

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE

February 12, 2024

Chair McCoy called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

Members present: Directors Cordero (entered after rollcall), De Jesus (AB 2449 Just Cause), Dennstedt, Dick, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza (entered after rollcall), Luna (entered after rollcall), and McCoy.

Members absent: Directors Gray and Sutley.

Other Members present: Abdo, Ackerman, Bryant, Erdman, Faessel, Goldberg, Kurtz, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson, Pressman (teleconference location posted), Seckel, and Smith.

Director De Jesus indicated he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” for an illness that prevents him from attending in person. Director De Jesus appeared by audio and on camera.

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

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Kasaine, Redin, Ros, and Thomas.

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

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS — ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- a. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee for January 8, 2024 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, Any additions, corrections, or omissions)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Fong-Sakai, to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2a.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, and McCoy.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Cordero, Garza, Gray, Luna, and Sutley.

The motion for item 2a passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 5 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

Director Cordero entered the meeting.

Director Garza entered the meeting.

Director Luna entered the meeting.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

Chair McCoy announced that item 6a, 6b, and 6c would be presented together.

a. Subject: Update on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic plan

b. Subject: Workforce Development Update

c. Subject: Equity In Infrastructure Pledge Update

Presented by: Liji Thomas, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office

Ms. Kasaine introduced the items and Ms. Thomas provided the committee with an update on the DEI Strategic Plan, workforce development, and an EIP update. Her presentation included the

progress made on DEI commitments, updates on workforce development efforts, and advancing Metropolitan's Equity in Infrastructure Pledge. She also highlighted the Engineering Services Group recruitment video.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Dick
2. Fellow
3. Garza
4. Bryant
5. Ortega
6. Abdo
7. Armstrong
8. Cordero

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

Announcement was made that teleconference location Long Beach Water Department • 1800 E Wardlow Road • Long Beach, CA 90807 was not available as previously noted on agenda.

- e. Subject: Federal Low Income Household Water Assistance Program [Added 2/9/2024]
 Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager/Chief External Affairs Officer

Ms. Zinke introduced the item and provided an overview of Metropolitan's cost pressures and the importance of advocating for our most vulnerable communities.

She then introduced a video message from United States Senator, Alex Padilla who is introducing legislation to create a permanent federal Low Income Household Water Assistance Program to help families in need to afford their water bills.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega
2. McCoy

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities

Ms. Thomas announced the upcoming MetWorks event in Carson on March 7, 2024.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Tana McCoy
Chair