

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**December 10, 2024**

Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Gray (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Lewitt, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, Ramos, and Smith (teleconference posted location)

Members absent: Directors Luna and Phan

Other Board Members present: Directors Armstrong, Camacho, Dick, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, McCoy, Ortega and Seckel

Committee Staff present: Upadhyay, Stites, Sims, Zinke, and Novoa.

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

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Legislation and Communications Committee held November 19, 2024.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Morris to approve item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Jung, Kassakhian,  
Lewitt, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, Ramos, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Gray, Luna, and Phan

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 3 absent.

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

#### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

8-6 Subject: Adopt Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025; the  
General Manager has determined that the proposed action is  
exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Lana Haddad, Deputy Chief DE&I Officer

Motion: Adopted the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2025

Director Gray entered the meeting.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Ackerman
- 2.) Dennstedt
- 3.) Ramos
- 4.) Pressman

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

After completion of the presentation, Director Ackerman made a motion, seconded by  
Director Dennstedt to approve item 8-6.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Gray, Jung,  
Kassakhian, Lewitt, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, Ramos, Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Luna and Phan

The motion for item 8-6 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 2 absent.

## 5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

## 6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Report on Activites from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby R. Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the Congressional legislative schedule, a legislative update on fiscal year 2025 appropriations, fiscal year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 8070/S.4638), Water Resources and Development Act (H.R. 8812/S.4376), Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act (H.R. 7872/S.2514), and two Metropolitan supported bills: Help Hoover Dam Act, S.4016; and the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Amendment Act of 2024, S.5012.

- b. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay L. Jefferson II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the legislative calendar, Governor Newsom's call for a special session to "Trump Proof" California, California budget update, and November 2024 election highlights.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) Fellow

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

## 7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided an update on the 2025 Student Art Calendar, the Conservation Advertising Budget, the CAMP4W Outreach with Community Organizations, and the Annual Membership and Sponsorship Reports.

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Chair Jung