MINUTES

MEETING OF THE

SPECIAL JOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

May 26, 2026

54488 The Special Joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

54489 The Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

54490 Board Executive Secretary Hudson administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Camacho, Crane, De Jesus (teleconference posted location available for the public), Dennstedt (teleconference posted location available for the public), Douglas, Erdman, Fellow, Garza, Jay, Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kassakhian, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Ortega, Paule, Pressman, Ramos, Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Cordero, Crawford, Daniels, Denham, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Gold, Gray, Katz, Petersen, Phan, and Quinn.

Board Executive Secretary Hudson declared a quorum present.

54491 Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction (in-person and via teleconference). None were made.

The public comment was closed.

Chair Ortega announced that the Board will hear the agenda out of order as posted.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS

6. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

a. Subject: Chair's Report

Presented by: Chair Ortega

Chair Ortega reminded the Directors that the Spring Service Awards Luncheon will be June 11 at 11:00 a.m. and encouraged Directors to attend if their schedules permit.

b. Subject: General Manager's Report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: General Manager Deshmukh

General Manager Deshmukh testified before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee.

c. Subject: General Counsel's report of Metropolitan activities

Senior Deputy General Counsel Kuo Brinton stated she had nothing to add to the report and announced that outside counsel from Liebert Cassidy Whitmore, Jennifer Palagi will be assisting with any Board questions or advice on the discussion on department heads, evaluations, and compensation.

e. Subject: Ethics Officer's report of Metropolitan activities

Ethics Officer Salinas reported on the California Fair Political Practices Commission reporting notifications.

d. Subject: General Auditor's report of Metropolitan activities

General Auditor Suzuki reported that at the June audit committee meeting, the committee will be seeking approval of the annual internal audit plan, audit charter, and presenting on enterprise risk management.

f. Subject: Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Facilities Naming Update.

Chair Ortega and Committee Chair Fellow reported on the criteria, policies, and procedures of the naming of Metropolitan facilities as well as the proposed recommended revisions to the criteria, policies, and procedures for the Board’s consideration. Chair Ortega asked the Committee if there were any objections to the recommendations and adding this item to the June agenda. None were made.

CONSENT CALENDAR

7. COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve the minutes of the Executive Committee of April 28, 2026.

B. Approve the draft of the Committee and Board meeting agendas and schedule for June 2026.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any additions or deletions to the June 2026 draft packet.

Committee Chair Lewitt reported that the following subject has been added to the Legislation and Communications Committee:

- Provide for review of proposed updates to the criteria, policies, and procedures for the naming of facilities.

Committee Chair Erdman reported that the following subject has been updated to the Engineering, Operations and Technology Committee:

- Award a $4,542,000 construction contract to J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for upgrades to the Hollywood Tunnel North Portal Pressure Control Structure; amend Metropolitan's Project Labor Agreement to include the subject project; and authorize the General Manager to acquire a temporary construction easement for an amount not to exceed $60,000.

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Items 7A and 7B.

Chair Ortega acknowledged the presence of Former Director Ballin and San Fernando City Council Member Medoza.

Director Garza made a motion, seconded by Director Miller to approve the committee Action Items 7A and 7B as presented, listed, and revised.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Bryant (alternate), Camacho, Douglas, Erdman, Garza, Jung, Kassakhian, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, Miller, Ortega, Pressman, Ramos, Seckel, and Sutley.

Abstention: None

Recusal: None

Absent: Fong-Sakai, Gray, Katz*, and Quinn.

The motion for Item 5A and 5B passed by a vote of 16 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 3* absent. *not counted as absent for purposes of quorum given alternate present.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ITEMS

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

54492 Conference with Labor Negotiators; agency designated representatives: Chair of Legal and Claims Committee Kassakhian, Chair of Organization, Personnel, and Effectiveness Committee Katz, Chair of Audit Committee Ramos, Chair of Ethics Committee Seckel as well as the vice chairs of the committees as alternates; Unrepresented employee(s): Ethics Officer, General Auditor, General Counsel, General Manager; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957.6. (Board Item 5a).

Chair Ortega called the meeting into closed session to discuss Board Item 5a at 2:20 p.m.

Directors Alvarez, Camacho, Jay, Kassakhian, and Miller left the meeting.

In open session, Chair Ortega stated no action was taken in closed session.

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

8-1 Subject: Discuss and consider recommendation to the Board of cost of living or cost of wage increases for the Ethics Officer, General Auditor, General Counsel, and General Manager; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Vicki Quintero Brashear, CPSHR

Motion: Discuss and consider a recommendation to the Board of cost of living or cost of wage increases for the Ethics Officer, General Auditor, General Counsel, and General Manager for competent evaluation of 3.4% and above

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Items 8-1.

Director Sutley made a motion, seconded by Director Garza to approve the committee Action Item 8-1.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Bryant (alternate), Douglas, Erdman, Garza, Jung, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan (alternate), Ortega, Pressman, Ramos, Seckel, and Sutley.

Abstention: None

Recusal: None

Absent: Camacho, Fong-Sakai, Gray, Kassakhian, Katz, Miller/Alvarez* (alternate), and Quinn.

The motion for Item 8-1 passed by a vote of 14 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 7* absent.
*Miller/Alverez count once for purposes of quorum.

54493 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. No requests were made.

54494 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Rickita C. Hudson

RICKITA C. HUDSON
BOARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ADÁN ORTEGA, JR.
CHAIR OF THE BOARD