

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE**  
**SPECIAL JOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**December 9, 2025**

**54329** The Special Joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Tuesday, December 09, 2025.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 12:31 p.m.

Director Denham stated that he is using AB 2449 just cause for contagious illness and he is alone in the room.

**54330** The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Gloria Cordero, City of Long Beach.

**54331** The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Dennis Erdman, Municipal Water District of Orange County.

**54332** Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero, Crawford, Crane, De Jesus (teleconference posted location available for the public), Denham (Just-Cause AB2449), Dennstedt, Douglas, Erdman, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gray (teleconference posted location available for the public), Jay, Kassakhian, Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, Miller, Ortega, Phan (teleconference posted location available for the public), Pressman, Quinn, Seckel, Shepherd Romey.

Those not responding were: Directors Armstrong, Faessel, McCoy, McMillan, Petersen, Ramos, and Sutley.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

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

**54333** 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.	John Belperio	Western States Regional Sites Carpenters	Sites Authority
2.	Jose Miguel Guzman	Western States Regional Sites Carpenters Local 213	Sites Authority

3.	Tom Love	General Manager Upper Water	Item 9-5
4.	Darcy Burke	Elsinore Valley MWD	General Manager and Director Dick Retirement and Wastewater Users
5.	Jason Rollo	Metropolitan Employee	General Manager Retirement
6.	Kelly Gardner	Executive Officer San Gabriel Valley	General Manager Retirement and Pure Water

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS

#### 5. COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approve the draft of the Committee and Board meeting agendas and schedule for January 2026.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any additions or deletions to the January 2026 draft packet.

Committee Chair Erdman reported that the following subject has been added to the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee:

- Power Cost Exposure with Lower Lake Mead Storage.

Committee Chair Kassakhian reported that the following subject has been added to the Legal and Claims Committee:

- Authorize filing a cross-complaint in *Fakhoury v. City of Rancho Cucamonga*, San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVRS 2509398

Committee Chair Quinn reported that the following subjects have been added to the One Water and Adaptation Committee:

- Update on Local Resources Program and Local Resource Development Workshop.
- A pilot program for early retirement of alfalfa in Palo Verde Valley

Committee Chair Kurtz reported that the following subject has been added to the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships:

- The Committee will discuss the purpose of the Ag and Tribal Partnerships Committee.
- Guest Speaker, AG Kawamura, Co-Chair of Solutions From the Land.

Director Gold entered the meeting.

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Item 5A.

Director Erdman made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho to approve the committee Action Item 5A as presented, listed, and revised.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Camacho, Cordero (alternate), Douglas, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gray, Kassakhian, Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, Miller, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, and Seckel

Abstention: None

Recusal: None

Absent: Armstrong, Jung, McCoy, and Sutley.

The motion for Item 5A and 5B passed by a vote of 16 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 4 absent.

## **END OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTOR ITEMS**

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

**54334** Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of November, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

**54335** Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, he announced that he will be absent in February and asked Board Vice Chair Camacho and Sutley to preside over the meetings. Reported to confirm the members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity Investigation: Director Seckel, as Chair, Director Miller, as Vice Chair, Director McCoy as Member, and Director Jung as the alternate. Lastly, during the holiday season, Metropolitan will highlight conservation education work and the opportunities that come when communities say goodbye to grass. On social media, student water art calendar honorees will be celebrated.

Chair Ortega presented General Manager Upadhyay with a copy of the San Diego County Water Authority litigation settlement, signed as a token of appreciation for his service and to celebrate his retirement.

Director Gray left the meeting.

**54336** General Manager Upadhyay and General Manager designate Deshmukh, in addition to his written report, update on the State Water Project first allocation for 2026, the S&P Global

AAA rating, Deimer helicopter tank, Colorado River negotiations, and meetings with staff at the various locations with Chair Ortega and Erdman.

**54337** General Counsel Scully, in addition to her written report, update on CRWUA and World Human Rights Day.

**54338** General Auditor Suzuki stated nothing to add to his written report.

**54339** Ethics Officer Salinas is attending an Ethics Conference, and his monthly report is available online.

**54340** Induction of new Director Randall Crane, Municipal Water District of Orange County. General Counsel Scully confirmed the credentials are in order. Directors Dick and Crane made remarks.

**54341** Update on AB523 Metropolitan Water District Proxy Vote Authorization. Presented by Rickita Hudson, Board Executive Secretary.

Director Jung entered the meeting.

**54342** Approve Commendatory Resolution for Director Larry D. Dick representing Municipal Water District of Orange County (Agenda Item 7B).

**54343** Approve and appoint Committee Assignments. Appointing Director Crane to the Audit Committee, the Finance, Affordability, Asset Management, and Efficiency Committee, the Legislation and Communications Committee, the One Water and Adaptation Committee, and the Subcommittee on Imported Water. Appointing Director Fellow and Shepard Romey to the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships (Agenda Item 7C).

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

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.

Director Cordero disclosed that item 7-6 involves an amendment to an agreement with the City of Long Beach, under which she receives per diem, reimbursements, and other benefits from Long Beach for her service on the Board. However, she has been advised that she may participate in this item.

Consent Calendar Items- Action

**54344** Award a \$381,812 procurement contract to Primary Flow Signal Inc. to furnish two venturi flowmeters for the LA-17 service connection, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

**54345** (a.) Authorize on-call agreements with Butier Engineering Inc., MARRS Services, Mott MacDonald, and HDR Inc. in amounts not to exceed \$2 million each, for a maximum period of two years for construction management and inspection services; and (b.) Authorize an

increase of \$1.0 million to an existing agreement with PMA Consultants, for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$1.249 million for cost estimating and scheduling services, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

**54346** Authorize the General Manager to execute up to 32 revocable license agreements in the cities of Santa Clarita, South Gate and Los Angeles to allow temporary encroachments on Metropolitan fee-owned parcels in Los Angeles County, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

**54347** Adopt the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2026, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

**54348** Review and consider the Yuba County Water Agency certified Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and Authorize an amendment to the Dry Year Water Purchase Program Agreement with the California Department of Water Resources to purchase water supply under the Yuba Accord Long-Term Water Transfer Program, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

**54349** Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the 2019 Mitigated Negative Declaration and authorize an amendment extending the term to December 31, 2029, for the Rancho Los Cerritos – Looking Back to Advance Forward Project Agreement under the Stormwater for Direct Use Program, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

Director Camacho moved, seconded by Director Garza, that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 7B, 7C, 7-1 through 7-6.

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

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s): 7B, 7C, and 7-1 through 7-6									
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel							
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman	x	x	4853				
Burbank	3416	Ramos							
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							
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Armstrong							
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	x	x	7105				
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley							
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	43417				
		Vacant							
		Douglas	x	x	43417				
			Subtotal:		86834				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Crane	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				
<b>Total</b>	<b>424986</b>				<b>381483</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>43503</b>								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 7B, 7C, 7-1 through 7-6 (M.I. No. 54342 through 54349) passed by a vote of 381,483 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 43,503 absent.

Director Denham stated he is alone in the room.

**54350** (a.) Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action was previously addressed in the certified 2024 Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project Environmental Impact Report; and (b.) Award a \$115,611,000 construction contract to J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for rehabilitation of Garvey Reservoir facilities; and (c.) Authorize an increase of \$3.2 million to an existing agreement with Arcadis U.S. Inc., for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$9.55 million, to provide technical support during construction (Board Item 8-1).

Chair Ortega called on Directors to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures on Board Item 8-1.

Director Erdman moved, seconded by Director Crawford, that the Board approve Board Item 8-1.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Item 8-1.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		8-1							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel							
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman	x	x	4853				
Burbank	3416	Ramos							
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							
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Armstrong							
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	x	x	7105				
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley							
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	43417				
		Vacant							
		Douglas	x	x	43417				
			Subtotal:		86834				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Crane	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				
<b>Total</b>	<b>424986</b>				<b>381483</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>43503</b>								

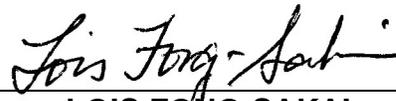
The motion to approve the Board Item 8-1 (M.I. No. 54350) passed by a vote of 381,483 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 43,503 absent.

**54351** Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or a need for discussion on Board Information Items 9-2, 9-3, 9-4, 9-5, 9-6, 9-7, or 9-8. No requests were made.

**54352** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. No requests were made.

**54353** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. No requests were made.

**54354** There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54p.m.



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**LOIS FONG-SAKAI  
BOARD SECRETARY**



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