

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION, REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

June 12, 2023

Vice Chair of the Board Camacho called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Gray (teleconference posted location), Luna, McMillan, Phan (teleconference posted location), Pressman (teleconference posted location), Ramos (entered after roll call), and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Jung and Kassakhian.

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Dick, Erdman, Faessel, Kurtz, Lefevre, McCoy, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Peterson and Seckel.

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

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

None

2. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

- a. Report from Subcommittee on Public Affairs Engagement

Director Pressman provided an overview of upcoming Public Affairs Engagement Subcommittee topics of interest.

Director Ramos entered the meeting.

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 May 8, 2023.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

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

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Fellow, Garza, Luna, McMillan, Phan, Pressman, Ramos, and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: Directors Dennstedt and Gray

Absent: Directors Jung and Kassakhian

The motion passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 2 abstain, and 2 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

8-3 Subject: Express support, if amended, on two legislative bond proposals, 21-2292 Assembly Bill 1567 (Garcia) and Senate Bill 867 (Allen), to provide funding for water projects to address climate change impacts; the General Manager has determined that the action is exempt. [REVISED LETTER 6/6/2023]

Presented by: Rosie Thompson, Principal Legislative Representative

Motion: Express support, if amended, on two legislative bond proposals, Assembly Bill 1567 (Garcia) and Senate Bill 867 (Allen), to provide funding for water projects to address climate change impacts.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Luna
- 2.) Garza
- 3.) Peterson

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

After completion of the presentation, Director Luna made a motion, seconded by Director Fellow to approve item 8-3.

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Gray, Luna, McMillan, Phan, Pressman, Ramos, and Smith.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Jung and Kassakhian

The motion passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 2 absent.

6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Presentation on Regional Survey of Public Attitudes on Water Issues

Presented by: President and CEO of EMC Research, Ruth Bernstein

Ms. Bernstein presented a regional survey of public attitudes on water issues.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Fellow
- 2.) Garza
- 3.) Peterson
- 4.) Kurtz
- 5.) Dennstedt
- 6.) Ortega
- 7.) Armstrong
- 8.) Fong-Sakai
- 9.) Fellow
- 10.) Erdman
- 11.) Pressman
- 12.) Ramos
- 13.) Abdo

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- b. Subject: Update on Inspection Trips

Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer, Section Manager-Member Services and Public Outreach

Not presented due to time constraints.

- c. Subject: Update on Community Partnering Program

Presented by: Joe Chavez, Senior Public Affairs Representative

Mr. Chavez provided an update on the Community Partnering Program and the programs that provide sponsorships to community based organizations. Provided an overview of the programs two decades and the programs objectives, which include community engagement and building long-term relationships and looking forward with new projects.

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

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the Fiscal Responsibility Act, FY2024 Appropriations, Permitting Reform, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee.

- e. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on Assembly Bills of Interest to Metropolitan, and Water Rights Bills.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Ackerman

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

8. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs Management Report

Presented by: Sue Sims, External Affairs Group Manager

Ms. Sims provided an update on partnerships with community based organizations around the Pure Water Project, earned media numbers, influencer campaign including Angel City soccer club starter and the in-house designers refresh of the signage of the Pure Water facility.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Vice Chair of the Board Camacho