

# **THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

## **MINUTES**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**March 28, 2023**

Chair Ortega called the hybrid teleconference and in-person meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Camacho, Cordero, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Gray, McCoy, Ortega, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Repenning, and Smith.

Members absent: Director, Jung, Luna, and Sutley.

Other Board members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Atwater, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Fellow, Garza, Kassakhian, Kurtz, Lefevre, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Peterson, and Seckel.

Committee staff present: Beatty, Chapman, Hagekhalil, Hudson, Kasaine, Salinas, Scully, Suzuki, Upadhyay, and Zinke.

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

No members responded.

#### **2. VOICES OF MET (SPOTLIGHT ON ADVANCING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION – EMPLOYEE PERSPECTIVES)**

Chair Ortega called on Rachel Irwin, Associate Engineer, Engineering Services Group and Vice President of the Society of Women Engineers, to present the item.

#### **3. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS**

a. Subject: Chair's Report

Presented by: Chair Adán Ortega

Chair Ortega reported on the following:

- Extended thank you to Vice Chair Repenning for representing Metropolitan with General Manager Hagekhalil highlighting refilling Diamond Valley Lake. Complimented the General Manager, Assistant General Manager Dee Zinke, and the External Affairs Team.

- Thanked the Directors that attended the Legislative Sacramento Day in March 2023 and External Affairs Team that helped facilitate the event
- Lastly, thanked the leadership team of Eastern and Western Municipal Water District, along with Director Dennstedt, for the reception and the following meetings with leadership

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

Presented by: General Manager Adel Hagekhalil

General Manager Hagekhalil reported on the following:

- State Water Project allocation at seventy-five percent
- Update on the Diamond Valley Lake refill
- Efforts staff working on refilling storage; and discussed video on the refilling efforts
- Update on the lift of the mandate for drought and conservation efforts
- Lastly, Metropolitan labor force will be celebrating Cesar Chavez Day on March 31, 2023

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

Presented by: General Counsel Marcia L. Scully

General Counsel Scully reported on the following:

- Reported that Former General Counsel Greg Taylor passed away and gave a brief history of the legacy of Mr. Taylor. Service information will be distributed to staff and the board on a future date.
- Update on the Navajo Nation v. U.S. Department of the Interior litigation case

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

Presented by: General Auditor Scott Suzuki

Nothing to add to his report.

e. Subject: Ethics Officer's report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by: Ethics Officer Abel Salinas

A reminder that Form 700 is due April 3, 2023.

Chair Ortega announced that the Legal and Claims Committee will not meet in March.

f. Subject: Report from Engineering, Operations, and Technology

Presented by: Committee Chair Erdman

Committee Chair Erdman announced that the Committee will consider the following six consent items:

- Award an \$8,656,568 contract to Granite Construction Company for construction of structural protection measures at 24 cut-and-cover conduit locations along the Colorado River Aqueduct; authorize agreements with (1) Environmental Science Associates in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 for biological surveys and environmental monitoring, and (2) Deto, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$325,000 for compensatory environmental mitigation credits.
- Award a \$6,174,000 contract to West Valley Investment Group for seismic upgrades to the Foothill Control Building.
- Authorize an agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$900,000 for a detailed seismic analysis of the Lake Skinner outlet tower; and award a \$1,174,475 procurement contract to B&K Valves and Equipment, Inc. for the replacement of two valves at the Lake Skinner outlet tower.
- The subject has been updated on the following letter:  
Authorize an increase of \$475,000 to an agreement with Brown & Caldwell, for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$715,000, to investigate potential modifications to Metropolitan's existing East-West conveyance and distribution system.
- Authorize an increase of \$5.4 million to an existing agreement with Arcadis U.S., Inc., for a new not-to-exceed total amount of \$6.35 million, for engineering design services to rehabilitate Garvey Reservoir.
- Authorize an agreement with Canary Systems California, LLC, for an amount not-to-exceed \$1.95 million to upgrade the data acquisition systems at Diamond Valley Lake and Garvey Reservoir.
- Also, note that the following item has been withdrawn from the April draft agenda:  
Award a procurement contract for three large-diameter butterfly valves to be installed at Foothill Pump Station Intertie as part of water supply reliability improvements in the Rialto Pipeline service area.
-

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

Presented by: Committee Chair McCoy

Committee Chair McCoy announced that the Committee will hear one Committee item:

- Business Outreach Update

Lastly, the Committee will hear the management report:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager's Report

- 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 two consent items:

- Equal Employment Opportunity Statistical Report

The following item has been added to the April Agenda:

- Discuss Department Head Evaluation Process

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 will hear seven action items:

- Approve and authorize the distribution of Appendix A for use in the issuance and remarketing of Metropolitan's Bonds
- Adopt resolutions fixing and adopting a Readiness-to-Serve Charge and a Capacity Charge for calendar year 2024
- Review and consider the Lead Agency's adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum and take related CEQA actions, and adopt resolution for 112th Fringe Area Annexation to Eastern Municipal Water District and Metropolitan

- Approve the award of a four-year contract for external audit services with Macias Gini O'Connell, LLP, for the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,600,090, subject has been updated
- Approve proposed amendment to Administrative Code section 6450 regarding individual Board of Director requests for audit assignments
- Authorize a credit to Western Municipal Water District for treatment surcharge costs incurred due to the unexpected extension of a Metropolitan shutdown
- Authorize the General Manager to develop a Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water

The Committee will hear three Committee items:

- Encroachment Update
- Report from Subcommittee on Audits
- Report from Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling

Lastly, the Committee will hear the management reports:

- Chief Financial Officer's Report
- General Auditor's Report
- Real Property Group Manager's Report

- k. Subject: Report from Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and Communications Committee

Presented by: Dee Zinke, Assistant General Manager, External Affairs

Assistant General Manager Zinke announced that the Committee we will consider two action items:

- Authorize the General Manager to co-sponsor AB 1572 (Friedman) Potable Water: Non-Functional Turf
- Adopt Policy Principles for Modernization of Water Rights Administration in California to Enhance Enforcement and Protect Supply Reliability

The Committee will hear the three standard Committee items, including:

- Reports on activities from Washington D.C.
- Report on activities from Sacramento
- External Affairs Management Report

- I. Subject: Report from One Water and Stewardship Committee  
Presented by: Committee Chair Quinn

Committee Chair Quinn the Committee will consider the following three consent items:

- Approve creating the Subcommittee on Bay-Delta and establish a two-year term
- Authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Western Municipal Water District, Rubidoux Community Services District, West Valley Water District, and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District to provide Rubidoux Community Services District assistance with water deliveries
- Consider changes to the Water Shortage Emergency Condition and the Emergency Water Conservation Program for the State Water Project dependent area and reaffirm the Regional Drought Emergency for all member agencies

The Committee will consider one Information item:

- Information on the High Desert Water Bank Program status, updated costs, and water quality

Committee will consider the following four Committee items:

- Proposed Grant Opportunity for Webb Tract
- Update on Watershed Initiatives
- Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management and Water

Shortage Emergency Condition Power Operations and Planning Update

- Update on Conservation

Lastly, three management reports:

- Colorado River Management Manager's report
- Bay-Delta Manager's report
- Water Resource Management Manager's report

### **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

#### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting for February 28, 2023.

Chair Ortega asked Directors if there were any comments or discussion on the minutes of February 28, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting. None were made.

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

Chair Ortega asked Directors if there were any comments, additions, or corrections to the April 2023 draft packet.

Committee Chair Erdman reported that at the April 10, 2023, Engineering, Operations, and Technology he would like to amend his earlier report to include the Infrastructure Resilience Update, Jensen Operating Capacity Analysis, Update on Jensen Reliability Projects, in closed session, Quarterly Cybersecurity Update, Report from Subcommittee on Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance and three management report(s): Water System Operations Manager's report; Engineering Services Manager's report; Information Technology Manager's report.

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

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

The vote was:

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

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Jung, Luna, and Sutley

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

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

None

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

## **6. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

## **7. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

- a. Discussion of Committee and Board meeting schedule.

Chair Ortega reported that the schedule changes aim to start the meetings on time to ensure the public is not waiting on the legislative body. Moving forward, meetings will be scheduled for two hours for a robust discussion. Chair Ortega opened the discussion for recommendations and comments.

### Director(s)

1. Fellow
2. Armstrong
3. Repenning
4. Ackerman
5. Pressman
6. Peterson

Chair Ortega announced that the Committee would review the schedule quarterly for further feedback.



- b. Discussion of proposed clarification of Administrative Code Provisions relating Board Vice Chairs and Committees.

Chair Ortega called on Marcia Scully, General Counsel to present the item.

Director(s)

1. Ramos
2. Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

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

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Director Morris made closing remarks in honor of Former Metropolitan General Counsel Greg Taylor, who passed away.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m., in honor of Greg Taylor, Former Metropolitan General Counsel.

Adán Ortega, Jr.  
Chair of the Board