

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

October 25, 2022

Chair Ramos called the teleconference meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Chair Ramos, Directors Ackerman, Blois, Dennstedt, Jung, Kurtz, McCoy, Record and Smith.

Members absent: Director Hawkins

Other Board Members present: Directors Abdo, Atwater, De Jesus, Dick, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Gray, Lefevre, Miller, Morris, Peterson, and Pressman.

Committee Staff present: Beatty, Hagekhalil, Rodriguez, Salinas, Scully, Shope, Tonsick and Von Haam.

**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 Audit and Ethics Committee held September 27, 2022.

Director Dennstedt made a motion, seconded by Director McCoy to approve the consent calendar item 2A.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Blois, Dennstedt, Jung, Kurtz, McCoy, Ramos, Record, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Hawkins

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 1 absent.

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

None

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

### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

### **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Chair Ramos announced item 6a would be heard after 6b.

- b.        Subject:            General Auditor Recruitment Update. [Evaluation of the performance of the candidates for the position of General Auditor may be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code § 54957 (b) (1)]

Presented by:        Diane Pitman, Group Manager - Human Resources

This item was heard in closed session. No action was taken in closed session.

- a.        Subject:            Discussion on revising process for EEO investigations of Directors and Department Heads

Presented by:        Abel Salinas, Ethics Officer  
Peter Von Haam, Assistant Ethics Officer  
Jonaura Wisdom, Chief EEO Officer

Mr. Salinas introduced the presenters, Peter Von Haam and Jonaura Wisdom. Mr. Von Haam presented an overview of revising process for EEO investigations of Directors and Department Heads. Ms. Wisdom provided feedback on the process moving forward.

The following Directors asked questions or provided comments:

1. Morris
2. Ramos
3. Kurtz
4. Pressman
5. Smith
6. Peterson
7. Record
8. Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to Directors' comments or questions.

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a.           Subject:       Interim General Auditor's report

Presented by: John Tonsick, Interim General Auditor

Mr. Tonsick had nothing to add to his report.

- b.           Subject:       Ethics Officer's report

Presented by: Abel Salinas, Ethics Officer

Mr. Salinas reported that since August, the Ethics Office has not initiated any new investigations. The Ethics Office currently has one pending investigation, expected to be completed within the next few weeks. Mr. Salinas reported that the Ethics Office executed contracts with two consultants.

- The first contract is with Ellis Investigations Law Corporation to conduct as-needed investigations.
- The second contract is with Shaw Law Group for advice on policy and legal matters.

Mr. Salinas also provided that the Ethics Office staff held six live, one-hour webinars on Retaliation in September and October. To date, over 1400 employees have taken the training and expect all employees will have taken the training within the next few weeks.

As a reminder, Mr. Salinas also announced that the Ethics Office is providing a live AB1234 state ethics training session at the November Board meeting.

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Marsha Ramos  
Chair