

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL JOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND
WORKSHOP ON ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS, AND TECHNOLOGY
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

June 24, 2025

54101 The Special Joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Tuesday, June 24, 2025.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

Director Camacho stated that he is using AB2449 just cause due to a contagious illness.

54102 The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Nancy Sutley, City of Los Angeles.

54103 The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Gretchen Shepherd Romey, City of San Marino.

54104 Board Executive Secretary Hudson administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho (AB2449-Just Cause), Crawford, De Jesus (teleconference posted location available for the public), Dennstedt (teleconference posted location available for the public), Dick, Erdman (teleconference posted location available for the public), Faessel, Fong-Sakai (teleconference posted location available for the public), Garza, Gold, Jay, Kassakhian, Lewitt, Luna, McCoy, McMillan, Miller (teleconference posted location available for the public), Ortega, Phan (teleconference posted location available for the public), Pressman, Ramos (teleconference posted location available for the public), Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Ackerman, Cordero, Douglas, Goldberg, Gray, Jung, Katz, Kurtz, Petersen, and Quinn.

Board Executive Secretary Hudson declared a quorum present.

Director(s) entered after roll call: Fellow (teleconference posted location available for the public), Katz (teleconference posted location available for the public), and Petersen.

54105 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. Alan Shanahan	President, AFCSME Local 1902	Item 10--1

Directors Fellow and Katz entered the meeting.

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

54106 Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of March, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

54107 Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, he announced June brings several meaningful opportunities on social media to recognize and celebrate Metropolitan employees who help shape the company. In partnership with employee resource group PRIDE at Metropolitan we will be sharing photos on social media that showcase the group's evolution and the strong sense of community it fosters, from its early days to today. Finally, this month we celebrate fathers at Metropolitan and reflect on the significance of Juneteenth as we honor our shared history and progress.

54108 General Manager Upadhyay, in addition to his written report, on the following items: acknowledging the hard work of staff to ensure Metropolitan work continued in the disruptions in the area and Heather Collins President position at AWWA. Celebratory thoughts to the City of Long Beach for receiving partnership award for recognition and operation of their distribution system. June is also safety month, and Metropolitan is highlighting its commitment to safety. Lastly, a highlight of the trailer bills and an audit on the Delta Conveyance program.

Assistant General Manager Zinke announced Carolyn Schaffer is now a group manager in the External Affairs group.

Chair Ortega announced Wigs Mendoza retirement after 30 years of service. Mr. Mendoza gave a statement to the board.

54109 General Counsel Scully, in addition to her written report, she announced and thanked all the people involved in the settlement of the San Diego litigation case.

54110 General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to his written report.

54111 Ethics Officer Salinas stated he had nothing to add to his written report.

54112 Presentation of the five-year service pin to Director Ardy Kassakhian, representing the City of Glendale.

54113 Presentation of the ten-year service pin to Director Stephen Faessel, representing the City of Anaheim. Director Faessel made remarks.

54114 Induction of new Director Raymond Jay, from the City of Torrance. General Counsel confirmed the credentials are in order. Matthew Knapp, Deputy Public Works for the City of Torrance, Former Metropolitan Director Russel Lefevre, Director Jay made remarks.

Chair Ortega announced we would be hearing the items on the Special Joint Executive Committee and Board Items.

54115 Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any comments or discussions on the Approval of the revised minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting for March 11, 2025 and April 8, 2025; and minutes of the Board of Directors meeting for May 13, 2025; and minutes of the Special Joint meeting of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for May 27, 2025. (Agenda Item 6A). None were made.

54116 Approve commendatory resolution for Director Russell Lefevre representing the City of Torrance. (Agenda Item 6B)

54117 Approve the draft schedule, committee and board meeting agendas for July 2025 (Agenda Item 6C).

54118 Committee Assignments. Appoint of Director Jay to the Legislation and Communications Committee and the Engineering and Operations Committee (Agenda Item 6D)

Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions on the committee appointments. No comments were made.

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 Alvarez reported that at the July 8, 2025, Finance, Affordability, Asset Management, and Efficiency Committee in addition to the items on the draft agenda the placeholder budget assumptions would be removed.

54119 Approve General Auditor's Internal Audit Plan for fiscal year 2025/26, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

54120 Authorize \$1,500,000 increases to existing oncall agreements with Mangan Inc., and Burns & McDonnell Western Enterprises Inc., for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$3,750,000 to provide technical services to complete arc flash risk assessment and mitigation at Metropolitan's facilities, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

54121 Award an \$807,004 procurement contract to B&K Valves and Equipment Inc. for globe valves to be installed at the Rio Hondo Pressure Control Structure, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

54122 Adopt a resolution declaring three parcels of real property located in the County of Riverside as exempt surplus land under the Surplus Land Act and authorized their disposal under Metropolitan's surplus land disposal policies and procedures, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

54123 Authorize the amendment of an existing license agreement with Duke Realty Corporation to adjust the license fee and extend the term for up to twenty additional years, thereby allowing continued ingress and egress rights across Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct right of way in Perris, California, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-8 board letter.

54124 Approve the agenda Item 7-10 will be deferred as recommended by the Committee to August 2025 or earlier if possible.

Director Pressman moved, seconded by Director McCoy, that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A through 6D, 7-1 through 7-3, and 7-5, 7-8 and 7-10.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A through 6D, 7-1 through 7-3, and 7-5, 7-8 and 7-10.

Board Executive Secretary Hudson announced as this is a joint meeting two votes will be displayed, a vote for Executive Committee items and the Board items.

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Item 6C (**M.I. 54117**).

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Jung, Katz (Quinn), Kurtz, Lewitt, Luna, McCoy, Miller, Ortega, Pressman, Seckel, and Sutley

Abstention: None

Recusal: None

Absent: Directors Douglas, Goldberg, Gray, Quinn

The motion for Item 6C passed by a vote of 16 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstentions; and 4 absent.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):		6A, 6B, 6D and 7-1 to 7-3, 7-5, 7-8, and 7-10							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung							
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero							
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	41918				
		Petersen							
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	41918				
		Douglas							
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	22701				
		Dick	x	x	22701				
		Erdman	x	x	22701				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz							
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	23386				
		Goldberg							
		Miller	x	x	23386				
		Katz	x	x	23386				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Shepherd Romey	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan	x	x	3569				
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Jay	x					x	3781
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				388921				3781
Present and not voting									
Absent	13613								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A through 6D, 7-1 through 7-3, and 7-5, 7-8 and 7-10 (**M.I. No. 54115 through 54116, 54118 through 54124***) passed by a vote of 388,921 ayes; 0 noes; 3,781 abstain; 0 not voting; and 13,613 absent.

Director Camacho stated during the vote that he was alone.

*Director Fong-Sakai abstained on the minutes. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 6A passed by a vote of 365,535 ayes; 0 noes; 23,386 abstain; 3,781 not voting; and 13,613 absent.

54125 Approve the board Item 8-1 will be deferred as recommended by the Committee to August 2025 or earlier if possible.

54126 Authorized increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP in Alicia Lorentzen v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in the amount of \$175,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$600,000; authorized increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in Dane Crawford v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in the amount of \$375,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$900,000; and authorized increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP relating to a legal claim alleging equal employment opportunity violations in the amount of \$200,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$550,000 (Board Item 8-2).

Director Alvarez moved, seconded by Director Bryant, that the Board approve Board Items 8-1 and 8-2.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Items 8-1 and 8-2.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	8-1 & 8-2								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung							
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero							
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	41918				
		Petersen							
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	41918				
		Douglas							
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	34051				
		Dick	x	x	34051				
		Erdman							
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz							
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	23386				
		Goldberg							
		Miller	x	x	23386				
		Katz	x	x	23386				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Shepherd Ror	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan	x	x	3569				
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Jay	x					x	3781
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				375294				3781
Present and not voting									
Absent	27240								

The motion to approve the Board Items 8-1 and 8-2 (**M.I. No. 54125 and 54126**) passed by a vote of 375,294 ayes; 0 noes; 3,781 abstain; 0 not voting; and 27,240 absent.

Director Camacho stated during the vote that he was alone.

54127 Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or a need for discussion on Board Information Items 9-1, 9-2, 9-3, 9-4, 9-5, and 9-6. No requests were made.

54128 Approved General Manager job description, General Manager priorities, General Manager qualities (Board Agenda Item 10-1).

54129 Discussion of key selection criteria the recruiter will use to assess General Manager candidates (Board Agenda Item 10-2).

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

1. Ortega
2. Bryant
3. Dennstedt
4. Seckel
5. Gold
6. Sutley
7. Erdman
8. Faessel
9. Camacho
10. Pressman
11. Lewitt
12. Armstrong
13. Fellow
14. Fong-Sakai
15. Garza
16. Jay
17. Luna
18. Dick

The Recruiter and Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

Director Garza moved, seconded by Director Bryant, to approve that human resources develop a General Manager job description based on the factors that the Board has expressed consensus in .

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Item 10-1.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	10-1								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
		Subtotal:			20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung							
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero							
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	41918				
		Petersen							
		Quinn							
		Luna	x	x	41918				
		Douglas							
		Subtotal:			83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman							
		Seckel	x	x	22701				
		Dick	x	x	22701				
		Erdman	x	x	22701				
		Subtotal:			68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz							
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	23386				
		Goldberg							
		Miller	x	x	23386				
		Katz	x	x	23386				
		Subtotal:			70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Shepherd Romey	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan	x	x	3569				
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Jay	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
		Subtotal:			28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				392702				
Present and not voting									
Absent	13613								

The motion to approve the Board Item 10-1 (**M.I. No. 54128**) passed by a vote of 392,702 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 13,613 absent.

Director Camacho stated during the vote that he was alone.

Director Petersen entered the meeting.

Chair Ortega called the meeting into closed session to discuss the Board Agenda Item 10-3, 10-4, and 10-5.

54130 Update on labor negotiations. [Conference with Labor Negotiator to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code 54957.6. Metropolitan representatives: Katano Kasaine, Assistant General Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Adam Benson, Finance Group Manager, Gifty J. Beets, Human Resources Section Manager and Mark Brower, Human Resources Group manager. Employee Organization(s): The Employees Association of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California/AFSCME Local 1902; the Management and Professional Employees Associations MAPA/AFSCME Chapter 1001; the Supervisors Association; and the Association of Confidential Employees.] (Board Agenda Item 10-3).

Copy of the non-interest disclosure notice was posted to the website and will be attached to the minutes.

54131 Discussion of Department Head Performance and Goal Setting [Public employee performance evaluation – General Manager; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957] (Board Agenda Item 10-4).

54132 Public Employment - General Manager [To be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957] (Board Agenda Item 10-5).

The Board returned to open session. Chair Ortega reported that the Board discussed items 10-3, 10-4, and 10-5; no action was taken in closed session.

Chair Ortega turned the meeting over to Committee Vice Chair Faessel to chair the remainder of the meeting for the Special Board Workshop on Engineering, Operations, and Technology.

Directors Armstrong, Gold, Kassakhian, Pressman, and Sutley left the meeting.

54133 Discuss the Capital Investment Plan Process.

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

1. Erdman
2. Seckel
3. Lewitt
4. Ortega
5. Fong-Sakai
6. Luna
7. Crawford
8. Garza
9. McMillan

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

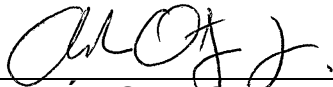
54134 Vice Chair Faessel asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. Chair Ortega asked that the meeting be adjourned in honor of film producer Mark Erickson. Director Seckel requested information on the fluoridation regulatory issues before the July Engineering, Operations, and Technology panel item.

54135 Vice Chair Faessel asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. No requests were made.

54136 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned in honor of Mark Erickson at 3:20 p.m.



RICKITA HUDSON
BOARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



ADÁN ORTEGA, JR.
CHAIR OF THE BOARD