

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

July 7, 2025

Vice Chair Faessel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Chair Erdman (teleconference posted location), Vice Chair Faessel, Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt (AB 2449 Just Cause), Jay, Lewitt, McMillan (teleconference posted location), Miller, Petersen (entered after roll call), and Seckel.

Members absent: Directors Crawford, Fong-Sakai, and Luna.

Other board members present: Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Camacho (AB 2449 just cause), Directors Ackerman (AB 2449 just cause), Armstrong, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Dick, Fellow, Gray (teleconference posted location), Katz, Kurtz, McCoy, and Shepherd Romey.

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Chaudhuri, Eckstrom, Hattar, Crawford, Parsons, Rubin, and Upadhyay.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))

Dr. Santos Cortez, Susan Fisher-Owens, and Maritza Cabezas all commented on item 6a.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for May 12, 2025.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- 7-2** Subject: Award a \$1,718,000 construction contract to Myers and Sons Construction, LLC to refurbish a washwater reclamation plant basin at the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion: Award a \$1,718,000 construction contract to Myers and Sons Construction, LLC to refurbish a washwater reclamation plant basin at the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant.

- 7-4** Subject: Authorize a new on-call five-year professional services agreement with ProcureAmerica, LLC, for a not-to-exceed total amount of \$1.25 million for retail electric utility rate analysis and reduction; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion: Authorize a new on-call five-year professional services agreement with ProcureAmerica, LLC, for a not-to-exceed total amount of \$1.25 million for retail electric utility rate analysis and reduction.

- 7-5** Subject: Authorize an increase of \$700,000 in change order authority to an existing contract with Power Engineering Construction Co. for urgent diving services at Lake Mathews; the General Manager has determined that the project is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: No presentation requested

Motion: Authorize an increase of \$700,000 in change order authority for a new maximum change order authority of \$1,092,143 to an existing contract with Power Engineering Construction Co. for specialized diving services at Lake Mathews Outlet Tower No. 1.

Director Seckel made a motion, seconded by Director Miller, to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A, 7-2, 7-4, and 7-5.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Jay, Lewitt, McMillan, Miller, Petersen, and Seckel.
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	Alvarez (Item 2A) and Jay (Item 2A)
Recusals	Erdman (Item 7-4)
Not voting:	None
Absent:	Director Crawford, Fong-Sakai, and Luna.

The motion for Items 2A, 7-2, and 7-5, passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 2 abstention, and 3 absent.

The motion for item 7-4 passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 1 recusal, and 3 absent.

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

8-2 Subject: Authorize (1) an amendment to an existing design-build agreement with J.F. Shea Construction Inc. to initiate Phase 2 of the Sepulveda Pump Stations project, including a \$52.96 million increase for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$103.36 million; (2) an increase of \$810,000 to an existing agreement with Carollo Engineers Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$3.3 million to serve as the owner’s advisor; and (3) an increase of \$296,000 to an existing agreement with Parametrix Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$545,000 for cost estimating and scheduling services; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is categorically exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA. [MOVED ITEM 7-3 FROM CONSENT TO ACTION on 6/25/2025]

Presented by: Howard Lum, Interim Assistant Group Manager, Engineering Services

- Motion:
- a. Authorize an amendment to an existing design-build agreement with J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for design-build services to initiate Phase 2 of the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations project, including an increase of \$52.96 million for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$103.36 million;
 - b. Authorize an increase of \$810,000 to an existing agreement with Carollo Engineers Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$3.3 million to serve as the owner's advisor through the Phase 2 design-build agreement; and
 - c. Authorize an increase of \$296,000 to an existing agreement with Parametrix Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$545,000 for cost estimating and scheduling services through Phase 2.

Director McMillan left the meeting.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Bryant
2. Seckel
3. Dick
4. Miller
5. Alvarez
6. Petersen
7. Ortega
8. Camacho
9. Shepherd Romey

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Director Seckel made a motion, seconded by Director Bryant, to approve item 8-2.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Jay, Lewitt, Miller, Petersen, and Seckel.
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Not voting:	None
Absent:	Director Crawford, Fong-Sakai, Luna, and McMillan.

Director Dennstedt stated she was alone in the room for the vote.

The motion for Item 8-2 passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 4 absent.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9-2** Subject: Desert Housing Updates Quarter 4 Fiscal Year 24/25
Presented by: Mickey Chaudhuri, Group Manager, Treatment & Water Quality
Mr. Chaudhuri reported on the following:
- Informational report – Quarterly Desert Housing Report Quarter 4 FY 24/25

There were no Director comments or questions.

Director McMillan returned to the meeting

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Update on Community Water Fluoridation
Presented by: Paul Rochelle, Section Manager, Water Quality

Dr. Rochelle reported on the following:
- Update on community water fluoridation, including Metropolitan's current practice, federal court ruling, and recent activities.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Dick
2. Armstrong
3. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- b. Subject: Pure Water Southern California Quarterly Update

Presented by: Gloria Lai-Bluml, Program Manager - Pure Water Southern California, Engineering Services

Ms. Lai-Bluml reported on the following:

- Environmental Planning/Public Engagement
- Member Agency/Program Partner Collaboration
- Program Funding
- CAMP4W Assessment
- Demonstration Testing
- Backbone Pipeline Sizing

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel
2. Alvarez

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: Engineering Services, Information Technology, and Water System Operations Activities
- Presented by: Mai Hattar, Interim Group Manager and Chief Engineer, Engineering Services Group
- Shane Chapman, Assistant General Manager, Operations
Charlie Eckstrom, Group Manager, Information Technology Group,
and Mickey Chaudhuri, Group Manager, Treatment & Water Quality

Ms. Hattar reported on the following:

- Engineering Services Group College Intern Program

Mr. Chaudhuri reported on the following:

- Water Quality Co-Op Education
- Integrated Operations, Planning & Support Services Group College Intern Program

Mr. Eckstrom reported on the following:

- Information Technology Group College Intern Program

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- Member Agency Water Quality Managers Nitrification Workshop
- 2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
- Partnering with California Air Resources Board
- LA Times Leadership Award Finalist, Charlie Eckstrom, Group Manager, Information Technology

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on August 18, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Dennis Erdman
Chair