

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ONE WATER AND ADAPTATION COMMITTEE

January 12, 2026

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Cordero, Crane, Erdman, Gold (teleconference posted location), Katz (teleconference posted location), Kurtz, McMillan (teleconference posted location), Miller, Pressman, Quinn, Seckel, and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: Directors Denham and Lewitt.

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Dennstedt, Faessel (teleconference posted location), Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Jay, Ortega, Paule, Ramos (teleconference posted location), and Sutley.

Committee Staff present: Bednarski, Crosson, Deshmukh, Goshi, Harms, Horton, Hudson, Martin, and Schlotterbeck.

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

Chair Quinn announced how public comments for this meeting would be heard.

A. Public Hearing on Metropolitan's Achievements in Conservation, Recycling, and Groundwater Storage and Replenishment ("SB 60 Report")

Chair Quinn provided background information and introduced Mr. Carlos Carrillo, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management.

Mr. Carillo provided a brief overview of today's Public Hearing and gave a presentation of Metropolitan's achievements in water conservation, recycling, and groundwater storage as required by SB60 adopted by the California State Legislature, including the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and draft annual report. He outlined next steps for the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan, with comments to be incorporated before final submission by the February 1 deadline.

Chair Quinn announced that the Public Hearing was open to public comments and that Metropolitan had invited knowledgeable individuals from the fields of conservation and sustainability and program participants to speak. She noted the order in which those comments would be heard, and that Metropolitan was in receipt of letters from two organizations:

- California Water Efficiency Partnership
- The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants

Public Speakers included:

1. Conner Everts, Southern California Watershed Alliance spoke in support of item 1A.
2. Brenley McKenna, WaterReuse California spoke in support of item 1A.
3. Parker Cohn, Performance Resource Management spoke in support of item 1A.
4. Bob Gehan, American Legion Post 43 spoke in support of item 1A.
5. Kim O’Cain, CA Data Collaborative spoke in support of item 1A.
6. Sandra Giarde, California Landscape Contractors Association spoke in support of item 1A.
7. Annikki Chamberlain, Mimir Water spoke in support of item 1A.

Chair Quinn announced that the Public Hearing was now closed and asked if there was any regular public comment. We had no regular public comment and therefore the line was closed.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Joint One Water & Adaptation Committee and Subcommittee on Imported Water for November 17, 2025 and December 8, 2025.

Director Ackerman made a motion, seconded by Director Erdman to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Cordero, Crane, Erdman, Gold, Katz, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, Pressman, Quinn, Seckel, and Sutley

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Denham and Lewitt

The motion passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None.

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

9-1 Subject: Report on Conservation Program

Presented by: James Morgutia, Associate Resource Specialist

Mr. Brandon Goshi, Group Manager, Water Resource Management, provided background information and introductory remarks.

Mr. Morgutia presented the quarterly Water Efficiency update, reporting \$30.1 million spent and \$46.1 million committed through November 2025, with turf replacement leading conservation efforts by replacing 7.9 million square feet of turf and generating more than 63,000 acre-feet of estimated lifetime water savings. He also highlighted a \$30 million state drought relief grant, combined with federal funding, temporarily increased turf replacement incentives to \$7 per square foot—driving a significant rise in participation—and noted strong demand for the residential and large landscape survey program, with nearly 600 residential and 61 commercial surveys completed and plans to seek additional funding.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel
2. Ortega
3. Pressman
4. Miller
5. Shepherd Romey

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

Chair Quinn left the meeting, Vice Chair Seckel took over chairing the meeting.

9-4 Subject: Report on Water Surplus and Drought Management

Presented by: Noosha Razavian, Resource Specialist

Mr. Brandon Goshi, Group Manager, Water Resource Management, provided background information and introductory remarks.

Ms. Razavian gave a presentation on the monthly water surplus and drought management update, noting improved hydrologic conditions from recent storms and a current State Water Project allocation of 10% (about 200,000 acre-feet) that is expected to increase to 20–25% due to rising reservoir storage, particularly at Lake Oroville. Current supply is estimated at about 1.2 million acre-feet versus just under 1.5 million acre-feet of demand, leaving an approximately 300,000 acre-foot gap that may be managed through storage withdrawals and potential water transfers.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel
2. Pressman

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

- a. Subject: Update on Local Resources Program and Local Resource
Development Workshop

Presented by: Nadia Hardjadinata, Senior Resource Specialist

Mr. Brandon Goshi, Group Manager, Water Resource Management, provided background information and introductory remarks.

Ms. Hardjadinata presented an update on Metropolitan's Local Resources Program (LRP), noting that the incentive-based, pay-for-performance program has supported 118 projects since 1982, delivered more than 4.5 million acre-feet of local supply, and reduced reliance on imported water. She also reviewed the Local Resources Development Workshop process, including a workshop held in October 2024 and a second planned for February 2026 to address program effectiveness, funding strategies, and potential refinements as part of Metropolitan's business model discussions.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Seckel | 5. Kurtz |
| 2. Ortega | 6. Miller |
| 3. Sutley | 7. Crane |
| 4. Pressman | 8. Fong-Sekai |

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

Vice Chair Seckel turned the meeting back over to Chair Quinn when she returned at 1:58 p.m.

- b. Subject: Update on Basin States Discussions Regarding Operational
Guidelines

This item was deferred.

- c. Subject: Information on amendment of exchange agreement with Desert
Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District

This item was deferred.

- d. Subject: A pilot program for early retirement of alfalfa in the Palo Verde Valley

Presented by: Lauren Steely, Senior Resource Specialist
Mr. Brandon Goshi, Group Manager, Water Resource Management, provided background information and introductory remarks.

Ms. Steely presented a proposed agricultural conservation pilot being developed by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California with the Palo Verde Irrigation District to conserve Colorado River water through early retirement of alfalfa fields in the Palo Verde Valley. The one-year pilot would incentivize idling up to 2,000 acres for 4–5 months between May and October, potentially conserving 11,000–16,000 acre-feet, with staff planning to return to the board pending final negotiations.

Dale Tyson of Hayday Farms provided in-person comments.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions.

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. Miller | 3. Gold |
| 2. Kurtz | 4. Cordero |

Staff responded to the Director’s questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: Bay-Delta Resources activities
Colorado River Resources activities
Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation activities
Water Resource Management activities

Assistant General Manager John Bednarski stated that there was nothing to report beyond the written reports that were previously issued.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

The next meeting will be held on February 9, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Tracy Quinn
Chair, One Water and Adaptation Committee