

# The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

# Agenda

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

## ATP Committee

C. Kurtz, Chair  
G. Cordero, Vice Chair  
D. De Jesus  
D. Erdman  
A. Fellow  
J. Garza  
J. McMillan  
M. Miller  
P. Paule  
M. Ramos  
G. Shepherd Romey

## **Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships**

Meeting with Board of Directors \*

**April 28, 2026**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Written public comments received by 3:00 p.m. the business day before the meeting is scheduled will be posted under the Submitted Items and Responses tab available here: <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Legislation.aspx>.**

**The listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 873 4767 0235.**

**Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda teleconference and in-person. To provide public comment by teleconference dial 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 876 9484 9772 or to join by computer [click here](#).**

**Disclaimer: Written and oral public comments are received in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. Please note that Metropolitan does not endorse or ensure the accuracy or reliability of the information provided as public comment or by third parties.**

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MWD Headquarters Building • 700 N. Alameda Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

Teleconference Locations:

3008 W. 82nd Place • Inglewood, CA 90305

1005 South Cardiff Street • Anaheim, CA 92806

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\* The Metropolitan Water District's meeting of this Committee is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee may participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee will not vote on matters before this Committee.

**1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))**

**\*\* CONSENT CALENDAR \*\***

**2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships of January 27, 2026 [21-5689](#)

**Attachments:** [04282026 ATP 2A \(01272026\) Minutes](#)

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

**3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)**

- a. Central Valley Agriculture Perspective: Cannon Michael, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bowles Farming Company [21-5512](#)
- b. Discuss revised purpose statement of the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships [21-5494](#)
- c. Report on the Palo Verde Valley Property Utilization Committee [21-5764](#)
- d. Report on the Palo Verde Valley Community Enhancement Collaborative [21-5496](#)

**4. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

NONE

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**NOTE:** This committee reviews items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors. Final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Committee agendas may be obtained on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. This committee will not take any final action that is binding on the Board, even when a quorum of the Board is present.

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Requests for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AG AND TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS**

**January 27, 2026**

Chair Kurtz called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Members present: Directors Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Fellow, Garza, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, Ramos, and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: None

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Crane, Denham, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Jay, McCoy, Lewitt, McCoy, Ortega, Paule, and Pressman.

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

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

1. Wigs Mendoza – Volunteer advocate of indigenous people
2. Darcy Burke – Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

**2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)**

None

**3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

None

**4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

None

**5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

None

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)**

- a. Subject: Discuss the purpose of the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships

Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer, Group Manager, External Affairs

Ms. Schaffer presented a draft purpose statement for discussion to help guide committee direction and future agenda items.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Ortega
- 2) Garza
- 3) Kurtz
- 4) Fellow
- 5) Cordero
- 6) Shepherd Romey
- 7) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- b. Subject: The 21st Century (Agricultural) Renaissance

Presented by: AG Kawamura, Solutions from the Land

Mr. Kawamura, founding co-chair of Solutions from the Land and former Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, provided an overview of the issues, challenges and opportunities facing agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) De Jesus

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

- c. Subject: Report on the Palo Verde Valley Property Utilization  
Committee

This item was deferred.

- d. Subject: Report on the Palo Verde Valley Community Enhancement  
Collaborative

This item was deferred.

**7. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Cynthia Kurtz  
Chair