

# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## MINUTES

### ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

November 18, 2024

Chair Erdman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McMillan, Miller (entered after roll call), Morris, Seckel (AB 2449 “just cause”), and Smith.

Director Seckel indicated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” due to illness. Director Seckel appeared by audio and on camera.

Members absent: Directors Camacho, Crawford, and Petersen.

Other board members present: Chair Ortega, Directors Ackerman (AB 2449 “just cause”), Armstrong, Goldberg, Gray (teleconference location posted), Lewitt.

Director Ackerman indicated she is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” due to recovery from a medical procedure. Director Ackerman appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Eckstrom, Hattar, Nobriga, Parsons, Saito, Upadhyay, and Wheeler.

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

1. Tom Love – General Manager, Upper San Gabriel Valley Water District – In support of Item 8-2

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

#### **2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for October 7, 2024.

### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

Chair Erdman announced that consent item 7-2 would be heard first.

- 7-2** Subject: Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project and take related CEQA actions (EOT).
- Presented by: No presentation requested
- Motion: Certify that the Final EIR for the Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, certify that the Board has reviewed and considered the information presented in the Final EIR, certify that the Final EIR reflects Metropolitan’s independent judgment and analysis, and adopt the Findings and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Director Faessel made a motion, seconded by Director Bryant, to approve item 2A and item 7-2.

The vote was:

- Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Morris, Seckel, and Smith.
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: None
- Absent: Directors Camacho, Crawford, Miller, and Petersen

The motion for Items 2A and 7-2 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 4 absent.

Director Seckel stated that he was alone in the room whilst casting his vote.

No Directors provided comments or asked questions.

Director Miller entered the meeting.

- 7-1** Subject: Amend an agreement with Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects to provide design and architectural services for Stage 1 improvements of the District Housing and Property Improvements Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT)
- Presented by: Ish Singh, Team Manager, Program Management Section, Engineering Services Group responded to director questions.
- Motion: Authorize an amendment to an agreement with Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects to provide design and architectural services for Stage 1 improvements at Metropolitan’s desert facilities.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Miller
2. Smith
3. Dennstedt
4. Morris
5. Fong-Sakai
6. Faessel

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Bryant made a motion, seconded by Director Morris, to approve item 7-1.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Seckel, and Smith.  
Noes: None  
Abstentions: None  
Absent: Directors Camacho, Crawford, and Petersen

The motion for Item 7-1 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 3 absent.

Director Seckel stated that he was alone in the room whilst casting his vote.

**\*\* END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS \*\***

#### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

- 8-1** Subject: Authorize the General Manager to amend the Project Labor Agreement to add four new projects and approve the amended Project Labor Agreement's use as a bid condition for the newly added projects; and report on Project Labor Agreement activities over the past year; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA (EOT).
- Presented by: Doaa Aboul-Hosn, Team Manager Construction Contracts, Engineering Services Group
- Motion: Authorize the General Manager to amend the Project Labor Agreement to add four new projects and approve the amended Project Labor Agreement's use as a bid condition for the newly added projects.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Miller
2. Erdman
3. Smith

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Faessel, to approve Item 8-1.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Seckel, and Smith.  
Noes: None  
Abstentions: None  
Recusals: None  
Absent: Director Camacho, Crawford, and Petersen

The motion for Item 8-1 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, 0 recusal, and 3 absent.

Director Seckel stated that he was alone in the room whilst casting his vote.

- 8-2** Subject: Adopt a resolution in support of the application for funding under the WaterSMART Large-Scale Water Recycling Program for planning of the Pure Water Southern California Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.
- Presented by: Raymond Jay, Principal Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management Group/Resource Implementation Section.
- Motion: Adopt the proposed resolution, verifying that the Board reviewed and supports the grant application, that subject to board approval of a grant agreement, the General Manager or his/her designee will have the legal authority to enter into that agreement, and that the General Manager or his/her designee will work with the United States Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant agreement.

At the committee meeting, staff indicated that the Bureau intends to award Metropolitan an additional \$26.3 million grant, and the consensus of the committee was that this award be included in the current action. The Board will adopt another similarly worded resolution to accept the additional amount.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Miller
2. Smith
3. Alvarez

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Bryant, to approve Item 8-2.

The vote was:

- Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Seckel, and Smith.
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: None
- Recusals: None
- Absent: Director Camacho, Crawford, and Petersen

The motion for Item 8-2 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, 0 recusal, and 3 absent.

Director Seckel stated that he was alone in the room whilst casting his vote.

## **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

## **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Subject: Pure Water Southern California – Partnership Development Update
- Presented by: Jon Rubin, Executive Advisor: Water Resources and Capital Improvements, responded to director questions.

Mr. Rubin reported on the following:

- Update on efforts to develop partnerships for Pure Water Southern California and seek input on policy items including cost, supply and funding implications.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Faessel
2. Smith
3. Morris
4. Ackerman
5. Miller
6. Alvarez

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Chair Erdman deferred items 6b and 6c.

b. Subject: Asset Management Update

Presented by: Deferred

c. Subject: Risk Management in Capital Project Planning and Delivery

Presented by: Deferred

d. Subject: Update on Fluoridation

Presented by: Paul Rochelle, Water Quality Section Manager, Treatment and  
Water Quality Group

Mr. Rochelle reported on the following:

- Background on community water fluoridation and Metropolitan's fluoridation practice
- Recent Federal district court ruling on drinking water fluoridation.
- Next steps to track responses from regulatory authorities and provides updates as needed

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Armstrong
2. McMillan

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

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

a. Subject: Engineering Services, Information Technology, and Water System  
Operations Activities

Presented by: John Bednarski, Interim Assistant General Manager and Shane  
Chapman, Assistant General Manager

Mr. Bednarski reported on the following:

- Brief recap on EO&T Committee Annual Field Inspection Trip

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- Golden mussels have been detected in three areas of the Delta; monitoring program has been expanded. An update will be given to the Board.

- Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Safe Drinking Water Act and the establishment of the Water Quality Section.
- Charlie Eckstrom announced that Jake Margolis was a recent winner of the Top Global Chief Information Security Officer Award.

## **8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

- a. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance

No report.

## **9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

## **10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The 2 committee items that were deferred in the interest of time, will be brought back to the next meeting.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on December 9, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Dennis Erdman  
Chair