

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
July 8, 2025

54179 The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Tuesday, July 08, 2025.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Directors Ackerman, Camacho, and Dennstedt stated that they are using AB 2449 just cause for illness.

54180 The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Director Karl Seckel, Municipal Water District of Orange County.

54181 The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Garry E. Bryant, Foothill Municipal Water District.

54182 Board Executive Secretary Hudson administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman (Just Cause – AB2449), Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho (Just Cause – AB2449), Cordero, De Jesus (teleconference posted location available for the public), Dennstedt (Just Cause – AB2449), Dick, Douglas, Erdman (teleconference posted location available for the public), Faessel, Fellow, Garza, Gold, Jay, Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Katz, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, McMillan (teleconference posted location available for the public), Miller, Ortega, Petersen, Phan (teleconference posted location available for the public), Pressman, Ramos (teleconference posted location available for the public), Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Crawford, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Gray, and Luna.

Board Executive Secretary Hudson declared a quorum present.

Director(s) entered after roll call: Directors Kassakhian and Quinn.

54183 Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction (in-person and via teleconference).

	Name	Affiliation	Comment
1.	Darcy Burke	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District	Items 7-6, 10-5 and 9-5

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

54184 Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of June, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

54185 Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, he reported on visits to Eastern Municipal Water District, Southeast and Southwest Riverside Water Coalition, Western Municipal Water District, Eastern Municipal Water District, and San Diego Water Authority discussing CAMP4W. Acknowledged Arlene Gaxiola for completing the 100 kilometer race. Also throughout the month of July Metropolitan plan on amplifying Member Agency's tips on how to save money and water, while continuing to highlight the "goodbye grass" conservation campaign across social media. Lastly, on July 31 a celebration of National Intern Day Metropolitan will highlight engineering and water quality interns on social media.

54186 General Manager Upadhyay, in addition to his written report, invited Assistant General Manager Bednarski to speak on silver certification award from the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure for the Casa Loma Siphon Replacement Project. In addition, GM Upadhyay provided an update on the Santa Monica feeder damage due to shoring failure.

54187 General Counsel Scully stated she had nothing to add to her written report.

54188 General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to his written report.

54189 Ethics Officer Salinas, in addition to his written reported Metropolitan has one hundred percent compliance for Form 700 filings for directors and overview on the retaliation fact sheet that was presented at the Community and Workplace Culture Committee.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions. None were made.

Chair Ortega called on Directors who are requesting that any items be pulled from the Consent Calendar Action Items and to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures.

Director Kurtz requested that Board Item 7-7 be heard and voted on separately.

Directors Cordero and Erdman recused themselves from participating on Item 7-4 as it involves a potential financial impact on Southern California Edison. They currently own Edison stock.

Director Quinn entered the meeting.

Chair Ortega called for a motion on Board Item 7-7.

Director Fellow moved, seconded by Director Bryant, that the Board approve staff recommendation on Board Item 7-7.

Director Dick moved, seconded by Director Kurtz, that the Board approve the substitute motion Item 7-7.

54190 Approve revisions to Metropolitan's Reserves Policy and directed staff to implement a 70% exceedance level sales projections for the proposed Fiscal Years 26/27 and 27/28 Biennial Budget, 80% for the FYs 28/29 and 29/30 Biennial Budget, and 80 % for subsequent budgets. Also directed staff to provide the budget analysis for an 80% analysis for the FYs 26/27 and 27/28 Biennial Budgets, Board Item 7-7.

The following Director(s) asked questions or made comments:

1. Kurtz
2. Miller
3. Dick
4. Gold
5. Alvarez
6. Fellow
7. Armstrong
8. Seckel
9. McMillan
10. Pressman
11. Faessel
12. Garza

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the substitute motion on Item 7-7.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):		7-7 Sub							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x			x	13627		
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	20265				
		Crawford							
					Subtotal:		20265		
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x	x	2766				
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	20959				
		Petersen	x	x	20959				
		Quinn	x	x	20959				
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	20959				
					Subtotal:		83835		
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
					Subtotal:		68102		
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai							
		Goldberg							
		Miller	x	x	35079				
		Katz	x	x	35079				
					Subtotal:		70158		
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Shepherd Romey	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan	x	x	3569				
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x			x	5055		
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Jay	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
					Subtotal:		28764		
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				387633		18682		
Present and not voting									
Absent	0								

The motion to approve the Board Item 7-7 (M.I. No. 54190) passed by a vote of 387,633 ayes; 18,682 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 0 absent.

54191 Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Administrative Code Division VI (Personnel Matters) to create a Principal Assistant position to the Ethics Officer, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

54192 Award a \$1,718,000 construction contract to Myers and Sons Construction, LLC to refurbish a washwater reclamation plant basin at the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

54193 Authorize a new on-call five-year professional services agreement with ProcureAmerica, LLC, for a not-to-exceed total amount of \$1.25 million for retail electric utility rate analysis and reduction, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

54194 Authorize an increase of \$700,000 in change order authority to an existing contract with Power Engineering Construction Co. for urgent diving services at Lake Mathews, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

54195 Approve a Treated Water Cost Recovery Rate Structure to be included with the staff proposal for the Fiscal Years 26/27 and 27/28 Biennial Budget and Calendar Years 27 and 28 Rates and Charges, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

54196 Authorize the General Manager to execute a license agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to allow the continuance of the Department's Nutria Eradication Program on Metropolitan's Bay Delta Islands located in Contra Costa and San Joaquin Counties, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-8 board letter.

54197 Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code to conform to current policy, law, and practice, and to make other minor, non-substantive changes, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-9 board letter.

54198 Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Thompson Coburn LLP for legal advice on state and federal energy regulatory and contractual matters by \$300,000 to a maximum amount payable of \$600,00, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-10 board letter.

Director Fellow moved, seconded by Director Garza, that the Board approve the Board Items 7-1, 7-2, 7-4, 7-5, 7-6 and 7-8 through 7-10.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Board Items 7-1, 7-2, 7-4, 7-5, 7-6 and 7-8 through 7-10.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):		7-1, 7-2, 7-4, 7-5, 7-6 and 7-8 through 7-10							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	20265				
		Crawford							
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x	x	2766				
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	20959				
		Petersen	x	x	20959				
		Quinn	x	x	20959				
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	20959				
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai							
		Goldberg							
		Miller	x	x	35079				
		Katz	x	x	35079				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Shepherd Romey	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan	x	x	3569				
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Jay	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				406315				
Present and not voting									
Absent	0								

The motion to approve the Board Items 7-1, 7-2, 7-4, 7-5, 7-6 and 7-8 through 7-10 (M.I. No. 54191 through 54198*) passed by a vote of 406,315 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 0 absent.

* Directors Cordero and Erdman recused themselves due to owning Edison stock on Item 7-4 (**M.I. 54193**) the motion to approve the Board Items 7-4 passed by a vote of 399,510 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 6,805 not voting; and 0 absent.

* The motion to approve the Board Items 7-6 (**M.I. 54195**) passed by a vote of 322,480 ayes; 83,835 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 0 absent.

Chair Ortega asked if anyone wanted to discuss, vote separately on Board Items 8-1, 8-2, or 8-3 or discuss 8-1 in closed session. No requests were made.

Chair Ortega called for a motion.

Director Dick moved, seconded by Director Sutley, that the Board approve Board Items 8-1, 8-2, and 8-3.

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Board Items 8-1, 8-2, and 8-3.

54199 Authorize an increase in maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Internet Law Center, Ltd. in the amount of \$250,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$500,000; and authorized an increase in maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Kronenberger Rosenfeld, LLP in the amount of \$250,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$500,000. (Board Item 8-1).

54200 Authorize an amendment to an existing design-build agreement with J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for design-build services to initiate Phase 2 of the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations project, including an increase of \$52.96 million for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$103.36 million; authorized an increase of \$810,000 to an existing agreement with Carollo Engineers Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$3.3 million to serve as the owner's advisor through the Phase 2 design-build agreement; and authorized an increase of \$296,000 to an existing agreement with Parametrix Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$545,000 for cost estimating and scheduling services through Phase 2. (Board Item 8-2).

54201 Approve amendments to the Metropolitan Administrative Code Section 2416(f)(5) to update procedures for addressing Equal Employment Opportunity allegations against members of the Board and direct reports to the Board. (Board Item 8-3).

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:		8-1, 8-2, & 8-3							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	20265				
		Crawford							
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x	x	2766				
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt	x	x	3224				
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	20959				
		Petersen	x	x	20959				
		Quinn	x	x	20959				
		Luna							
		Douglas	x	x	20959				
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai							
		Goldberg							
		Miller	x	x	35079				
		Katz	x	x	35079				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Shepherd Romey	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan	x	x	3569				
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Jay	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	406315				406315				
Present and not voting									
Absent	0								

The motion to approve the Board Item 8-1 through 8-3 (M.I. No. 54199 through 54201*) passed by a vote of 406,315 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 0 absent.

* Director Phan recused herself due to J.F. Shea Construction Inc. is a client of her employer Rutan & Tucker on Item 8-2 (**M.I. 54200**) the motion to approve Item 8-2 passed by a vote of 402,746 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 3,569 not voting; and 0 absent.

54202 Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or a need for discussion on Board Information Items 9-1, 9-2, 9-4, or 9-5.

The following Director(s) asked questions or made comments:

1. Gold
2. Seckel

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

54203 Report on department head 2024 salary survey (Board Agenda Item 10-1).

Item 10-1 presentation given by Brandon Patrick.

The following Director(s) asked questions or made comments:

1. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

54204 Discussion of Department Head Performance and Goal Setting Public employee performance evaluation – General Counsel, General Auditor, General Manager, and Ethics Officer; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957]. (Board Item 10-2).

54205 Public Employment - General Manager [To be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957]. (Board Item 10-6).

Chair Ortega called the meeting into closed session to discuss Board Items 10-2 and 10-6 at 3:58 p.m.

Directors Coredero, Quinn, Miller, Katz, fellow, and Armstrong left the meeting.

Chair Ortega stated no action was taken in closed session and no action will be taken on Board Item 10-3.

Chair Ortega announced Board Items 10-3 and 10-6 is deferred until July 22, 2025.

54205 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. No requests were made.

54206 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Rickita C. Hudson

**RICKITA HUDSON
BOARD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Adán Ortega, Jr.

**ADÁN ORTEGA, JR.
CHAIR OF THE BOARD**