

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE**  
**SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**May 11, 2026**

**54453** The Special Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Monday, May 11, 2026.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Director Dennstedt stated she is using just cause due to illness, and she is alone in the room.

Director Camacho stated he is using just cause due to contagious illness, and he is alone in the room.

**54454** The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Tana McCoy, City of Compton.

**54455** Board Executive Secretary Hudson administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho (Just-Cause-Illness), Cordero, Crane, Crawford, Daniels, Denham, Dennstedt (Just-Cause-Illness), Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Gold (teleconference posted location available for the public), Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, Miller, Ortega, Pressman, Ramos, Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors De Jesus, Douglas, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gray, Jay, Kassakhian, McMillan, Paule, Petersen, Phan, and Quinn.

Board Executive Secretary Hudson declared a quorum present.

**54456** 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. The public comment line was closed.

Chair Ortega welcomed new Board Member Paula Daniels, representing the City of Los Angeles.

**54457** General Manager's Report: Key areas of Focus. General Manager Deshmukh reported on the following

- The first 100 days at Metropolitan. He appreciated the opportunity to be onboarded during the tenure of former General Manager Upadhyay.
- The challenges on the Colorado River, the Bay Delta watershed, and locally in Southern California.

- He is focused on maintaining the Metropolitan's infrastructure, the workforce, and ensuring the Board goals are aligned with the two-year budget.
- Coordinating with the General Counsel, General Auditor, and Ethics Officer.
- Investing in the infrastructure, investing in the workforce, and planning for an uncertain future of reliability and resiliency,
- Continuing to deliver imported water by conservation programs, through local resource programs, through the investment and reliability of our own infrastructure.
- The increased funding for our capital investment plan and positions in the workforce; to tackle the backlog of critical projects to replace and refurbish our infrastructure.
- The priority is to use Camp4Water to develop an integrated analysis that considers pure water, as well as other possible core supply projects and storage projects.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions for General Manager Deshmukh. None were made.

**54458** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. No requests were made.

**54459** There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

*Rickita C. Hudson*

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**RICKITA C. HUDSON**  
**BOARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

*Adán Ortega, Jr.*

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**ADÁN ORTEGA, JR.**  
**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**