

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGAL AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

February 9, 2026

Chair Kassakhian called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Members present: Directors Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Douglas (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Kurtz (entered after roll call), McMillan, Miller, Ramos (teleconference posted location), and Shepherd Romey (entered after roll call).

Members absent: Director Katz.

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Cordero, Crane, Denham, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Jay, Lewitt, Paule, Pressman (teleconference posted location), Seckel, and Sutley.

Committee Staff present: Beatty, Deshmukh, Gaxiola, Hudson, Rubin, and Scully.

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

None

2. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

A. Subject: General Counsel’s report of monthly activities

General Counsel Scully provided an update on the deferral of Item 8-5.

Chair Kassakhian announced that there would be a reordering of the meeting agenda. Item 8-4 would be heard and voted on before going into closed session to hear Items 8-3 and 7a.

Director Shepherd Romey entered the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. COMMITTEE ACTION ONLY

A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee for January 13, 2026.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

7-4 Subject Amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to conform Employer-Paid Member Contributions for unrepresented employees to CalPERS requirements; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Marianne Greene, Senior Deputy General Counsel

Motion Amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to conform Employer-Paid Member Contributions for unrepresented employees to CalPERS requirements

Director Kurtz entered the meeting.

Motion by Director Miller, seconded by Director Shepherd Romey, to approve the consent calendar items 3A and 7-4.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus, Douglas, Kassakhian, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, Ramos, and Shepherd Romey
Noes: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Director Katz

The motion for Items 3A and 7-4 passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

- 8-4** Subject Amend the Metropolitan Administrative Code regarding contracting provisions and reporting requirements; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
- Presented by: Marianne Greene, Senior Deputy General Counsel
- Motion Amend the Metropolitan Administrative Code regarding contracting provisions and reporting requirements.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

Motion by Director Camacho, seconded by Director Crawford, to approve Item 8-4.

The vote was:

- Ayes: Directors Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus, Douglas, Kassakhian, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, Ramos, and Shepherd Romey
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: None
- Absent: Director Katz

The motion for Item 8-4 passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

Chair Kassakhian called the meeting into closed session.

- 8-3** Subject Report on litigation in Daffney Iverson v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 24STCV29984; and 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; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel—existing litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
- Presented by: Tony Zepeda, Sr. Deputy General Counsel

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

- a.** Subject: Conference with legal counsel—anticipated litigation; based on existing facts and circumstances of receipt of a claim pursuant to the Government Claims Act (Government Code Section 910 et seq.) threatening litigation, there is significant exposure to litigation against Metropolitan; one potential case; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)
- Presented by: Tony Zepeda, Sr. Deputy General Counsel

Chair Kassakhian reported there was no action taken in closed session on Items 8-3 and 7a.

In open session, Director Camacho made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz, to approve the contract increase in Item 8-3.

- Item 8-3** Motion: 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

The vote was:

- Ayes: Directors Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus, Douglas, Kassakhian, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, and Shepherd Romey
- Noes: None
- Abstentions: None
- Absent: Directors Katz, Ramos

The motion for Item 8-3 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Ardy Kassakhian
Chair