

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

February 9, 2026

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Jay, Kassakhian, Lewitt, Paule, and Shepherd Romey

Members absent: Directors Jung, Katz, and Ramos

Other Board Members present: Directors Cordero, Denham, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Kurtz, Miller, Pressman, and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Deshmukh, Hudson, Dela Cruz, Schaffer, Stites, Rubin, and Zinke

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

None

Director Gray entered the meeting.

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for December 8, 2025.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Director Camacho made a motion, seconded by Director Shepherd Romey, to approve the consent calendar item 2A.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Gray, Jay, Kassakhian, Lewitt, Paule, and Shepherd Romey

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Jung, Katz, and Ramos

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 3 absent.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

- a. Subject: Bewaterwise.com Redesign

Presented by: Andrew Au, Principal Graphic Art Designer

Mr. Au provided an overview of the website re-design, describing the objectives and different elements of the updated website.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Jay
- 2) Shepherd Romey
- 3) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- b. Subject: Update on Internal Communications

Presented by: Brittany Foust, Section Manager – Media Services
Maritza Fairfield, Principal Public Affairs Representative

Ms. Foust and Ms. Fairfield introduced the new staff newsletter, “Inside Met”, highlighting the collaboration with staff, the use of media pop-ups, relationship-building efforts, and its overall value and impact.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Fellow
- 2) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- c. Subject: Quarterly Federal and State Regulatory Update

Presented by: Shradha Upadhayay, Team Manager – Operational
Regulatory Services

Ms. Upadhayay provided an update on Perchlorate, Waters of the United States, Clean Water Act Section 401, Drinking Water Fluoridation, Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, PFAS Monitoring Order, 1,4-Dioxane, and Golden Mussels.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Jay

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

- d. Subject: Report on the Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and
Facilities Naming

Presented by: Director Anthony Fellow, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on
Communications and Facilities Naming

Director Fellow provided a report on the January 23, 2026, meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Facilities Naming. The committee plans to review and consider updates to the policies and procedures, including the criteria for candidates and whether some Metropolitan facilities should not be named.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Lewitt

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

- e. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the Large-Scale Water Recycling Program Reauthorization, the FY 26 Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Environmental Protection Agency, and a legislative update on the Help Hoover Dam Act.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Seckel
- 2) Fellow

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

- f. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the legislative calendar, Senate Pro Tem appointments, the newly appointed Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Governor's January budget proposal, proposed climate bond allocations, and Metropolitan legislative positions, including AB 35 and SB 601.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

- 1) Miller

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs Activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, External Affairs Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke provided updates on the Board's advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C.; a CRA inspection trip for educators; communications on key issues related to the Colorado River and reliability; and accomplishments in 2025.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Jay Lewitt
Chair