

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**SPECIAL LEGAL AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE**

**June 23, 2025**

Chair Luna called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

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

Members absent: Directors Crawford, Douglas, and Katz

Other Board Members present: Directors, Armstrong, Bryant, Dennstedt (teleconference posted location), Erdman (teleconference posted location), Faessel, Fellow (teleconference posted location), Fong-Sakai (teleconference posted location), Jay, Lewitt, McCoy, Ortega, Seckel, and Shepherd Romey.

Committee Staff present: Beatty, Gaxiola, Rubin, Scully, and Upadhyay.

Director Camacho left the meeting.

**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 reported on a settlement reached with the California Civil Rights Department.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

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

- A.           Subject:           Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee for April 8, 2025.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

Director Dick made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz, to approve item 3A.

The vote was:

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

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

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

The agenda was reordered to take Item 7a first.

**7. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- 7a.           Subject:           Update on the Settlement of the SDCWA v. Metropolitan litigation  
              Presented by:     Deven Upadhyay, General Manager

Mr. Upadhyay provided an overview of the settlement.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1.     Ortega
2.     Dick
3.     Kurtz
4.     Miller
5.     Luna

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

Chair Luna called the meeting into closed session.

## 5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

- 8-2**            Subject            Report on litigation in Alicia Lorentzen v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 23STCV19214, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP in the amount of \$175,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$600,000; report on litigation in Dane Crawford v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Riverside County Superior Court Case No. CVPS2304015, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of \$375,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$900,000; and report on legal claim alleging equal employment opportunity violations, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in the amount of \$200,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$550,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are 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); and conference with legal counsel – anticipated litigation, based on existing facts and circumstances of receipt of a legal claim threatening litigation, there is significant exposure to litigation against Metropolitan: one potential case, to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)]
- Presented by:            Marcia Scully, General Counsel
- Motion:                 Authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP in Alicia Lorentzen v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in the amount of \$175,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$600,000; authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP in Dane Crawford v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in the amount of \$375,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$900,000; and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP relating to a legal claim alleging equal employment opportunity violations in the amount of \$200,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$550,000

Chair Luna reported there was no action taken in closed session.

In open session, Director Kurtz made a motion, seconded by Director Dick to approve the contract increases as listed in the agenda.

The vote was:

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

The motion for Item 8-2 passed by a vote of 7 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

Resume closed session.

## **7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (CONTINUED)**

7b.	Subject:	Discussion of Department Head Performance and Goal Setting [Public employee performance evaluation – General Counsel; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957]
	Presented by:	Eleanor Allen, Catapult for Change

In closed session, the committee discussed the item with the General Counsel. No action was taken.

## **6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

## **8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Next meeting will be held on July 8, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Miguel Luna  
Chair