

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ETHICS, ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

September 11, 2023

Chair Ramos called the teleconference meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.

Members present: Directors Bryant, Camacho, Erdman (entered after roll call), Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, McMillan, Phan (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location) and Ramos.

Members absent: Directors Cordero and Sutley.

Other Board Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Armstrong, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Dennstedt, Dick, Garza, Gray (teleconference posted location), Kurtz, Miller, Ortega, Peterson, Seckel, and Smith.

Committee Staff present: Hagekhalil, Kasaine, H. Rodriguez, Salinas, H. Torres, Wheeler, and Wisdom.

Director Phan entered the meeting.

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

None

Director Erdman entered the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS — ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Ethics, Organization, and Personnel Committee for August 15, 2023 (copies submitted to each Director)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-3 Adopt resolutions designating Metropolitan’s maximum contribution for medical benefits for Active Employees and Retirees in order to comply with the current authorized Memoranda of Understanding

Motion: Adopt a resolution designating Metropolitan’s maximum medical contributions on the highest HMO Plan Region 2, Anthem Traditional HMO, to comply with the current authorized Memoranda of Understandings.

Presented by: Carmondy Breaux-Burns, Human Resources Unit Manager –
Benefits Services

Ms. Breaux-Burns provided an overview of CalPERS requirements, CalPERS’ Geographic regions, Metropolitan’s enrollment statistics, Metropolitan’s MOU requirements, changes in premiums and fiscal impact.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Ramos
2. Garza

Director Jung made a motion, seconded by Director Bryant to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A and 7-3.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Bryant, Camacho, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Jung, Kassakhian, McMillan, Phan and Ramos.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Cordero and Sutley.

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

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Monthly Ethics Education
Presented by: Peter Von Hamm, Assistant Ethics Officer
Mr. Von Haam provided a basic overview of Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700).

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- a. Ethics Officer's Report

Mr. Salinas reported that the Ethics Office has initiated six new investigations and one new consulting contract since August. Five involve alleged unauthorized release of confidential information and one alleges misuse of authority. Mr. Salinas anticipates completing these investigations within the next three months. Mr. Salinas reported that there are also five other ongoing Ethics investigations that were opened in March. Three involve allegations of retaliation. The other two involve the alleged unauthorized release of confidential information. The Ethics Officer anticipates completing these investigations by October. It was reported that the Ethics Office is also currently managing five EEO related investigations. Mr. Salinas confirmed that a contract was initiated with Attorney Roberta Yang to conduct as-needed investigations of EEO and Ethics related matters and confirmed an increase of funds for an existing contract with Ellis Investigations Law Corporation for similar services. The Ethics Officer announced that his monthly written report included information on how to file confidential Ethics related complains through the Ethics Hotline.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

- b. Human Resources Manager's Report

Ms. Kasaine provided an update on Human Resources Group Manager recruitment.

- c. Equal Employment Opportunity Officer's Report

None

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting will be held on October 10, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Marsha Ramos
Chair