

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

October 13, 2025

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

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Crawford, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel (teleconference posted location), Fong-Sakai, Jay, Lewitt, McMillan (teleconference posted location), Miller, Petersen (entered after roll call), and Seckel.

Members absent: Director Luna

Other board members present: Chair Ortega, Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Denham, Gray, Katz, Kurtz, and Shepherd Romey

Committee staff present: Bednarski, Chapman, Chaudhuri, Eckstrom, Hattar, Hudson, Linn, Nobriga, Parsons, Rubin, and Upadhyay

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

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for September 8, 2025.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS ACTION

7-1 Subject: Amend the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2024/25 and 2025/26 to include invasive mussel mitigation and control at Metropolitan facilities; and authorize an increase of \$500,000 in the operating equipment budget for the current biennium to purchase equipment to control the growth of invasive mussels; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Motion:

- a. Amend the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal years 2024/25 and 2025/26 to include invasive mussel mitigation and control at Metropolitan facilities; and
- b. Authorize an increase of \$500,000 in the operation and maintenance budget for fiscal year 2025/26 to purchase operating equipment to control the growth of invasive mussels.

7-9 Subject: Award a \$6,412,126 contract to Houalla Enterprises Ltd. DBA Metro Builders & Engineers Group Ltd. To rehabilitate and improve a chemical feed facility at the Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Motion: Award a \$6,412,126 construction contract to Houalla Enterprises Ltd. DBA Metro Builders & Engineers Group Ltd. to rehabilitate and improve a chemical feed facility at the Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions

1. Seckel

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

No presentations were given, Director Seckel made a motion, seconded by Director Faessel, to approve the consent calendar consisting of item 2A, and items 7-1 and 7-9.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Crawford, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Jay, Lewitt, Miller, and Seckel.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Luna and Petersen

The motion for Items 2A, 7-1 and 7-9 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 2 absent.

8-1 Subject: Appropriate an additional \$30 million for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26, increasing the biennial CIP appropriation to \$666.48 million; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Francisco Becerra, Section Manager, Engineering Services

Motion: Appropriate an additional \$30 million for projects identified in the Capital Investment Plan for Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26, increasing the biennial CIP appropriation to \$666.48 million.

Director Petersen entered the meeting.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions

1. Petersen
2. Ortega
3. Erdman
4. Denham
5. Fong-Sakai
6. Miller
7. Seckel
8. Alvarez
9. Dennstedt
10. Jay

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

Director Fong-Sakai made a motion, seconded by Director Miller, to postpone the item for one month.

Director Alvarez made a substitute motion, seconded by Director Seckel, to approve item 8-1, option 1.

The vote on the substitute motion was:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Crawford, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Jay, Lewitt, McMillan, Petersen, and Seckel.

Noes: Directors Fong-Sakai and Miller

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Luna

The substitute motion for Item 8-1 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 2 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

No vote was taken on the motion to postpone as the substitute motion passed.

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

NONE

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

NONE

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

NONE

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

- a. Subject: Pure Water Southern California Quarterly Update
- Presented by: Gloria Lai Bluml, Acting Program Manager, Pure Water Southern California; and Matt Hacker, Senior Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Ms. Lai-Bluml reported on the following:

- Environmental Planning
- Direct Potable Reuse Planning
- Technical Studies

Mr. Hacker reported on the following:

- Member Agency/Program Partner Collaboration
- Next Steps

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Seckel
2. Alvarez
3. Miller
4. Ortega
5. Lewitt
6. Petersen

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Item 6c was presented before 6b.

c. Subject: Colorado River Aqueduct High Voltage Transmission System
Update on Affected System Study and Mitigation Agreements

Presented by: John Jontry, Section Manager, Power Operations and Planning

Mr. Jontry reported on the following:

- Follow-up to EO&T from May 12, 2025
- Metropolitan has received multiple requests from third-party generation developers for affected system studies
- Affected system studies identify potential impacts to Metropolitan's transmission & water operations
- Critical to meeting regulatory obligations & protecting Metropolitan's energy & water operations
- Need for Bridge Agreements
- Future Board Actions

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Fong-Sakai
2. Seckel
3. Petersen

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Item 7a was presented next.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: Engineering Services, Information Technology, and Water System Operations Activities
Presented by: John Bednarski, Assistant General Manager, Water Resources and Technical Resources
 Shane Chapman, Assistant General Manager, Operations

Mr. Bednarski reported on the following:

- Engineering, Operations & Technology Annual Field Inspection Trip Wednesday, Oct. 29 & Thurs. Oct. 30, 2025
- Bidding Trends – including Union vs. Non-Union and SBE vs. Non-SBE Bidding Trends

Mr. Chapman reported on the following:

- Managing State Water Project Supplies
- Excellence Through Collaboration – DWR & MWD Edmonston Pumping Plant Tour

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Fong-Sakai
2. Chair Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

Item 6b was presented last.

- b. Treatment Plant Utilization and Capital Improvement Plan Strategy
Tae Yun, Section Manager, Water Operations and Planning and
Steven Burkhead, Team Manager, Program Management

Mr. Yun reported on the following:

- Background Treatment Plant Utilization & CIP Strategy
- Water Treatment Capacities and Historical Flows
- Regional Reliability Benefit

Mr. Burkhead reported on the following:

- Treatment Plant CIP Strategy

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions.

1. Lewitt
2. Chair Ortega
3. Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Erdman would like a follow-up briefing regarding reported Chinese intrusion into utilities' systems with Mr. Eckstrom in closed session.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on November 17, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Dennis Erdman
Chair