

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGAL AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

March 12, 2024

Chair Luna called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Directors Dick, Douglas, Garza, Kurtz, Luna, McCoy (entered after roll call), Miller, Peterson (teleconference posted location), and Seckel.

Members absent: Directors Camacho, Cordero, and Ramos.

Other Directors present: Directors Ackerman, Armstrong, Bryant, De Jesus, Dennstedt (AB 2449 “Just Cause”), Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Gray (teleconference posted location), Lefevre (teleconference posted location), McMillan, Morris, Ortega, and Smith.

Director Dennstedt indicated she is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding illness. Director Dennstedt appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee Staff present: Beatty, Gaxiola, Hagekhalil, Mortada, Scully, and Wheeler

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 reported on SDCWA v. MWD rate litigation hearing on the final judgment; and PFAS issues and settlement.

Chair Luna re-ordered the agenda to hear the closed session Item 7b first.

Director McCoy entered the meeting.

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- b. Subject Report on litigation in Darren A. Reese v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Riverside County Superior Court Case No. CVPS2204312; Dane Crawford v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Riverside County Superior Court Case No. CVPS2304015; Alicia Lorentzen v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 23STCV19214; and Ryan Tiegs v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Riverside County Superior Court Case No. CVPS2306176; 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: Heather Beatty, Assistant General Counsel

In closed session, the committee discussed the item with legal counsel. No action was taken.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee for February 13, 2024.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-8	Subject	Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to provide an exempt time off benefit to unrepresented employees equivalent to the time off benefit provided to Metropolitan’s management unit, create a new reproductive leave loss benefit as required by state law, conform personnel regulations for unrepresented employees to current practices and regulations; and authorize the General Manager to adjust unrepresented salaries to conform with the equity wage and cost-of-living adjustments provided to Metropolitan’s management unit. The General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.
	Motion:	Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to provide an exempt time off benefit for unrepresented employees, create a new reproductive loss leave benefit, and to conform personnel regulations for unrepresented employees to current practices and regulations; and authorize the General Manager to adjust unrepresented salaries to conform with the equity wage and cost-of-living adjustments provided to Metropolitan’s management unit.

No presentations were given. Director Peterson made a motion, seconded by Director McCoy, to approve items 3A, and 7-8.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Dick, Douglas, Garza, Kurtz, Luna, McCoy, Miller, Peterson, and Seckel
Noes: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Directors Camacho, Cordero, and Ramos
The motion for Items 3A, and 7-8 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 3 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (Continue)

- a. Update on pending and recently resolved employment litigation and employment legal claims.

Item 7a was deferred.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Next meeting will be held on April 9, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Miguel Luna
Chair