

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SPECIAL LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

November 19, 2024

Vice Chair Kassakhian called the meeting to order at 12:41 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman (entered after rollcall, AB2449 “Just Cause”), Dennstedt, Jung (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Lewitt, Luna, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, Ramos (entered after rollcall, teleconference posted location), and Smith

Members absent: Directors Fellow, Garza, Gray, and Phan

Other Board Members present: Directors Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, Dick, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, McCoy, Miller, Ortega and Quinn

Director Ackerman indicated she is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding medical procedure. Director Ackerman appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee Staff present: Novoa, Stites, Sims, and Upadhyay

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

No member of the public in person or online.

Director Ackerman, Jung, and Ramos entered the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-6 Subject: Authorize the General Manager to seek legislation for metropolitan to increase the local agency dollar threshold for public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$75,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: John Vrasalovich, Unit Manager – Engineering Services

Motion: Amended motion to authorize the General Manager to sponsor legislation for Metropolitan to increase the minimum threshold for competitive bidding on public works construction contracts from \$25,000 to \$150,000, and to seek the inclusion of an inflation escalator.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1) Camacho
- 2) Morris
- 3) Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

Director Ackerman using AB 2449 just cause, did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

Amended motion by Director Luna, seconded by Director Lewitt to approve the consent calendar item 7-6.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Kassakhian, Lewitt, Luna, McMillan, Morris, Ramos, and Smith

Noes: Director Jung

Abstentions: Director Pressman

Absent: Directors Fellow, Garza, Gray, and Phan

The motion for item 7-6 passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 1 noes, 1 abstain, and 4 absent

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee held October 7, 2024.

Director Ackerman, using AB 2449 just cause, did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Kassakhian to approve items 2A.

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Dennstedt, Jung, Kassakhian, Lewitt, Luna, McMillan, Morris, Pressman, Ramos, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Fellow, Garza, Gray, and Phan

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 4 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION

None

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9-3 Subject: Legislative Priorities and Principles 2025

Presented by: Christine Frey, Team Manager – Legislative Services

Ms. Frey provided an update on the annual review of staff recommended updates to the Legislative Priorities and Principles.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Report on Inspection Trip Program

Presented by: Rupam Soni, Section Manager - Member Services and Public Outreach

Ms. Soni provided an update on the inspection trip program and discussed the status of the program for 2024-2025.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

1.) Luna

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- b. Subject: Report on Solar Cup Program

Presented by: Sue Sims, Group Manager – External Affairs

Ms. Sims provided an update on the Solar Cup Program, program elements and resources, budget reductions for external affairs, primary activities, workload and looking forward.

The following Directors provided a comment or asked a question:

- 1.) McMillan
- 2.) Dick
- 3.) Camacho

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

- c. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

No Presentation – The Federal Tracking Matrix is Available Online.

- d. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

No Presentation – The State Tracking Matrix is Available Online.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Subject: External Affairs activities

Presented by: Sue Sims, Group Manager – External Affairs

Ms. Sims provided an update on the Goodbye Grass advertising campaign to promote turf and tree rebates and aired two radio ads, and the Education Team's visit to Eagle Mountain School, and GIS tracking of Community Partnering Program sponsorships.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:31p.m.

Chair Jung