

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

July 25, 2023

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Chair Ortega announced at this time that we do not have any Directors participating in the meeting using AB 2449. We have members participating on Zoom, so we will complete a verbal roll call of committee members.

Chair Ortega called upon Director Bryant to introduce guest Member Agency Manager Nina, Jazmadarian, General Manager at Foothill Municipal Water District.

Director Bryant and Ms. Jazmadarian made brief remarks.

Chair Ortega thanks Ms. Jazmadarian for joining the Executive Committee and welcome her to participate in the Committee meeting with the exception of voting and participating in closed session.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Camacho, Cordero, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Jung (teleconference posted location), McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Smith, and Sutley.

Members absent: Directors Gray, Luna, Quinn, and Ramos.

Other Board members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Dennstedt, Dick, Faessel, Fellow, Kassakhian, Kurtz, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Peterson (teleconference posted location), and Seckel

Committee staff present: Beatty, Hagekhalil, Hudson, Salinas, Suzuki, and Wheeler.

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

No members responded.

2. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

a. Subject: Chair's Report

Presented by: Chair Ortega

Chair Ortega reported on the following:

- The quarterly report of international travel first and second quarters of 2023.
- Appointment of Director Alvarez to the Palo Verde Land Management Committee
- Reminder to Chairs and Vice Chairs if plans change to attend committee and board meetings to notify the board office in a timely manner.

b. Subject: General Manager's Report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: General Manager Adel Hagekhalil

General Manager Hagekhalil reported on the following:

- Event at the Pure Water Demonstration Facility and acceptance of the \$80 million check to Metropolitan Water District
- Update on the direct potable reuse regulations
- Update on the Member Agency Groundwater Management Workshop
- Metropolitan Water District annual blood drive
- Update on six per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) cleanup

c. Subject: General Counsel's report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: Assistant General Counsel Heather Beatty

Assistant General Counsel Beatty reported she is filling in for General Counsel Scully and has nothing to add to the report.

d. Subject: General Auditor's report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: General Auditor Scott Suzuki

General Auditor Suzuki reported that the external assessment deadline for Directors to respond has been extended until, Friday, July 28, 2023.

- e. Subject: Ethics Officer's report of Metropolitan activities
- Presented by: Ethics Officer Abel Salinas

Ethics Officer Salinas stated he had nothing to add to his report.

Chair Ortega announced Legal and Claims Committee will not meet in August. Chair Ortega called on Committee Chairs that will have meetings in August.

- f. Subject: Report from Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee

Presented by: Committee Chair Erdman

Committee Chair Erdman announced that the Committee will consider the following four consent items:

- Award a \$TBD contract to TBD for urgent relining of three pipe segments on the Sepulveda Feeder; and authorize an increase of: 1) \$280,000 to an agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc., for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$TBD and 2) \$240,000 to an agreement with Los Angeles Community College District for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$TBD
- Authorize an agreement with Nth Generation Computing, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$367,448 for the Datacenter Backup Infrastructure Upgrade
- Authorize an agreement with Computer Aid Incorporated in an amount not to exceed \$1,750,000 to provide staff augmentation support services for the operation and maintenance of the Metropolitan Cybersecurity Operations Center for a period of up to one year
- Authorize an agreement with General Networks Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$6.6 million for implementation of a cloud-based Enterprise Content Management (ECM) System (ECM Phase II)

The Committee will consider the following four committee items:

- Update on use of Alternative Project Delivery for Metropolitan Projects
- Colorado River Aqueduct Electrical Upgrades
- Reservoir Management Update
- Emergency Management Program Update

Lastly, the Committee will hear three management report(s):

- Engineering Services Manager's Report
- Information Technology Manager's report
- Water System Operations Manager's report

- g. Subject: Report from Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee

Presented by: Committee Chair McCoy

Committee Chair McCoy announced that the Committee will hear two committee items:

- Panel discussion on Affordability
- A Survey of Member Agency Programs offered to Disadvantaged Communities as defined in Water Code 79505.5

Lastly, the Committee will hear the management report:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager's Report

- h. Subject: Report from Ethics, Organization, and Personnel Committee

Presented by: Committee Chair Ramos

Committee Chair Ramos announced that the Committee will consider the following one action item:

- Approve proposed amendment to Administrative Code section 6471 to increase the amount of the Ethics Officer's authority to obtain professional services for external investigations from \$100,000 to \$250,000

The Ethics Office will present one committee item:

- Monthly Ethics Education

Lastly, the Committee will hear three management report(s):

- Ethics Officer's report
- Human Resources Manager's Report
- Equal Employment Opportunity Manager's report

- i. Subject: Report from Finance, Audit, Insurance, and Real Property Committee

Presented by: Committee Chair Smith

Committee Chair Smith announced that the Committee will hear one Other Matters item:

- Report on list of certified assessed valuations for the fiscal year 2023/24 and tabulation of assessed valuations, percentage participation, and vote entitlement of member agencies as of August 15, 2023

The committee will hear one action item:

- Adopt Resolution establishing the Ad Valorem tax rate for the fiscal year 2023/24

The committee will hear one information item:

- Phase 1 Draft Long-Range Finance Plan

The committee will hear four committee items:

- Quarterly Financial Report
- Quarterly Investment Activities Report
- Staff Analysis of Reserves
- Discussion of Department Head Performance and Goal Setting [Public employees' performance evaluations – General Auditor in closed session]

Lastly, the Committee will hear the management reports:

- Chief Financial Officer's Report
- General Auditor's Report
- Real Property Group Manager's Report

- k. Subject: Report from Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and Communications Committee

Presented by: Committee Chair Jung

Committee Chair Jung announced that the Committee will hear one Subcommittee report:

- Report from Subcommittee on Public Affairs Engagement

The Committee will hear three committee items:

- Update on Water Conservation Outreach, Advertising and Messaging
- Reports on activities from Washington D.C.
- Report on activities from Sacramento

Lastly, the Committee will hear one management report:

- External Affairs Management Report

I. Subject: Report from One Water and Stewardship Committee

Presented by: Committee Vice Chair Faessel

Committee Vice Chair Faessel announced that the Committee consider two consent items and one action item:

- Authorize amendments to the Cyclic Cost-Offset Program terms
- Authorize implementation of a tree rebate modification to the Turf Replacement Program
- Review and consider the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency's approved amended Mitigated Negative Declaration, authorize up to \$80 million for additional project costs and authorize the General Manager to amend the term of the High Desert Water Bank Program agreement with the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency

The Committee will consider the following three committee items:

- Introduction of new Delta Stewardship Council member: Maria Mehranian
- State Water Contractors: Purpose and Benefits (Jennifer Pierre General Manager)
- Update on Conservation

Lastly, the Committee will hear four management reports:

- Colorado River Management Manager's report
- Bay-Delta Manager's report
- Water Resource Management Manager's report
- Chief Sustainability Resiliency and Innovation Officer's report

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting for June 27, 2023.

Chair Ortega asked Directors if there were any additions, corrections, or omissions on the minutes of the June 27, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting. None were made.

B. Approve draft Committee and board meeting agendas, and schedule for August 2023.

Chair Ortega announced an item will be added to the Board Agenda to confirm the appointment of the Board Executive Secretary effective August 6, 2023, Rickita Hudson.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

None

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Items 3A and 3B.

Director Erdman made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho to approve the consent calendar Items 3A and 3B as listed.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Camacho, Cordero, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Jung, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Smith, and Sutley

Abstention: None

Recusal: Camacho (3B)*

Absent: Gray, Luna, Quinn, and Ramos

The motion for Item 3A passed by a vote of 12 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 4 absent.

*The motion for Item 3B passed by a vote of 11 ayes; 0 noes; 1 abstention; and 4 absent. Vice Chair Camacho recused himself from Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee item 7-1 on the draft August Agenda packet due to his company teaming with Jacobs Engineering and is the program manager for Los Angeles Community College District.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**5. OTHER COMMITTEE ITEMS – ACTION**

None

6. COMMITTEE INFORMATION ITEMS

None

7. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Adán Ortega, Jr.
Chair of the Board