

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

February 10, 2025

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Members present: Directors Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray (teleconference posted location), Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian (entered after roll call), Lewitt, McMillan, Morris, Phan (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), and Pressman (teleconference posted location).

Members absent: Directors Ackerman, Garza, Luna, and Ramos.

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Cordero, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Dick, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McCoy, Miller, and Ortega.

Committee Staff present: Novoa, Rubin, Sims, Stites, Upadhyay, and Zinke

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

1.) Jason Maruca – Burbank Water and Power (Item 6b)

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee held January 14, 2025.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Fellow to approve item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Dennstedt, Fellow, Jung, Lewitt, McMillan, Morris, and Pressman

Noes: None

Abstentions: Director Gray

Absent: Directors Ackerman, Garza, Kassakhian, Luna, Phan, and Ramos

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 7 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstain, and 6 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

Director Kassakhian and Phan entered the meeting.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on proposal to increase local agency dollar threshold for public works construction contracts

Presented by: Jay L. Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided a report to educate the Board on an alternative to pursuing legislation following the Board's request to pursue legislation to increase Metropolitan's threshold for public bidding on construction contracts.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Morris

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- b. Subject: Update on Eastern Municipal Water District's proposed amendment to the MWD Act to allow alternate board members

Presented by: Jay L. Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided a report on Eastern Municipal Water District's proposed legislation that would amend the Metropolitan Water District Act to allow for the appointment of alternate board members to the Metropolitan Board of Directors. Five-year sunset which would expire January 1, 2031.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Armstrong
- 2.) Camacho
- 3.) De Jesus
- 4.) Alvarez
- 5.) Fellow
- 6.) Garza
- 7.) Lewitt
- 8.) Ortega
- 9.) Cordero

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- c. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby R. Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on new Trump Administration appointees, executive orders issued, federal funding for programs, President Trump's action on the Bay-Delta, and new Congressional delegation members.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

d. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay L. Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the legislative calendar, the Special session of the Legislature, wildfire response, Metropolitan's sponsored bills: Surface Mining and Reclamation Act Extension, and Metropolitan bills of interest: AB 263 (Rogers): Scott River: Shasta River: watersheds, AB 362 (Ramos): Water policy: California tribal communities, and SB 72 (Caballero): The California Water Plan: long term supply target.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: External Affairs activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on Member Agency PIO meeting which featured a panel of representatives from LADWP, Foothill, Pasadena, and Las Virgenes staff discussing communications best practices and lessons learned from the recent wildfires, education and careers programs, planned outreach to district offices of state legislative and congressional delegations on Metropolitan priorities and programs, and the restart of inspection trips for Metropolitan employees.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION (CONTINUED)

2. Joe Mouawad – Eastern Municipal Water District (Item 6b)

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Chair Jung