

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**LEGISLATION, REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**March 13, 2023**

Chair Jung called the hybrid teleconference meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo (entered after roll call), Dennstedt, Fellow (entered after roll call), Garza, Gray (entered after roll call), Jung, McMillan, Ramos and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Ackerman, Kassakhian, Luna, Phan and Pressman.

Other Board Members present: Chair Ortega, Directors Camacho, Goldberg, McCoy and Quinn.

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Zinke, Horton, Sims, and Novoa.

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

None

**2. OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECTORS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communications and Legislation Committee held January 24, 2023.

Director Dennstedt made a motion, seconded by Director McMillan to approve item 3A.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jung, McMillan, Ramos, and Smith.  
Noes: None  
Abstentions: Garza  
Absent: Directors Ackerman, Gray, Kassakhian, Luna, Phan and Pressman

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

#### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

#### **5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

#### **6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

#### **7. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

a. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an oral report on activities from Washington, D.C., including an update on the FY 2022/2023 federal budget negotiations and appropriations, permitting reform legislation, Environmental Protection Agency proposed drinking water standard, Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan, and Metropolitan Board of Directors meetings with Washington, D.C lawmakers and officials.

b. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Rosie Thompson, Principal Legislative Representative

Ms. Thompson provided an update of the FY 2023/24 legislative session and the proposed FY 2023/24 state budget, legislative issues, and the Metropolitan Board of Directors trip to Sacramento to meet with legislators and discuss priorities on matters related to water supply, water quality and investments.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

1. Chair Ortega
2. Smith
3. Fellow
4. Dennstedt
5. McMillan

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

## 8. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs Management Report

Presented by: Sue Sims, External Affairs Group Manager

Ms. Sims provided an update on our current messaging strategies regarding the drought issues, upcoming media events and generating positive visibility for MWD and member agencies, our topline messaging to promote water efficiency and conservation, water saving tips and rebates. Earned media stories about landscape transformation and conservation and the over 200 news stories about Metropolitan that have appeared on radio, online digital and television since the start of the calendar year.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

1. McMillan
2. Fellow
3. Ramos

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

Chair Jung called on Director Pressman as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Public Affairs Engagement to set up the first subcommittee meeting as soon as practicable. **(added)**

## 9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Fred Jung  
Chair