

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**February 13, 2024**

**53506** The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Director De Jesus is using AB 2449 just cause due to an illness that prevents him from attending in person. Director De Jesus appeared by audio and video.

**53507** The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Garry Bryant, Foothill Municipal Water District.

**53508** The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Carl E. Douglas, City of Los Angeles.

Board Executive Secretary Hudson announced that 34819 Calle Del Sol, Capistrano Beach, California 92624 is no longer available to the public.

Chair Ortega introduced the guest Member Agency Manager Nick Kimball for the City of San Fernando. Director Ortega and Mr. Kimball made remarks.

Chair Ortega welcomed Mr. Kimball for joining the board and encouraged him to comment on matters important to the City of San Fernando.

Chair Ortega announced that he and Board Secretary Fong-Sakai celebrated the Lunar Year with the Metropolitan Asian Employees Association. Board Secretary Fong-Sakai made remarks.

**53509** Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, De Jesus (AB 2449), Dennstedt, Dick, Douglas, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Goldberg, Gualtieri, Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kassakhian, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location available for the public), Luna, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Petersen, Peterson, Phan (teleconference posted location available for the public), Pressman, Seckel, Smith, and Sutley.

Director De Jesus announced during the roll that no one was in the room with him 18 years of age or older.

Those not responding were: Director Cordero, Erdman, Faessel, Gray, McMillan, Quinn, Ramos.

Directors entered the meeting after the roll call: Director McCoy

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Chair Ortega announced on social media that Metropolitan will celebrate Black History Month with the Black Employees Association with employees sharing their perspective on leadership honoring the heritage and contributions of the black community. The celebration of the Lunar New Year with the Asian American Employees Organization. Lastly, in honor of Engineers Week Metropolitan will host several events including hosting the American Society of Civil Engineers Girl Day on February 22, 2024.

**53510** 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.	Wigs Mendoza	Metropolitan Employee and Indigenous Advocate	Black History Month
2.	Olivia Sanchez	Association of Confidential Employees	Item 8-2
3.	Linda Krupa	Council Member, City of Hemet	Item 7-2
4.	Andrea Morris	Riverside County Third District Supervisor Chuck Washington Office	Item 7-2

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

**53511** Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of January, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

**53512** Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions regarding his report. None were made.

**53513** General Manager Hagekhalil referred to the General Manager's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, General Manager Hagekhalil provided remarks on Black History Month and Lunar New Year. In addition, he reported on: the improvements to the General Manager's Report, which includes and integrates the dashboard graphics and the link to the Smart Tracker spreadsheet indicating the status of the business plan; an update on the trip to Washington, DC focused on advocacy work and an update on the meeting with the Secretary of Natural Resources, Wade Crowfoot. Lastly, he provided an update on the Colorado River Negotiations and a thank you to the staff that worked to keep the infrastructure working during the recent storms.

**53514** General Counsel Scully provided an update on the proposed Du Point and 3M settlements and thanked staff that worked on the cases.

Director Phan left the meeting.

**53515** General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to the written report.

**53516** Ethics Officer Salinas stated he had nothing to add to the written report.

**53517** Chair Ortega announced the induction of new Director Michael Gualtieri of Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agenda Item 5F).

- (a) Received credentials
- (b) Reported on credentials by General Counsel
- (c) Filed credentials
- (d) Administered Oath of Office
- (e) Filed Oath

General Counsel Scully reported that the credentials were received and are in order.

Director Garza introduced new Director Gualtieri. Director Gualtieri made brief remarks.

**53518** Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any comments or discussions on the Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting for January 9, 2024. (Copies have been submitted to each Director any additions, corrections, or omissions) (Agenda Item 6A). No amendments were made.

The following Director(s) asked questions or made comments:

Director(s)

1. Peterson

**53519** Approve Commendatory Resolutions for Arturo Chacon representing Central Basin Municipal Water District (Agenda Item 6B).

**53520** Approval of Committee Assignments (Agenda Item 6C).

Appointment of Director Pressman as Chair of the Ethics Organization and Personnel Committee. Director Ramos will remain a member of the Committee.

Appointment of Director Gualtieri as a Member of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee and the Finance, Audit, Insurance, and Real Property Committee.

Committee Chair Smith appointed Director Gualtieri as a Member of the Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling.

Committee Chair Camacho appointed Director Gualtieri as a Member of the Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance.

Chair Ortega announced that the Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and Communications Committee Item 7-14 is requesting Board approval in lieu of the Committee to approve Metropolitan's annual membership in Center for Energy Advancement through Technology Innovation and Annual Dues payment of \$27,300 for the transmission planning and operations interest group.

Director McCoy left the meeting.

Chair Ortega called on Directors who are requesting any items to be pulled from the Consent Calendar Action Items.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1 through 7-7 and 7-10 through 7-14 (**M.I. No. 53518 through 53532**). (Items 7-1 through 7-7 and 7-10 through 7-14 as discussed at Committee as shown below).

**53521** Authorize an increase of \$4,340,000 to an existing agreement with Pure Technologies U.S. Inc. for a new amount not to exceed \$4,410,000 to furnish and monitor an AFO system for the Foothill Feeder, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

**53522** Award a \$7,842,856 construction contract to Power Engineering Construction Co. to install a new floating wave attenuator and to refurbish and move the existing attenuator to another location at the DVL East Marina, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

**53523** Authorize an agreement with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1 million for preliminary design to rehabilitate the sedimentation basins solids removal systems at the Joseph Jensen and Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plants, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

**53524** Award a procurement contract to Electric Machinery Company – A WEG Group in an amount not to exceed \$544,501 to furnish a brushless motor exciter system for Gene Pumping Plant Unit No. 1, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

**53525** Award a \$2,375,700 contract to J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for construction of a hazardous waste handling and storage facility at the La Verne site, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

**53526** Authorize amendments to the Power System Operation Services Agreement and Scheduling and Trading Services Agreement, both with the Arizona Electric Power Cooperative, related to the termination and credit services provisions of those agreements, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

**53527** Approve an adjustment to Metropolitan's Member Agency Administered Program to allow member agencies to use up to 50 percent of their allocated funds under the flexible, non-documented water savings category; agencies with allocations less than \$50,000 are able to use 100 percent of their Member Agency Administered Program allocation for flexible, non-documented water savings projects/programs, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-7 board letter.

**53528** Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to modify the structure and duties of various committees, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-10 board letter.

**53529** Approve: (1) changes to the Metropolitan Water District 457(b) and 401(k) deferred compensation plans to establish an investment committee and adopt investment committee bylaws; and (2) amendments necessary to conform the plans and the Metropolitan Administrative Code to the proposed changes, current law, practices, and regulations, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-11 board letter.

**53530** Review and consider the State of California, Department of Transportation's mitigated negative declaration and authorize the General Manager to grant a permanent easement to the State of California, Department of Transportation for water pipeline purposes on Metropolitan fee-owned property in the County of Riverside, and identified as Assessor Parcel Numbers 713-021-024 and 713-021-02, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-12 board letter.

**53531** Set a public hearing on March 12, 2024, regarding the proposed water rates and charges for calendar years 2025 and 2026 necessary to meet the revenue requirements for fiscal years 2024/25 and 2025/26, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-13 board letter.

**53532** Approve Metropolitan's annual membership in Center for Energy Advancement through Technology Innovation and Annual Dues payment of \$27,300 for the transmission planning and operations interest group, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-14 board letter.

Director Peterson moved, seconded by Director Morris that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1 through 7-7 and 7-10 through 7-14 as follows:

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s): 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1 through 7-7 and 7-10 through 7-14									
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6038	Faessel							
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman	x	x	4493				
Burbank	3175	Ramos							
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Gualtieri	x					x	9662
		Subtotal:			9662				9662
Compton	641	McCoy							
Eastern Municipal Water District	12060	Armstrong	x	x	12060				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung	x	x	2561				
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian	x	x	3985				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Peterson	x	x	3090				
Long Beach	6558	Cordero							
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley	x	x	20043				
		Petersen	x	x	20043				
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	20043				
		Douglas	x	x	20043				
		Subtotal:			80172				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman	x	x	21545				
		Seckel	x	x	21545				
		Dick	x	x	21545				
		Erdman							
		Subtotal:			64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67201	Fong-Sakai	x	x	16800				
		Goldberg	x	x	16800				
		Miller	x	x	16800				
		Smith	x	x	16800				
		Subtotal:			67201				
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris	x	x	800				
Santa Ana	3431	Phan							
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre	x	x	3590				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x	x	27064				
		Gray							
		Subtotal:			27064				
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
<b>Total</b>	<b>386141</b>				<b>343563</b>				<b>9662</b>
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>32916</b>								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1 through 7-7 and 7-10 through 7-14 (**M.I. No. 53518 through 53532**) passed by a vote of 343,563 ayes; 0 noes; 9,662 abstain; 0 not voting; and 32,916 absent.

Director De Jesus, using AB 2449 just cause, appeared on video and did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

Directors Armstrong, Lefevre, and Luna left the meeting.

**53533** Authorize increase in change order authority for three contracts to conduct urgent rehabilitation of prestressed concrete cylinder pipe on the Allen-McColloch Pipeline, as follows: (a.) Authorize an increase in change order authority of \$12 million to Contract 2002 with Northwest Pipe Company; (b.) Authorize an increase in change order authority of \$10.5 million to Contract 2026 with J.F. Shea Construction Inc.; (c.) Authorize an increase in change order authority of \$2 million to Contract 2088 with Structural Preservation Systems, as set forth in Agenda Item 8-1 board letter.

Director Camacho moved, seconded by Director Morris that the Board approve the Board Item 8-1 as follows:

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	6038	Faessel							
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman	x	x	4493				
Burbank	3175	Ramos							
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Gualtieri	x	x	9662				
		Subtotal:			19324				
Compton	641	McCoy							
Eastern Municipal Water District	12060	Armstrong							
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung	x	x	2561				
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian	x	x	3985				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Peterson	x	x	3090				
Long Beach	6558	Cordero							
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley	x	x	26724				
		Petersen	x	x	26724				
		Quinn							
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	26724				
		Subtotal:			80172				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman	x	x	21545				
		Seckel	x	x	21545				
		Dick	x	x	21545				
		Erdman							
		Subtotal:			64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67201	Fong-Sakai	x	x	16800				
		Goldberg	x	x	16800				
		Miller	x	x	16800				
		Smith	x	x	16800				
		Subtotal:			67201				
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris	x	x	800				
Santa Ana	3431	Phan							
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre							
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x	x	27064				
		Gray							
		Subtotal:			27064				
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
<b>Total</b>	<b>386141</b>				<b>337575</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>48566</b>								

The motion to approve the Board Items 8-1 (**M.I. No. 53533**) passed by a vote of 337,575 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 48,566 absent.

Director De Jesus, using AB 2449 just cause, appeared on video and did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.



**53534** Authorize the General Manager to secure one-year water transfers and water exchanges with various water districts for up to \$50 million from Water Supply Program and State Water Project budgets for such supplies and to secure storage and conveyance agreements with the Department of Water Resources and various water districts to facilitate these transfers and exchanges; and grant final decision-making authority to the General Manager subject to the terms set forth in the letter, as set forth in Agenda Item 8-3 board letter.

Director Sutley moved, seconded by Director Pressman that the Board approve the Board Item 8-3 as follows:

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	8-3								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6038	Faessel							
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman	x	x	4493				
Burbank	3175	Ramos							
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Gualtieri	x	x	9662				
			Subtotal:		19324				
Compton	641	McCoy							
Eastern Municipal Water District	12060	Armstrong							
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung	x	x	2561				
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian	x	x	3985				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Peterson	x	x	3090				
Long Beach	6558	Cordero							
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley	x	x	26724				
		Petersen	x	x	26724				
		Quinn							
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	26724				
			Subtotal:		80172				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman	x	x	21545				
		Seckel	x	x	21545				
		Dick	x	x	21545				
		Erdman							
			Subtotal:		64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67201	Fong-Sakai	x	x	16800				
		Goldberg	x	x	16800				
		Miller	x	x	16800				
		Smith	x	x	16800				
			Subtotal:		67201				
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris	x	x	800				
Santa Ana	3431	Phan							
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre							
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x	x	27064				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		27064				
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
<b>Total</b>	<b>386141</b>				<b>337575</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>48566</b>								

The motion to approve the Board Items 8-3 (**M.I. No. 53534**) passed by a vote of 337,575 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 48,566 absent.

Director De Jesus, using AB 2449 just cause, appeared on video and did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

**53535** Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or need for discussion for Board Information Item 9-1, 9-2, 9-3, 9-4, 9-5, and 9-6. No requests were made.

**53536** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Other Matters Items. There were none.

**53537** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. There were none.

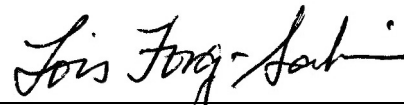
**53538** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. Director Douglas requested a closed session item on the performance of the General Manager.

**53539** There being no objection, at 4:07 p.m., Chair Ortega adjourned the meeting.



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**ADÁN ORTEGA**  
**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**



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**LOIS FONG-SAKAI**  
**SECRETARY OF THE BOARD**