,900,000 and extend the term by three years to March 31, 2028 (Board Item 8-1).

Director Katz moved, seconded by Director Morris, that the Board approve the Board Item 8-1.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Board Item 8-1.

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	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung							
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero							
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley							
		Petersen							
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	41918				
		Douglas	x	x	41918				
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17540				
		Goldberg	x	x	17540				
		Miller	x	x	17540				
		Katz	x	x	17540				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				393175				
Present and not voting									
Absent	13140								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 8-1 (**M.I. No. 53409**) passed by a vote of 393,175 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 13,140 absent.

53410 Approve an employment contract with Mr. Deven N. Upadhyay as General Manager, containing the terms and conditions set forth herein; and authorize retroactive payment of the approved salary to January 29, 2025 (Board Item 8-2).

Director Morris moved, seconded by Director Bryant, that the Board approve the Board Item 8-2.

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

Director(s)

1. Pressman
2. Dick
3. Lewitt

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Board Item 8-2.

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	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung							
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero							
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley							
		Petersen							
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	41918				
		Douglas	x	x	41918				
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17540				
		Goldberg	x	x	17540				
		Miller	x	x	17540				
		Katz	x	x	17540				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				393175				
Present and not voting									
Absent	13140								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 8-2 (**M.I. No. 53410**) passed by a vote of 393,175 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 13,140 absent.

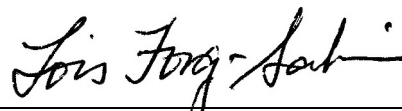
53411 Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or need for discussion on Board Information Item 9-1. No requests were made.

53412 Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or need for discussion on Board Information Items 10a or 10. No requests were made.

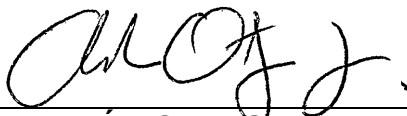
53413 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. No requests were made.

53414 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. No requests were made.

53415 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m. 1:33 p.m.



LOIS FONG-SAKAI
BOARD SECRETARY



ADÁN ORTEGA, JR.
CHAIR OF THE BOARD