

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-TERM REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESSES AND  
BUSINESS MODELING**

**March 27, 2024**

Chair Petersen called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Director Dennstedt indicated that she is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding physical injury. Director Dennstedt appeared by audio and on camera.

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Faessel (teleconference posted location), Fong-Sakai, McMillan (entered after roll call), Petersen, and Seckel.

Members absent: Directors Erdman, Gualtieri, Quinn, and Sutley.

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Dennstedt (AB 2449 “just cause”), Lefevre (teleconference posted location), Miller, Morris, and Peterson (AB 2449 “just cause”).

Committee Staff present: Crosson, Kasaine, Mortada, Quilizapa, and Ros.

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

Joe Mouawad distributed Eastern Municipal Water District letter dated March 15, 2024. This item will be made part of the record.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION**

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

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling for February 29, 2024 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, Any additions, corrections, or omissions)

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

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Petersen, and Seckel.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Erdman, Gualtieri, McMillan, Quinn, and Sutley.

The motion for Item 2A passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 5 absent.

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

Director Peterson entered the meeting.

Director Peterson indicated that he is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding illness. Director Peterson appeared by audio and on camera.

**3. SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS - CAMP4W TASK FORCE**

- a.     Subject:             Member Agency Managers Task Force Members

Cesar Barrera, City of Santa Ana  
Nina Jazmadarian, Foothill Municipal Water District  
Shivaji Deshmukh, Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
Dave Pedersen, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Anatole Falagan, Long Beach Water Department  
Anselmo Collins, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
Harvey De La Torre, Municipal Water District of Orange County  
Dan Denham, San Diego County Water Authority  
Kristine McCaffrey, Calleguas Municipal Water District  
Tom Love, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District  
Craig Miller, Western Municipal Water District  
Joe Mouawad, Eastern Municipal Water District  
Stacie Takeguchi, Pasadena Water and Power

Presented by:         No presentation was given.

Task Force Members present: Member Agency Manager Members Barrera, Collins, De La Torre, Deshmukh, Falagan, Jazmadarian, Love, Miller, Mouawad, and Pedersen.

- b.     Subject:             Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water – Draft Year One Report  
Presented by:         Elizabeth Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Officer

Ms. Crosson presented the committee with an overview of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water Draft Year One Report documents progress since February 2023 and sets up the next steps for 2024. Her presentation included the progress to date in establishing the values and priorities of the Board and Member Agencies, components of a Climate Decision-Making Framework, Time-Bound Targets, and the process for identifying projects and programs for evaluation.

Director McMillan entered the meeting.

The following Directors and Member Agency Managers asked questions and provided comments:

1. Miller
2. Jazmadarian
3. Falagan
4. De La Torre
5. Love
6. Armstrong
7. Seckel
8. Petersen
9. Fong-Sakai
10. Alvarez
11. Mouawad
12. Deshmukh
13. Barrera
14. McMillian
15. Peterson

Staff responded to Directors' and Member Agency Managers comments and questions.

**4. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

Director Fong-Sakai requested an email confirmation of all Task Force dates for the rest of 2024.

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on April 24, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Matt Petersen

Chair

**From:** [Mouawad, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Crosson, Elizabeth K](#)  
**Cc:** [Walsh, Jolene](#); [Alexander, Lanaya](#)  
**Subject:** Follow-up to CAMP4W Task Force Discussion  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2024 2:49:33 PM

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Hi Liz,

I hope all is well. Thank you again for coordinating and leading the CAMP4W initiative. The Task Force meetings have been very engaging and informative.

As you are aware, EMWD is a signatory to recent coalition comment letters. Separately, I wanted to follow-up on my comments from the last Task Force meeting on the GPCD element of the member agency model prepared by Hazen. Specifically, the Total GPCD is not a valid metric of water use efficiency and is misleading for the reasons outlined below:

1. The “Total GPCD” metric does not acknowledge the importance of agriculture and industry in Metropolitan’s service area

Utilizing Total GPCD as a metric, places areas with agriculture and industry at a disadvantage because it does not differentiate water usage. We don’t believe Metropolitan intends to be anti-agriculture or industry, however that can be an impact of utilizing Total GPCD. In EMWD’s service area, agriculture is a critical driver of the local economy where there is extensive production of citrus, avocados, onions, Asian produce and is also home of Temecula wine country. Agricultural areas are typically low in population density, further skewing Total GPCD. This also applies to regions in Metropolitan’s service with extensive industry.

2. Total GPCD discounts EMWD’s extensive work and investment to develop recycled water

Over 35 percent of EMWD’s total water supply portfolio is comprised of recycled water. Beginning many decades ago EMWD made tremendous investments to maximize the use recycled water for irrigation in lieu of potable water, yet Total GPCD, does not take this into account, or acknowledge our use of recycled water. Recycled water is not differentiated from potable water in Total GPCD.

3. GPCD is not an equitable metric due to the dramatically different climate zones in Metropolitan’s service area.

Most of EMWD’s service area resides in Evapotranspiration (ET) zones 9 and 16, which have over double the evapotranspiration rate of the coastal regions of Metropolitan in zones 1, 2 and 4, meaning, in general it can require twice the amount of irrigation to keep vegetation alive in EMWD’s service area compared to the coastal zone. The details can be found in this website, [https://cimis.water.ca.gov/App\\_Themes/images/etozonemap.jpg](https://cimis.water.ca.gov/App_Themes/images/etozonemap.jpg). Also, statistics indicate that income is highest in the coastal areas that have the lowest ET, and decrease in the hotter, more arid areas of Metropolitan’s service area, with EMWD’s residents having among the lowest income. We want to avoid the scenario where we are placing low-income communities at an even greater disadvantage by utilizing a metric that does not take their

circumstance into consideration.

Thus, we believe that Total GPCD as presented in the Hazen model is not useful. Also, Potable GPCD is significantly impacted by climate zones as discussed above. If the intent of the Hazen model is to track each member agency's performance relative to the proposed GPCD TBT, then the Potable GPCD data per member agency should be adjusted based on respective ET zones.

Thanks again for your efforts and approach to managing the process. I will be in Sacramento on Monday and unable to join you for the workshop at Metropolitan, but I will try to tune in to catch-up part of the discussion.

Regards,

**Joe Mouawad, P.E.**

General Manager

Eastern Municipal Water District

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