

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
October 14, 2025

54265 The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

Director Kassakhian stated that he is using AB 2449 just cause for a health issue, and he is alone in the room.

54266 The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Raymond Jay, City of Torrance.

54267 The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Vice Chair of the Board Juan Garza, Central Basin Municipal Water District.

54268 Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus (teleconference posted location available for the public), Denham, Dennstedt, Dick, Douglas, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gold (teleconference posted location available for the public), Jay, Kassakhian (AB2449 – Just Cause), Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, Luna, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Ortega, Petersen, Pressman, Ramos, Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

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

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Director(s) entered after roll call: Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public).

54269 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.	Steven Elie	Inland Empire Utilities Agency	Item 10-2
2.	Kelly Gardner	Main San Gabriel Basin Water Master	Pure Water DCP
3.	Alan Shanahan	AFSCME	Item 10-2

- | | | | |
|----|---------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| 4. | Bruce Reznik | LA Waterkeeper | Item 10-2 |
| 5. | Lynda Noriega | Main San Gabriel Basin
Watermaster | Pure Water DCP |

Director Jung entered the meeting.

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

54270 Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of September, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

54271 Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, he announced to honor Breast Cancer Awareness Month, he challenges the Board to wear pink on the 28th to bring awareness and demonstrate all the women who have been victimized by the horrible disease. Updated on Palo Verde Irrigation District Board of Trustees election results. October is water-related awareness month, water professionals' appreciation week, and recognition of Imagine a Day without water. Lastly, in honor of the Hispanic Employees Association and in appreciation of Director Luna's service on the Metropolitan Board and Delta Conveyance Authority Committee, we will have a mariachi band play a song.

54272 Presentation of the five-year service pin to Director Matthew Petersen, representing the City of Los Angeles.

Director Luna made remarks.

54273 General Manager Upadhyay, in addition to his written report, reported on employee service awards, adjustments to the general manager report, MET Vets in honor of Veterans Day, a safety team video, Chiriaco Summit, and Colorado River Aqueduct. Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions or comments.

Chair Ortega announced that next month is the Greg Taylor dedication event.

54274 General Counsel Scully, in addition to her written report, provided clarification on whether families of directors can participate in trips funded by Metropolitan. General Counsel Scully confirmed that Metropolitan cannot pay for a spouse or family member's participation.

Chair Ortega made remarks.

54275 Ethics Officer Salinas stated he had nothing to add to the written report.

54276 General Auditor Suzuki, in addition to his written report, updated on the internal quality assessment survey.

54277 Induction of new Director Dan Denham from San Diego County Water Authority. General Counsel Scully confirmed the credentials are in order. Directors Katz and Denham made remarks.

54278 Approve Commendatory Resolution for Director S. Gail Goldberg representing San Diego County Water Authority and Director Miguel A. Luna representing City of Los Angeles (Agenda Item 6A).

54279 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors and Organizational Personnel, and Effectiveness Committee for June 13, 2025 and the Special Joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and Workshop on Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for June 24, 2025 and of the meeting of the Board of Directors for August 19, 2025 (Agenda Item 6B).

Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any additions, corrections, or omissions on the minutes. None were made.

54280 Approve and appoint Committee Assignments. Director McMillan as Metropolitan representative to the Delta Construction Authority and the Delta Finance Authority; Director Kassakhian as the Legal and Claims Committee Chair, removed him as vice chair of the Legislation and Communications Committee, and he will remain a member of the committee; Director Shepherd Romey as Co-Vice Chair for Legislation and Communications Committee, and as a member of the Legal and Claims Committee; Director Denham as a member of the One Water and Adaptation Committee, the Subcommittee on Imported Water, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Colorado River Negotiations; and Director Miller as a member of the Subcommittee for CAMP4W (Agenda Item 6C).

Chair Ortega announced we will consider the consent calendar items 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1 through 7-9.

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. None were made.

Consent Calendar Items- Action

54281 (a.) Amend the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2024/25 and 2025/26 to include invasive mussel mitigation and control at Metropolitan facilities; and (b.) Authorize an increase of \$500,000 in the operation and maintenance budget for fiscal year 2025/26 to purchase operating equipment to control the growth of invasive mussels, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

54282 Authorize the General Manager to grant a permanent easement to the City of Rialto for public road purposes on Metropolitan fee-owned property in the city of Rialto and identified as County of San Bernardino Assessor Parcel Number 0239-301-23, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

54283 Authorize the execution of an amendment to an existing lease agreement with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC to adjust the rental amount and extend the term for up to 25 additional years, thereby allowing continued operation of a commercial telecommunication site at the Iron Mountain Pumping Plant identified as San Bernardino County Assessor Parcel No. 0643-221-06, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

54284 Approve the Emergency Event Member Agency Payment Deferment Program, amended the Administrative Code to add Section 4520 to implement the Program, and delegated authority to the General Manager to administer the Program, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

54285 Adopt a resolution authorizing electronic submissions of Government Code claims, any amendments thereto, and applications for leave to present a late claim, pursuant to Government Code section 915(a)(3), and approved amendments and an addition to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to conform to the authority set forth in the resolution, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

54286 Authorize and fund additional counsel position in the Office of the General Counsel, (Agenda Item 7-6, no committee meeting voted on directly at Board.)

54287 Authorize on-call agreements with Helix Environmental Planning Inc. and Rincon Consultants Inc. in amounts not to exceed \$2 million each and ECORP Consulting Inc., Dudek, and Environmental Science Associates in amounts not to exceed \$1 million each, for a maximum of five years for environmental planning services, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-7 board letter.

54288 Adopt a resolution designating authorized agents for funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the California Office of Emergency Services, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-8 board letter.

54289 Award a \$6,412,126 contract to Houalla Enterprises Ltd. DBA Metro Builders & Engineers Group Ltd. to rehabilitate and improve a chemical feed facility at the Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-9 board letter.

Director Fellow moved, seconded by Director Faessel, that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1 through 7-9.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1 through 7-9.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s): 6A, 6B, 6C, and 7-1 through 7-9									
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel	x	x	6706				
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman	x	x	4853				
Burbank	3416	Ramos	x	x	3416				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	14206	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	21215	Garza	x	x	10608				
		Crawford	x	x	10608				
			Subtotal:		21215				
Compton	718	McCoy	x	x	718				
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Armstrong	x	x	14725				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2444	Bryant	x	x	2444				
Fullerton	2840	Jung	x	x	2840				
Glendale	4326	Kassakhian	x	x	4326				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	18220	Camacho	x	x	18220				
Las Virgenes	3346	Lewitt	x	x	3346				
Long Beach	7105	Cordero							
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley	x	x	21709				
		Petersen	x	x	21709				
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	21709				
		Douglas	x	x	21709				
			Subtotal:		86834				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Dick	x	x	17894				
		Erdman	x	x	17894				
			Subtotal:		71574				
Pasadena	4190	Kurtz	x	x	4190				
San Diego County Water Authority	73565	Fong-Sakai	x	x	18391				
		Denham	x	x	18391				
		Miller	x	x	18391				
		Katz	x	x	18391				
			Subtotal:		73565				
San Fernando	288	Ortega	x	x	288				
San Marino	878	Shepherd Romey	x	x	878				
Santa Ana	3732	Phan							
Santa Monica	5256	Gold	x	x	5256				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9536	De Jesus	x	x	9536				
Torrance	3949	Jay	x	x	3949				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14772	Fellow	x	x	14772				
West Basin Municipal Water District	29790	Alvarez	x	x	29790				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		29790				
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
Total	424986				399943				
Present and not voting									
Absent	25043								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1* through 7-9 (M.I. No. 54278 through 54289) passed by a vote of 399,943 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 25,043 absent.

*Director Fong Sakai voted no on Item 7-1 but requested that the vote be reflected as a yes.

54290 Appropriated an additional \$30 million for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26, increasing the biennial Capital Investment Plan appropriation to \$666.48 million (Board Item 8-1).

54291 Authorized an extension to June 30, 2026, on the existing five-year contract with Securitas to provide security guard services; and authorized an increase of \$6 million in funding for the contract to a new not-to-exceed amount of \$61 million (Board Item 8-3).

54292 Approved Option #1 in the confidential board letter and authorized an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Ryan and Associates in the amount of \$100,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$350,000 regarding Oswalt v. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Diego County Superior Court Case No. 37-2023-00009934-CU-PO-NC (Board Item 8-5).

54293 Approved Option #1 in the confidential board letter regarding Jones v. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 23STCV28217 (Board Item 8-6).

54294 Approve the attached Tentative Agreement with the Supervisors' Association (Board Item 8-7).

Chair Ortega called on Directors to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures. Chair Ortega asked if any Director wanted to discuss and/or vote separately on Items 8-1 or 8-3.

Chair Ortega announced Item 8-7 is an update on labor negotiations with the supervisors Association. A copy of the Non-Interest Disclosure Notice has been posted on the website, and the notice will be attached to the minutes and part of the official record.

Chair Ortega asked if any Directors want to discuss Item 8-7, and/or discuss and/or vote on Items 8-5 or 8-6 in closed session. None were made.

Director Camacho moved, seconded by Director Douglas, that the Board approve Board Items 8-1, 8-3, 8-5, 8-6, and 8-7.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Items 8-1, 8-3, 8-5, 8-6, and 8-7.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		8-1 & 8-3, 8-5, 8-6, & 8-7							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel	x	x	6706				
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman	x	x	4853				
Burbank	3416	Ramos	x	x	3416				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	14206	McMillan	x	x	14206				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	21215	Garza	x	x	10608				
		Crawford	x	x	10608				
			Subtotal:		21215				
Compton	718	McCoy	x	x	718				
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Armstrong	x	x	14725				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2444	Bryant	x	x	2444				
Fullerton	2840	Jung	x	x	2840				
Glendale	4326	Kassakhian	x	x	4326				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	18220	Camacho	x	x	18220				
Las Virgenes	3346	Lewitt	x	x	3346				
Long Beach	7105	Cordero							
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley	x	x	21709				
		Petersen	x	x	21709				
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	21709				
		Douglas	x	x	21709				
			Subtotal:		86834				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Dick	x	x	17894				
		Erdman	x	x	17894				
			Subtotal:		71574				
Pasadena	4190	Kurtz	x	x	4190				
San Diego County Water Authority	73565	Fong-Sakai	x	x	18391				
		Denham	x	x	18391				
		Miller	x	x	18391				
		Katz	x	x	18391				
			Subtotal:		73565				
San Fernando	288	Ortega	x	x	288				
San Marino	878	Shepherd Romey	x	x	878				
Santa Ana	3732	Phan							
Santa Monica	5256	Gold	x	x	5256				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9536	De Jesus	x	x	9536				
Torrance	3949	Jay	x	x	3949				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14772	Fellow	x	x	14772				
West Basin Municipal Water District	29790	Alvarez	x	x	29790				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		29790				
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
Total	424986				414149				
Present and not voting									
Absent	10837								

The motion to approve the Board Items 8-1*, 8-3, 8-5, 8-6, and 8-7* (**M.I. No. 54290 through 54294**) passed by a vote of 414,149 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 10,837 absent.

*Directors Fong-Sakai and Miller voted no, and Director Kurtz? did not vote on Board Item 8-1 (**M.I. 54290**), which passed by a vote of 373,177 ayes; 36,783 noes; 0 abstentions; 4,190 not voting; and 10,837 absent.

*Director Jay abstained on Board Item 8-7 Board (**M.I. 54294**) passed by a vote of 410,200 ayes; 0 noes; 3,949 abstain; 0 not voting; and 10,837 absent.

54295 Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or need for discussion on Board Information Items 9-1 or 9-2. No requests were made.

54296 Public Employment - General Manager [To be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957] (Board Item 10-1).

Chair Ortega called the meeting into closed session to discuss Board Item 10-1 at 3:40 p.m.

The meeting returned to open session at 3:51 p.m.

Chair Ortega stated that the Board discussed Board Item 10-1, no action was taken in closed session. The Board has elected to take action on the General Manager's appointment and the contract in an open session. Reported that the recruitment process and negotiations have concluded for the General Manager position.

Chair Ortega announced at the September Board meeting that Shivaji Deshmukh was selected as the finalist after an open and transparent recruitment process that began in May.

54297 Appoint Shivaji Deshmukh as the incoming General Manager and authorize the Chair to execute the employment agreement as described in the Board letter, with an annual salary of \$495,040 (Board Item 10-1 and 10-2).

Mark Brower, Human Resources Manager, provided a summary of the key terms of the proposed employment agreement, as previously posted in Board Letter 10-2 with a copy of the redacted agreement attached.

Director Camacho moved, seconded by Director Bryant, that the Board approve Board Items 10-1 and 10-2.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Items 10-1 and 10-2.

The following is a record of the vote:

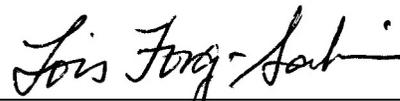
Record of Vote on Item:		'10-1 & 10-2 GM Appointment & Employment Agreement							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel	x	x	6706				
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman	x	x	4853				
Burbank	3416	Ramos	x	x	3416				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	14206	McMillan	x	x	14206				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	21215	Garza	x	x	10608				
		Crawford	x	x	10608				
			Subtotal:		21215				
Compton	718	McCoy	x	x	718				
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Armstrong	x	x	14725				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2444	Bryant	x	x	2444				
Fullerton	2840	Jung							
Glendale	4326	Kassakhian	x	x	4326				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	18220	Camacho	x	x	18220				
Las Virgenes	3346	Lewitt	x	x	3346				
Long Beach	7105	Cordero							
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley	x	x	21709				
		Petersen	x	x	21709				
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	21709				
		Douglas	x	x	21709				
			Subtotal:		86834				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange Cou	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Dick	x	x	17894				
		Erdman	x	x	17894				
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Pasadena	4190	Kurtz	x	x	4190				
San Diego County Water Authority	73565	Fong-Sakai	x	x	18391				
		Denham	x	x	18391				
		Miller	x	x	18391				
		Katz	x	x	18391				
			Subtotal:		73565				
San Fernando	288	Ortega	x	x	288				
San Marino	878	Shepherd R	x	x	878				
Santa Ana	3732	Phan							
Santa Monica	5256	Gold	x	x	5256				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9536	De Jesus	x	x	9536				
Torrance	3949	Jay	x	x	3949				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat.	14772	Fellow	x	x	14772				
West Basin Municipal Water District	29790	Alvarez	x	x	29790				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		29790				
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
Total	424986				411309				
Present and not voting									
Absent	13677								

The motion to approve the Board Items 10-1 and 10-2 (M.I. No. 54296 through 54297) passed by a vote of 411,309 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 13,677 absent.

54298 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. No requests were made.

54299 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. No requests were made.

54300 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.



**LOIS FONG-SAKAI
BOARD SECRETARY**



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

ORGANIZATION, PERSONNEL, AND EFFECTIVENESS
COMMITTEE MEETING
October 14, 2025 – 12:30 p.m.
MWD Headquarters Building/Teleconference Meeting

NON-INTEREST DISCLOSURE NOTICE
COMMITTEE ITEMS 8-7 AND 6.b.

COMMITTEE ITEM Item 8-7 - Update on negotiations and approve entering into Reopener Agreement between The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and The Supervisors Association of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with Labor Negotiators; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code 54957.6. Metropolitan representatives: Katano Kasaine, Assistant General Manager, Chief Financial Officer and Gifty J. Beets, Human Resources Section Manager of Labor Relations. Employee organization: The Supervisors Association of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California].

COMMITTEE ITEM Item 6.b. – Update on labor negotiations [Conference with Labor Negotiators; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957.6. Metropolitan representatives: Katano Kasaine, Assistant General Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Adam Benson, Finance Group Manager, Gifty J. Beets, Human Resources Section Manager and Mark Brower, Human Resources Group manager. Employee Organization(s): The Employees Association of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California/AFSCME Local 1902; the Management and Professional Employees Associations MAPA/AFSCME Chapter 1001; the Supervisors Association; and the Association of Confidential Employees.]

This Non-Interest Disclosure Notice is being provided under the California Government Code: Pursuant to Government Code Section 1091.5(a)(9), a District officer or employee does not have a financial interest in a District contract if these conditions are satisfied: (i) his or her interest is that of a person receiving a salary, per diem or reimbursement for expenses from a government entity; (ii) the contract does not directly involve the department of the government entity that employs

him or her; and (iii) the interest is disclosed to his or her body or board at the time the contract is considered and is noted in its official record. In accordance with this statute, the following District officers or employees have been, or may be, involved in the bargaining unit negotiations on behalf of management: Marcia Scully, Katano Kasaine, Shane Chapman, Deven Upadhyay, Gifty Beets, Mark Brower, Henry Torres, Tony Zepeda, Adam Benson, and Isamar Munoz Marroquin.

Isamar Munoz Marroquin is a member of the Association of Confidential Employees (“ACE”), which has a salary provision in its Memorandum of Understanding that allows ACE to select an annual salary adjustment from any one of the Memoranda of Understanding for the other bargaining units. Each of the remaining individuals is unrepresented. Under Administrative Code Section 6500(d), unless the Board directs otherwise, the pay rate range for each unrepresented individual except Deven Upadhyay and Marcia Scully, will be adjusted annually to correspond with the annual across-the-board salary adjustment provided to the District’s management employees under the Memoranda of Understanding; although actual pay rates for these unrepresented individuals will be determined by their management. The other compensation and benefits for which the unrepresented individuals are eligible are set forth in the Administrative Code.