

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**December 8, 2025**

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 11:21 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Jung (teleconference posted location), Katz, Lewitt, and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: Directors Gray, Kassakhian, and Ramos

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Cordero, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Miller, and Ortega.

Committee Staff present: Deshmukh, Hudson, Novoa, Rubin, Schaffer, Stites, Upadhyay, and Zinke

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

None

**2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for November 17, 2025.

**3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

7-4 Subject: Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2026; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Motion: Adopt the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2026.

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho, to approve the consent calendar items 2A and 7-4.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Jung, Katz, Lewitt, and Shepherd Romey

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Gray, Kassakhian, and Ramos

The motion for items 2A and 7-4 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 3 absent.

#### **4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

None

#### **5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

9-3 Subject: Organizational sponsorships of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for fiscal year 2024/2025

Board report only, no presentation.

9-4 Subject: Organizational memberships of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for fiscal year 2024/2025

Board report only, no presentation.

#### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)**

a. Subject: Bewaterwise.com Redesign

The item was deferred.

Item 6c was presented first, followed by 6b.

c. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the state legislative calendar, the state's fiscal outlook, Colorado River issues, State Water Project issues, and allocation of the 2024 climate bond.

b. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the Large -Scale Water Recycling Program Reauthorization, Senate Environment and Public Works committee hearing, and FY 26 Appropriation: Bureau of Reclamation.

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

a. Subject: External Affairs Activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, External Affairs Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on the local government outreach event Water Matters in Long Beach, hosted by Metropolitan and Long Beach Utilities, as well as the 2026 Student Art Calendar recognition event and Colorado River outreach.

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

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Jay Lewitt  
Chair