

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**March 10, 2025**

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Members present: Directors Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza (entered after roll call), Gray (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Lewitt, McMillan, Morris, Pressman (teleconference posted location), and Ramos.

Members absent: Directors Ackerman, Luna, and Phan.

Other Board Members present: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Cordero, Dick, Erdman, Faessel, Kurtz, McCoy, Miller, Ortega, and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Novoa, Rubin, Stites, Upadhyay, and Zinke

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

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee held February 10, 2025.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Morris to approve item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Dennstedt, Fellow, Kassakhian, Lewitt, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, and Ramos

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Ackerman, Garza, Gray, Luna, and Phan

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 5 absent.

### **END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

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

None

#### **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

#### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

a. Subject: Construction Outreach: Updates and Insights

Presented by: Lizeth Martinez, Community Relations Team Manager

Ms. Martinez presented a report on construction outreach, highlighting recent projects, early collaboration efforts, and proactive engagement with communities through door-to-door visits and social media. She also emphasized the use of visible and informative on-site banners, as well as the importance of listening, responding, and building trust with the community.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Ortega
- 2.) Fellow
- 3.) Garza

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

Director Garza and Gray entered the meeting.

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

Presented by: Abby R. Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on federal actions related to the California wildfires, the status of Army Corps of Engineers civil works programs, discussions to avoid a federal government shutdown, the budget resolution for both the Senate and House, President Trump's nominations for Assistant Secretary of Water and Science and Assistant Administrator for Water, as well as the reductions in the federal workforce.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Fellow
- 2.) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- c. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay L. Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the legislative calendar, Metropolitan's sponsored bill AB 580 (Wallis) regarding an exemption from the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. He also discussed several member agency proposals, including AB 259 (Rubio) on open meetings and local agencies' teleconferences, SB 394 (Allen) addressing water theft on fire hydrants, and Eastern MWD's proposal AB 523 (Irwin) regarding alternate representatives for Metropolitan Water Districts.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Armstrong
- 2.) Fellow
- 3.) Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

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

a. Subject: External Affairs activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on the "Discover Diamond Valley Lake" virtual game mission "Agents of Discovery" which received first-place honors. She also highlighted the Youth STEM Symposium at CSU Dominguez Hills, the Virtual Earth Day Competition co-sponsored with AQMD and Southern California Gas, and internal communications efforts, including publications and newsletters. Additionally, she discussed new videos on safety matters, infrastructure, workforce development, innovation and Pure Water Southern California to support EIR release.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Ortega
- 2.) Armstrong
- 3.) Garza
- 4.) Morris
- 5.) Fellow
- 6.) Cordero
- 7.) Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

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

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Chair Lewitt