

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE

October 24, 2023

Chair McCoy called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Members present: Directors Cordero, De Jesus (teleconference location posted), Dennstedt (entered after roll), Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza (entered after roll), Gray (teleconference location posted), McCoy, and Sutley.

Members absent: Directors Dick and Luna.

Other Members present: Ackerman, Armstrong, Camacho, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference location posted), McMillan, Miller (teleconference location posted), Morris, Ortega, Peterson, Quinn, Seckel, and Smith.

Committee Staff present: Crosson, Elias, Hagekhalil, Kasaine, Upadhyay, and Redin.

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 August 14, 2023 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, Any additions, corrections, or omissions)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

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

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Cordero, De Jesus, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Gray, McCoy, and Sutley.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Dennstedt, Dick, Garza, and Luna

The motion for items 2a passed by a vote of 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 4 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Panel on Affordability

Panelist:

Joe Mouawad, General Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District
Jennifer Capitolo, Executive Director, California Water Association
Jennifer Clary, California Director, Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund
George Rofail, Chief Customer Officer, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Presented by: Liz Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Officer
Shradha Upadhayay, Senior Environmental Specialist
Adrian Hightower, Special Projects Manager

Ms. Crosson introduced the item and introduced Ms. Upadhayay who presented the committee with an overview of current policies and water affordability programs. Next, Mr. Hightower introduced the panelists: Joe Mouawad, General Manager, Eastern Municipal Water District; Jennifer Capitolo, Executive Director, California Water Association; Jennifer Clary, California Director, Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund; and George Rofail, Chief Customer Officer, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Mr. Hightower asked the panel the following questions: 1. What factors or policies would you change to meaningfully improve household water affordability? 2. What should Metropolitan's role be in advancing household water affordability in our service area? How could household water affordability programs address California's Human Right to Water policy and promote environmental justice?

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Sutley
2. Fellow
3. Smith
4. Fong-Sakai
5. Ortega
6. Quinn
7. Armstrong
8. Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

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

No report was given.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Tana McCoy
Chair