

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**August 22, 2023**

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 12:15 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 Camacho to introduce guest Member Agency Manager Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager at Inland Empire Utilities Agency.

Director Camacho and Mr. Deshmukh made brief remarks.

Chair Ortega thanked Mr. Deshmukh for joining the Executive Committee and welcomed him 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), Luna, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Gray and Sutley.

Other Board members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Dennstedt, Dick, Douglas, Fellow, Garza, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location), Morris, Peterson (teleconference posted location), and Seckel

Committee staff present: Andrus, Hagekhalil, Hudson, Kuo, Salinas, Scully, Suzuki, Upadhyay, Tucker, Wheeler, Zinke.

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

Name	Affiliation	Item
1. Darcy Burke	Elsinore Water District	EIA Panel

Chair Ortega made brief remarks to the public speaker.

## 2. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

a. Subject: Chair's Report

Presented by: Chair Ortega

Chair Ortega announced that if the Chair of a committee is not available to preside over the meeting in person, the Vice Chair will chair the meeting. If the Chair and Vice Chair are unavailable, the Board Vice Chair will chair the meeting.

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

Presented by: General Manager Adel Hagekhalil

General Manager Hagekhalil reported on the following:

- Metropolitan response to Hurricane Hilary
- Proposal to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation submission
- Revised General Manager Business Plan
- Human Resources and Equal Opportunity of Employment collaboration on integrating diversity in Metropolitan hiring and promotion
- Metropolitan efforts to promote and gain public trust in public water supplies
- Human Resources Group Manager hiring
- Metropolitan Zero Emission Vehicle
- MetDay in Moreno Valley

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

Presented by: General Counsel Marcia Scully

General Counsel Scully reported on the per-polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS/PFOA) substances litigation.

Chair Ortega made brief remarks.

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

Presented by: General Auditor Scott Suzuki

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

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

Ethics Officer Salinas reported in the fall at the Ethics, Organization, and Personnel Committee that a review of the ethics policy and regular ethics training will be scheduled.

Chair Ortega called on Committee Chairs that will have meetings in September.

- 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 three consent items:

- Award a \$3,895,000 contract to Miller Pipeline to furnish and install internal seals along Freda Siphon Barrel No.1 on the Colorado River Aqueduct
- Authorize an agreement with J.F. Shea Construction Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$9.8 million for Phase 1 design-build services for the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations project; and authorize an increase of \$1.5 million to an existing agreement with Carollo Engineers Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$2.49 million to serve as the owner's advisor through the Phase 1 design-build agreement; and authorize an amendment to Metropolitan's Project Labor Agreement to include the Sepulveda Feeder Pumps Project to the list of covered projects
- Authorize an agreement with General Networks Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$6,609,900 for the implementation of a cloud-based Enterprise Content Management System

The Committee will consider one action item:

- a \$12,831,977 contract to James W. Fowler to construct an intertie between Inland Feeder and Rialto Pipeline as part of the water supply reliability improvements in Rialto Pipeline service area)

The Committee will consider the following four committee items:

- Information Technology Portfolio Management Update
- Shutdown Planning at Metropolitan
- Center for Smart Infrastructure
- Capital Investment Plan Quarterly Report for Period Ending June 2023

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

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

Lastly, we will have a subcommittee report:

- Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance

j. Subject: Report from Legal and Claims Committee

Presented by: Committee Vice Chair Garza

Committee Vice Chair Garza announced that the Committee will hear a report on the General Counsel's monthly activities; and

- In closed session, the Committee will hear an action item on Baker Electric, Inc. v. Metropolitan, et al., regarding Metropolitan's CRA 6.9 kV Power Cables Replacement Project, Contract No. 1915; and will consider authorizing:
  - 1) the filing of cross-complaints;
  - 2) an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP, for legal services by an amount to be determined; and
  - 3) an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Exponent, Inc., for consulting services by \$200,000 to an amount not-to-exceed \$600,000

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

Presented by: Board Executive Secretary Hudson

Board Executive Secretary Hudson announced that the Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee will not meet in September.

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:

- Adopt resolutions designating Metropolitan's maximum contribution for medical benefits for Active Employees and Retirees in order to comply with the current authorized Memoranda of Understanding

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 one consent item and one action item:

- Authorize the General Manager to execute a second amendment to extend the office lease located in Washington D.C. an additional ninety months with an option to extend another thirty-six months
- Authorize three new agricultural lease agreements with Joey DeConinck Farms, Nish Noroian Farms, and Red River Farms, thereby allowing these existing lessees to continue farming on Metropolitan's fee-owned properties in the Palo Verde Valley

The committee will hear two committee items:

- Mid-Cycle Budget Review
- Added item: Review Draft FY 2023/24 Long-Range Finance Plan Needs Assessment

The Committee will hear the management reports:

- Chief Financial Officer's Report
- General Auditor's Report

Lastly, the committee will hear four Subcommittee reports:

- Report from Subcommittee on Audits
- Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Audits
- Report from Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling
- Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling

- 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 four committee items:

- Federal and State Regulatory Matrices Report
- Vista del Lago Water Center Upgrades
- 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 Chair Quinn

Committee Chair Quinn announced that the Committee one consent and two action items:

- Review and consider the Eastern Municipal Water District's certified Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum, and take related CEQA actions; Authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Eastern Municipal Water District for the French Valley Recycled Water Distribution System Project for up to 140 acre-feet per year of recycled water for irrigation use in the Eastern Municipal Water District's service area
- Authorize payments, by a two-thirds vote, of up to \$4.16 million for participation in the State Water Contractors for FY 2023/24
- Review and consider Addenda Nos. 1, 2, and 3 to the Mitigated Negative Declaration previously adopted by the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency for the High Desert Water Bank; approve changes to the design, construction and operation of Water Bank facilities; authorize up to \$80 million for additional costs associated with these changes; and approve deliveries of State Water Project supplies to the Water Bank this year

The Committee will consider the following three committee items:

- Update on Conservation Budget and Expenditure
- Information on Round 3 Future Supply Action Funding Program
- Update on Conservation

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

Lastly, we will hear two subcommittee reports:

- Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Bay-Delta
- Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities

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

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

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting for July 25, 2023.

Chair Ortega asked Directors if there were any additions, corrections, or omissions on the minutes of the July 25, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting. None were made.

Chair Ortega announced an item will be added to the September Board Agenda, “Resolution for Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 8 Board Member nominating Director John Morris.”

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

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

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

The vote was:

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

Abstention: None

Recusal:

Absent: Gray and Sutley

The motion for Item 3A and 3B passed by a vote of 14 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 2 absent.

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**



## 5. COMMITTEE INFORMATION ITEMS

Subject: Colorado River Board Meeting Report

Presented by: Director Cordero

Director Cordero reported on the following:

- Acknowledged the groundwork Director Peterson has done on the Colorado River Board
- The upcoming negotiations on the Colorado River Board
- The Colorado River Board meetings locations at the service areas
- Colorado River Board guest speaker Becky Mitchell, Colorado State Commissioner
- The next monthly meeting is scheduled in Blythe
- Attended the Post Federal State Group Kickoff Meeting with tribal leaders
- Goal of the Colorado Post Federal State Group Kickoff Meeting

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

Director(s)

1. Kurtz

Director Cordero and Staff responded to the Director(s)' comments or questions.

## 6. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Chair Ortega announced a survey will come from Board Executive Officer, Margie Wheeler regarding availability on December 5, 2023, to attend a Special Board meeting to be held at Gene Camp facility in Lake Havasu and details on the survey and meeting.

## 7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Adán Ortega, Jr.  
Chair of the Board