

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

April 13, 2026

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

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Jung (entered after rollcall), Katz, Lewitt, and Paule.

Members absent: Directors Jay, Kassakhian, Ramos, and Shepherd Romey.

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, McCoy, Miller, Ortega, Pressman, and Seckel.

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

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

1.) Tuannee Holmes - BEA President spoke in regard to facilities naming activities.

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for March 9, 2026.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Director Jung entered the meeting.

Director Katz made a motion, seconded by Director Fellow, to approve the consent calendar item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Jung, Katz, Lewitt, and Paule

Noes: None

Abstentions: Director Katz

Absent: Directors Jay, Kassakhian, Ramos and Shepherd Romey

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstain, and 4 absent.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Update on Education Programs

Presented by: Benita Horn, Team Manager - Education

Ms. Horn provided an update on Metropolitan's education programs, including student field trips and competitions, teacher workshops, and career awareness initiatives that support the district's long-term water reliability and public engagement goals.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1.) Fellow
- 2.) Ortega

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

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

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided a federal legislative update, noting House passage of H.R. 831, Senate activity, and the President's proposed FY 2027 budget with significant cuts to key water-related agencies. The presentation also highlighted the importance of continued WaterSMART funding and recent federal actions affecting housing and regulatory policy.

The following director provided comments or asked questions:

- 1.) Ortega

Staff responded to the director's questions and comments.

Director Gray left the meeting.

c. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the legislative calendar and introduced Metropolitan's new senior legislative representative. He also provided highlights of the Sacramento Board Advocacy Day and updates on advanced clean fleet regulations and legislation regarding the State Water Project, wildfire response, invasive mussels, tribal issues, and others.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1.) Lewitt
- 2.) Katz
- 3.) Ortega
- 4.) Fellow

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: External Affairs Activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, External Affairs Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided highlights of director, staff, and legislative inspection trips and shared a video from the Southern California Water Coalition, "Renewed: The Journey to Safe Drinking Water."

The following director provided comments or asked questions:

- 1.) Lewitt

Staff responded to the director's questions and comments.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Jay Lewitt
Chair