

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AG AND TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

April 28, 2026

Chair Kurtz called the meeting to order at 11:43 a.m.

Members present: Directors De Jesus, Erdman (teleconference posted location), Fellow (teleconference posted location), Garza, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller (teleconference posted location), Paule, and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: Directors Cordero and Ramos.

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Faessel (teleconference posted location), Fong-Sakai, Jay, McCoy, and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Deshmukh, Hughes, Maravilla, Novoa, Rubin, Schaffer, and Zinke

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

1. Darcy Burke – Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Ag and Tribal Partnerships Special Committee for January 27, 2026.

Director De Jesus made a motion, seconded by Director Garza to approve the consent calendar item 2A.

Ayes: Directors De Jesus, Erdman, Fellow, Garza, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, and Paule

Noes: None

Abstentions: Director Shepherd Romey

Absent: Directors Cordero and Ramos

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstain, and 2 absent

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Central Valley Agriculture Perspectives

Presented by: Cannon Michael, President and Chief Executive Officer,
Bowles Farming Company.

Mr. Michael shared his perspectives on California agriculture as a leading grower in the Central Valley and efforts to advance agriculture and water policy.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Ortega
- 2) Fellow
- 3) De Jesus
- 4) Erdman
- 5) Fong-Sakai
- 6) Garza
- 7) Lewitt

Mr. Michael responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

b. Subject: Discuss revised purpose statement of the Special Committee
on Ag and Tribal Partnerships

This item was deferred.

c. Subject: Report on the Palo Verde Valley Property Utilization
Committee

This item was deferred.

d. Subject: Report on the Palo Verde Valley Community Enhancement
Collaborative

Chair Kurtz reported on recent activities of the Community Enhancement Collaborative, including their new staff and office space.

4. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Review Slide 12 from Mr. Cannon Michael's presentation item 3a to the Committee and consider the programs he brought up.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Cynthia Kurtz
Chair