

# **THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

## **MINUTES**

### **LEGAL AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE**

**July 8, 2025**

Vice Chair McMillan called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Members present: Directors De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Dick, Douglas, Katz, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, and Ramos (teleconference posted location).

Members absent: Directors Camacho, Crawford, and Luna

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman (AB2449 “Just Cause”), Alvarez, Armstrong, Dennstedt (AB2449 “Just Cause”), Erdman (teleconference posted location), Faessel, Fellow, Garza, Jay, Lewitt, McCoy, Ortega, Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Director Ackerman indicated she is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” due to a medical condition. Director Ackerman appeared by audio and on camera.

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

Committee Staff present: Beatty, Boucher, Scully, and Upadhyay.

#### **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 had nothing to add to her written report.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

- A.            Subject:            Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee for June 23, 2025.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

- |             |         |  |
|-------------|---------|--|
| <b>7-9</b>  | Subject | 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; 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 conform to current policy, law, and practice, and to make other minor, non-substantive changes  |
| <b>7-10</b> | Subject | 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 \$600,000; the General Manager has determined that this proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA |
|             | Motion  | 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 \$600,000  |

No presentations were given, Director Dick made a motion, seconded by Director Miller, to approve item 3A, 7-9, and 7-10.

The vote was:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Ayes:        | Directors De Jesus, Dick, Douglas, Katz, Kurtz, McMillan, and Miller |
| Noes:        | None   |
| Abstentions: | None   |
| Absent:      | Directors Camacho, Crawford, Luna, and Ramos                         |

The motion for Item 3A, 7-9, and 7-10 passed by a vote of 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

Vice Chair McMillan called the meeting into closed session.

Director Ramos entered the meeting.

## 5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

- 8-1**            Subject            Report on litigation in Systems Integrated, LLC v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 21STCV18292; 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 authorize 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; 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:    Tony Zepeda, Sr. Deputy General Counsel
- Motion:            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 authorize 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

Vice Chair McMillan reported there was no action taken in closed session.

In open session, Director Douglas made a motion, seconded by Director Katz to approve the contract increases.

The vote was:

Ayes:               Directors De Jesus, Dick, Douglas, Katz, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, and Ramos  
Noes:               None  
Abstentions:       None  
Absent:              Directors Camacho, Crawford, and Luna

The motion for Item 8-1 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 3 absent.

**6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**7. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

None

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Jacque McMillan  
Vice Chair