

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**February 10, 2026**

**54380** The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Tuesday, February 10, 2026.

Board Vice Chair Camacho called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:17 p.m.

Director De Jesus stated that he is using alternative teleconferencing just-cause as he has caretaker responsibilities, and he is alone in the room.

**54381** The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Carl Douglas, City of Los Angeles.

**54382** The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Tana McCoy, City of Compton.

**54383** Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero, Crane, Crawford, Denham, De Jesus (Just-Cause Caretaker), Dennstedt, Douglas, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gold (teleconference posted location available for the public), Jay, Kassakhian, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Paule, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Gray, Jung, Katz, Ortega, Petersen, and Phan.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Director(s) entered after roll call: None.

**54384** Board Vice Chair Camacho invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction (in-person and via teleconference).

	Name	Affiliation	Comment
1.	Darcy Burke	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	Item 7-3
2.	Rich Lambrose	Southern California Leadership Council and Secure Water Alliance	Item 8-1
3.	Tom Love	General Manager Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	Item 8-1

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|-----|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 4.  | Kelly Gardner      | Main San Gabriel Basin Water District   | Item 8-1              |
| 5.  | Matt Litchfield    | Three Valleys Municipal Water District  | Item 8-1              |
| 6.  | Chris Wilson       | LA Bizfeed  | Item 8-1              |
| 7.  | Bruce Reznik       | LA Waterkeeper  | Item 8-1              |
| 8.  | Matthew Lyons      | San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership   | Item 8-1              |
| 9.  | Marilyn Simpson    | City of Irwindale, Community Development  | Item 8-1              |
| 10. | Eddie Chan         | City of Irwindale   | Item 8-1              |
| 11. | Charley Wilson     | South California Water Coalition  | Item 8-1              |
| 12. | George Chibanaglis | Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California                                 | Item 8-1              |
| 13. | Caty Wagner        | Sierra Club California  | Item 8-1              |
| 14. | Matthew Beeston    | Representative for the Carpenters Union   | Sites Reservoir       |
| 15. | Connor Everts      | Southern California Watershed Alliance Statewide Environmental Water Caucus and Environmental Justice Coalition for Water | Item 8-1              |
| 16. | Courtney Brown     | San Diego Coastkeeper   | Item 8-1              |
| 17. | John Mendoza       | Pomona Resident   | Workforce Development |
| 18. | Al Sattler         |   | Item 8-1              |
| 19. | John Munson        | Sierra Club   | Item 8-1              |

- |     |                       |   |          |
|-----|-----------------------|---|----------|
| 20. | John Armstrong        | Sierra Club   | Item 8-1 |
| 21. | Jan Warren            | Contra Costa County   | Item 8-1 |
| 22. | Cynthia Cortez        | Restore the Delta   | Item 8-1 |
| 23. | Stephanie<br>Courtney | Environmental Justice Program<br>Coordinator at Black Women<br>for Wellness | Item 8-1 |
| 24. | Kyle Griffith         | Californians for Water Security   | Item 8-1 |
| 25. | Wes Chung             | Rate Payer, LADWP   | Item 8-1 |

Board Vice Chair Camacho addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

**54385** Board Vice Chair Camacho asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of January, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

**54386** Board Vice Chair Camacho referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, in recognition of Black History Month, Metropolitan will highlight on social media activities hosted by the Black Employees Association that promote learning, empowerment, and reflection on both the progress achieved and the continued pursuit of a bright and inclusive future. Metropolitan will also celebrate Lunar New Year on social media, recognizing the Year of the Horse alongside the Asian American Employees Organization. Finally, a spotlight on employees throughout the month, with Valentine's Day around the corner, asking employees what they love about working in water. During Engineers Week, which is February 22 through 28, 2026, a feature will highlight engineers and their contributions. Board Vice Chair Camacho asked if there were any questions or comments. None were made.

**54387** General Manager Deshmukh, in addition to his written report, reported the Washington, D.C, trip with Chair Ortega, Board Vice Chair Sutley, Director Lewitt, Cordero, and Denham advocating on behalf of the region to bring back funds to large-scale recycling and to share perspectives on the operating guidelines along the Colorado River. A video was shown relating to the Sepulveda feeder pump station project. Board Vice Chair Camacho asked if there were any questions or comments. None were made.

**54388** General Counsel Scully stated nothing to add to her written report.

**54389** General Auditor Suzuki, in addition to his written report, the next Audit Committee will be in March, providing discussion on audit plan development, internal control, and risks, as

well as the three lines model that supports risk management and results of the annual quality assessment.

**54390** Ethics Officer Salinas, in addition to his written report, issued the quarterly newsletter for employees, sharing frequently asked ethics questions, providing ethics education, and sharing resources to promote compliance. Directors McCoy and McMillan attended the annual Ethics Conference.

**54391** Presentation of 5-Year Service Pin to Director Thai Viet Phan, City of Santa Ana. Director Phan was out of the county on city business and asked Board Executive Secretary Hudson to read her remarks.

**54392** Presentation of 5-Year Service Pin to Director Anthony R. Fellow, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District. The Director Fellow has been on the Metropolitan Board non-consecutively for over 30 years. Director Fellow made remarks.

**54393** Approve minutes for the meeting of the Board of Directors for September 9, 2025, and October 14, 2025 (Agenda Item 6A).

**54394** Approve and appoint Committee Assignments. Appointing Director Paule as a member of the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships (Agenda Item 6B).

**54395** Award a \$767,063 construction contract to Western Pump Inc. for procurement and installation of a new 6,000-gallon aboveground diesel fuel tank and dispensing system at the Lake Mathews facility (Item 7-1).

**54396** Review and consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted by the Lead Agency for the project, and authorize the General Manager to grant a non-exclusive permanent easement to West Valley Water District for access purposes on Metropolitan fee-owned property in the city of Fontana and identified as County of San Bernardino Assessor Parcel Number 1107-262-16 (Item 7-2).

**54397** Set a public hearing on March 10, 2026, regarding the proposed water rates and charges for calendar years 2027 and 2028 necessary to meet the revenue requirements for fiscal years 2026/27 and 2027/28. As amended to reflect the August 18, 2026 date for the future Board action regarding fixing the ad valorem property tax for FY2026/27 (Board Item 7-3).

**54398** Amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to conform Employer-Paid Member Contributions for unrepresented employees to CalPERS requirements (Item 7-4).

Director McMillan left the meeting.

Board Vice Chair Camacho announced we will consider the consent calendar items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-4.

Consent Calendar Items - Action

Director Pressman moved, seconded by Director Garza, that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-4.

Board Vice Chair Camacho called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-4.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s): 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-4									
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel	x	x	6706				
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman	x	x	4853				
Burbank	3416	Ramos	x	x	3416				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	14206	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	21215	Garza	x	x	10608				
		Crawford	x	x	10608				
			Subtotal:		21215				
Compton	718	McCoy	x	x	718				
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Paule	x	x	14725				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2444	Bryant	x	x	2444				
Fullerton	2840	Jung							
Glendale	4326	Kassakhian	x	x	4326				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	18220	Camacho	x	x	18220				
Las Virgenes	3346	Lewitt	x	x	3346				
Long Beach	7105	Cordero	x	x	7105				
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley	x	x	28945				
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	28945				
		Vacant							
		Douglas	x	x	28945				
			Subtotal:		86834				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Crane	x	x	17894				
		Erdman	x	x	17894				
			Subtotal:		71574				
Pasadena	4190	Kurtz	x	x	4190				
San Diego County Water Authority	73565	Fong-Sakai	x	x	24522				
		Denham	x	x	24522				
		Miller	x	x	24522				
		Katz							
			Subtotal:		73565				
San Fernando	288	Ortega		x	288				
San Marino	878	Shepherd Romey	x	x	878				
Santa Ana	3732	Phan							
Santa Monica	5256	Gold	x	x	5256				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9536	De Jesus	x	x	9536				
Torrance	3949	Jay	x	x	3949				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14772	Fellow	x	x	14772				
West Basin Municipal Water District	29790	Alvarez	x	x	29790				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		29790				
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
<b>Total</b>	<b>424986</b>				<b>404208</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>21066</b>								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-4 (M.I. No. 54393 through 54398\*) passed by a vote of 404,208 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; not voting; and 21,066 absent.

Director De Jesus stated he was alone in the room.

\*Director McCoy entered a proxy vote for Chairman Ortega, City of San Fernando, for Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 7-1 through 7-4 (**M.I. No. 54393 through 54398\***).

Board Vice Chair Camacho called on Directors to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures on Board Items 8-1, 8-3, and 8-4.

Board Vice Chair Camacho stated Board Item 8-5 was deferred at the Committee meeting.

Director Pressman disclosed that Item 8-1 involves a client the LA City Attorney's Office. The Fair Political Committee has reviewed his appeal in this regard and found in his favor, advising that he is allowed to participate and vote on the item.

Director Erdman moved the following motion, but there was no second:

Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Pure Water Southern California project and take related CEQA actions, and approve Pure Water Southern California for CEQA purposes and require staff to conduct further analysis and assessment relative to other potential water supply investments before additional budget allocations and spending on the project, except as necessary to meet existing contractual or grant obligations.

Director Garza moved, seconded by Director Seckel, that the Board approve the staff recommendation Option 1 in the Board Letter as posted for Board Item 8-1.

**54399** Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report and take related CEQA actions as described and approve Pure Water Southern California for CEQA purposes (Board Item 8-1).

The following Director(s) asked questions or made comments:

Director(s)

1. Dennstedt
2. Kurtz
3. Miller
4. Gold

Board Vice Chair Camacho called for a vote to approve Board Item 8-1.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		8-1							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel	x	x	6706				
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman	x	x	4853				
Burbank	3416	Ramos	x	x	3416				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	14206	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	21215	Garza	x	x	10608				
		Crawford	x	x	10608				
			Subtotal:		21215				
Compton	718	McCoy	x	x	718				
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Paule	x	x	14725				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2444	Bryant	x	x	2444				
Fullerton	2840	Jung							
Glendale	4326	Kassakhian	x	x	4326				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	18220	Camacho	x	x	18220				
Las Virgenes	3346	Lewitt	x	x	3346				
Long Beach	7105	Cordero	x	x	7105				
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley	x	x	28945				
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	28945				
		Vacant							
		Douglas	x	x	28945				
			Subtotal:		86834				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Crane	x	x	17894				
		Erdman	x	x	17894				
			Subtotal:		71574				
Pasadena	4190	Kurtz	x	x	4190				
San Diego County Water Authority	73565	Fong-Sakai	x	x	24522				
		Denham	x	x	24522				
		Miller	x	x	24522				
		Katz							
			Subtotal:		73565				
San Fernando	288	Ortega		x	288				
San Marino	878	Shepherd Romey	x	x	878				
Santa Ana	3732	Phan							
Santa Monica	5256	Gold	x	x	5256				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9536	De Jesus	x	x	9536				
Torrance	3949	Jay	x	x	3949				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14772	Fellow	x	x	14772				
West Basin Municipal Water District	29790	Alvarez	x	x	29790				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		29790				
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
<b>Total</b>	<b>424986</b>				<b>404208</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>21066</b>								

The motion to approve the Board Item 8-1 (**M.I. No. 54399\***) passed by a vote of 404,208 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; not voting; and 21,066 absent.

Director De Jesus stated he was alone in the room.

\*Director McCoy entered a proxy vote for Chairman Ortega, City of San Fernando, for Board Item 8-1 (**M.I. No. 54399**).

**54400** Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, in the amount of \$250,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 (Board Item 8-3).

**54401** Amend the Metropolitan Administrative Code regarding contracting provisions and reporting requirements (Board Item 8-4).

Director Pressman left the meeting.

Board Vice Chair Camacho asked if any Directors want to discuss and/or vote on separately on Items 8-3 or 8-4. None were made.

Board Vice Chair Camacho asked if any Directors want to discuss Item 8-3 in closed session. None were made.

Board Vice Chair Camacho asked if any Directors object to voting on the Board Action Items 8-3 and 8-4 together. None were made.

Director Kassakhian moved, seconded by Director Crawford, that the Board approve Board Items 8-3 and 8-4.

Board Vice Chair Camacho called for a vote to approve Board Items 8-3 and 8-4.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	8-3 and 8-4								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6706	Faessel	x	x	6706				
Beverly Hills	4853	Pressman							
Burbank	3416	Ramos	x	x	3416				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	14206	McMillan							
Central Basin Municipal Water District	21215	Garza	x	x	10608				
		Crawford	x	x	10608				
			Subtotal:		21215				
Compton	718	McCoy	x	x	718				
Eastern Municipal Water District	14725	Paule	x	x	14725				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2444	Bryant	x	x	2444				
Fullerton	2840	Jung							
Glendale	4326	Kassakhian	x	x	4326				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	18220	Camacho	x	x	18220				
Las Virgenes	3346	Lewitt	x	x	3346				
Long Beach	7105	Cordero	x	x	7105				
Los Angeles	86834	Sutley	x	x	28945				
		Petersen							
		Quinn	x	x	28945				
		Vacant							
		Douglas	x	x	28945				
			Subtotal:		86834				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	71574	Ackerman	x	x	17894				
		Seckel	x	x	17894				
		Crane	x	x	17894				
		Erdman	x	x	17894				
			Subtotal:		71574				
Pasadena	4190	Kurtz	x	x	4190				
San Diego County Water Authority	73565	Fong-Sakai	x	x	24522				
		Denham	x	x	24522				
		Miller	x	x	24522				
		Katz							
			Subtotal:		73565				
San Fernando	288	Ortega		x	288				
San Marino	878	Shepherd Romey	x	x	878				
Santa Ana	3732	Phan							
Santa Monica	5256	Gold	x	x	5256				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9536	De Jesus	x	x	9536				
Torrance	3949	Jay	x	x	3949				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14772	Fellow	x	x	14772				
West Basin Municipal Water District	29790	Alvarez	x	x	29790				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		29790				
Western Municipal Water District	16502	Dennstedt	x	x	16502				
<b>Total</b>	<b>424986</b>				<b>399355</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>25919</b>								

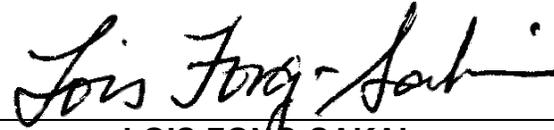
The motion to approve the Board Items 8-3 and 8-4\* (M.I. No. 54400 through 54401) passed by a vote of 399,355 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; not voting; and 25,919 absent.

Director De Jesus stated he was alone in the room.

\*Director McCoy entered a proxy vote for Chairman Ortega, City of San Fernando, for Board Items 8-3 and 8-4 (**M.I. No. 54400 through 54401**).

**54402** Board Vice Chair Camacho asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. No requests were made.

**54403** There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.



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**LOIS FONG-SAKAI  
BOARD SECRETARY**



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**MICHAEL CAMACHO  
VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD**