

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**LEGAL AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE**

**January 13, 2026**

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

Members present: Directors Crawford, De Jesus, Douglas, Kurtz, McMillan (teleconference posted location), Miller, and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: Directors Camacho, Kassakhian, Katz, and Ramos.

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Bryant, Cordero, Crane, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel (teleconference posted location), Fellow, Fong-Sakai, McCoy, Ortega, Paule, Pressman (teleconference posted location), Seckel, and Sutley.

Committee Staff present: Boucher, Deshmukh, Hudson, Rubin, and Scully.

**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 provided an update on the deferral of Item 7-2.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

### **3. COMMITTEE ACTION**

A.      Subject:      Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee for November 17, 2025.

Director Miller made a motion, seconded by Director Shepherd Romey, to approve item 3A.

The vote was:

Ayes:      Directors Crawford, De Jesus, Douglas, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, and Shepherd Romey  
Noes:      None  
Abstentions:      None  
Absent:      Director Camacho, Kassakhian, Katz, and Ramos

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

### **4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

**7-2**      Subject      Amend the Metropolitan 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

Item 7-2 was deferred.

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

Chair Ortega called the meeting into closed session.

### **5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

**8-4**      Subject      Authorize filing a cross-complaint in Fakhoury v. City of Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVRS 2509398; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel—existing litigation and initiating litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) and 54956.9(d)(4)]  
Presented by:      Bryan Otake, Sr. Deputy General Counsel

Chair Ortega reported there was no reportable action taken in closed session.

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)**

None

**7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)**

None

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Adán Ortega  
Chair of the Board