



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## Committee Item INFORMATION

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

1/27/2026 Special Committee Meeting

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#### **Subject**

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The 21st Century (Agricultural) Renaissance Presented By: AG Kawamura, Solutions from the Land

#### **Executive Summary**

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AG Kawamura, founding co-chair of Solutions from the Land and former Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, will provide an overview of a global invasive species initiative and how it affects water, food and life systems.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

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None

#### **Applicable Policy**

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None

#### **Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)**

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None

#### **Details and Background**

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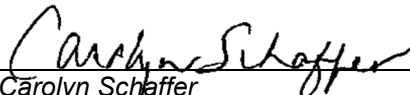
Metropolitan has interests in invasive species management and prevention due to the impacts to water supply, protected species and habitat, as well as through its role as a landowner, responsibilities for reserve management, and participation in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program.

AG Kawamura, founding co-chair of Solutions from the Land (SfL) and former Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, will provide an overview of a global invasive species initiative and how it affects water, food and life systems.

SfL is a farmer- and scientist-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit advancing land-based solutions to global challenges. Through state, national, and global initiatives, SfL brings together farmers, ranchers, foresters, and partners to showcase innovation and champion the policies, investments, and research needed for agricultural landscapes to deliver cost-effective, integrated solutions for food and energy security, sustainable economic growth, and environmental health.

The United Nations Environment Programme Farmers Major Group, with co-organizers Solutions from the Land, the University of Florida Invasion Science Institute, the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), and the Global Farmer Network, are working to elevate invasive species as a priority issue across UN environmental and food security platforms. Invasive species are increasingly damaging

marine, terrestrial, and freshwater ecosystems, which is driving biodiversity loss, harming crops and livestock, and elevating risks to food production and public health. Climate change is accelerating these impacts, underscoring the urgent need for global coordination and effective biosecurity systems.

  
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Carolyn Schaffer  
External Affairs Group Manager

1/22/2026

Date

  
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Shivaji Deshmukh  
General Manager

1/22/2026

Date

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