

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**January 9, 2024**

**53478** The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 09, 2024.

Chair Ortega called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m.

Director Armstrong is using AB 2449 just cause due to a contagious illness that prevents him from attending in person. Director Armstrong appeared by audio and video.

**53479** The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Vice Chair of the Board S. Gail Goldberg, San Diego County Water Authority.

**53480** The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Tana McCoy, City of Compton.

**53481** Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong (AB 2449), Bryant, Camacho, Chacon, Cordero, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Douglas, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Goldberg, Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kassakhian, Kurtz, Lefevre (teleconference posted location available for the public), Luna, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Petersen, Peterson, Phan, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos (teleconference posted location available for the public), Seckel, and Smith.

Director Armstrong announced during the roll that no one was in the room with him 18 years of age or older.

Those not responding were: Director Sutley.

Directors entered the meeting after the roll call: Director Gray (teleconference posted location available for the public).

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Chair Ortega called on Director Phan to introduce the guest Member Agency Manager Cesar Barrera, Deputy Public Works Director and Water Resource Manager for the City of Santa Ana. Director Phan and Mr. Barrera made remarks.

Chair Ortega welcomed Mr. Barrera for joining the board and encouraged him to comment on matters important to the City of Santa Ana.

Director Gray entered the meeting.

**53482** Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction (in-person and via teleconference).

	Name	Affiliation	Comment
1.	Darcy Burke	Elsinore Valley Municipal Valley Water District	Heather Collins, President of AWWA

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

**53483** Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of December, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. Director Kurtz noted for the record that she did not attend the Colorado River Water Users Association 2023 Annual Conference, but she did attend the Palo Verde Property Management Committee meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**53484** Chair Ortega referred to the Chair's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, January marked the one-year anniversary as Chair of the Board. At the upcoming Executive Committee, the Chair will be making recommendations to the Administrative Code, including committee restructuring and ethics complaints. Two three-hour budget workshops will be scheduled in February, and a CAMP4W training workshop will be held on February 5, 2024. The Chair will be making recommendations on the Committee meeting structure. Lastly, the Chair and General Manager have extended invitations to the Member Agencies to discuss the issues affecting the agencies.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any questions regarding his report.

**53485** General Manager Hagekhalil referred to the General Manager's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, General Manager Hagekhalil reported that 2024 will be a transformative year and provided an update on the snow survey. At CRWUA there was a discussion on the groundwork of the agreements regarding the Colorado River. There was an update on the state water board testimony and a CAMP4W listening session. Congratulations to Heather Collins on becoming president of AWWA.

**53486** Assistant General Counsel Beatty referred to the General Counsel's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, Senior Deputy General Counsel Schlotterbeck provided an update on the three consolidated appeals regarding State Water Project contract amendments.

Director Faessel left the meeting.

Director Gray left the meeting.

**53487** General Auditor Suzuki stated he had nothing to add to the written report.

**53488** Ethics Officer Salinas referred to the Ethics Officer's monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. In addition, the annual statement of economic interest filing season has begun until April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**53489** Report on list of certified assessed valuations for fiscal year 2023/24 and tabulation of assessed valuations, percentage participation, and vote entitlement of member agencies as of August 15, 2023.

Chair Ortega announced the report was heard at today's Finance, Audit, Insurance, and Real Property Committee meeting. Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any questions on the item. None were made.

**53490** Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any comments or discussions on the Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting for November 14, 2023, and Minutes of the Special Board of Directors Meeting for December 5, 2023. (Copies have been submitted to each Director any additions, corrections, or omissions) (Agenda Item 7A). No amendments were made.

**53491** Approval of Committee Assignments (Agenda Item 7B).

Ad Hoc on Bay-Delta Negotiations. Director McMillan, Chair; Director Ackerman, Vice Chair; Director Lefevre, Luna, McCoy, and Peterson members.

Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling  
Director Faessel was added as a member.

Chair Ortega called on Directors who are requesting any items to be pulled from the Consent Calendar Action Items.

Director Cordero recused herself from Item 7-9, which involves Edison, a company in which she currently receives retirement income and owns stock.

Director Dick recused himself from Item 7-9, which involves Verizon, a company in which he currently owns stock.

Director Erdman recused himself from Item 7-9, which involves Edison, a company in which he currently owns stock.

Director Miller recused himself from Item 7-9, which involves Verizon, a company in which he currently owns stock.

Director Phan recused herself from Item 7-2, which involves J.F. Shea Construction Inc. which is an entity to Shea Homes, a company which is a client of her employer Rutan & Tucker, LLP.

The following Director(s) asked questions or made comments:

Director(s)

1. Camacho

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve Consent Calendar Items 7A, 7B, 7-2 through 7-7 and 7-9 through 7-11 (**M.I. No. 53490 through 53500**). (Items 7-2 through 7-7 and 7-9 through 7-11 as discussed at Committee as shown below).

Agenda Item 7-1 was tabled at Committee until after budget adoption.

**53492** Authorize an increase of \$4,800,000 in change order authority for the contract to upgrade the domestic water treatment systems at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

**53493** a. Authorize an agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$3.425 million for design of security system improvements at three water treatment plants; and b. Authorize an agreement with Brown and Caldwell in an amount not to exceed \$2.26 million for design of security system improvements at one water treatment plant and several hydroelectric plants and pressure control structures, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

**53494** Award a \$549,592.04 procurement contract to Caasi Flow Control for 20 plug valves, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

**53495** Authorize an agreement with Applications Software Technology LLC in an amount not to exceed \$800,000 for the Oracle E-Business Suite Procurement Services Module Implementation, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

**53496** Authorize agreements with: (1) Alvarez, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$1,923,940 to provide professional services and technical support; and (2) Cloudhouse Technologies Limited in an amount not to exceed \$801,900 for licenses for up to a period of three years, to migrate legacy applications to supported Windows servers for the Application Server Upgrade project, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

**53497** Authorize the General Manager to authorize an increase of the contract authority to a not-to-exceed amount of \$8 million for skilled labor services under contract RFP-PR-381410, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-7 board letter.

**53498** Authorize the General Manager to execute 47 license agreements to update the conditions and extend the term of existing secondary use agreements comprising Metropolitan fee-owned parcels in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-9 board letter.

**53499** Review and consider the Final Environmental Impact Report certified by the city of Rancho Cucamonga and authorize the General Manager to grant a permanent easement to the city of Rancho Cucamonga for public road and trail purposes in the city of Rancho Cucamonga and identified Assessor Parcel Numbers 022-512-301; 022-512-302; 022-512-303; 022-512-304, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-10 board letter.

**53500** Adopt the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024 with the revisions by staff and the committee members.

Director Morris moved, seconded by Director Camacho that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 7A, 7B, 7-2 through 7-7, and 7-9 through 7-11 as follows:

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):		7A, 7B, 7-2 through 7-7, and 7-9 through 7-11							
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6038	Faessel							
Beverly Hills	4493	Pressman	x	x	4493				
Burbank	3175	Ramos	x	x	3175				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13073	McMillan	x	x	13073				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	19324	Garza	x	x	9662				
		Chacon	x	x	9662				
			Subtotal:		19324				
Compton	641	McCoy	x	x	641				
Eastern Municipal Water District	12060	Armstrong	x	x	12060				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2409	Bryant	x	x	2409				
Fullerton	2561	Jung	x	x	2561				
Glendale	3985	Kassakhian	x	x	3985				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	16030	Camacho	x	x	16030				
Las Virgenes	3090	Peterson	x	x	3090				
Long Beach	6558	Cordero	x	x	6558				
Los Angeles	80172	Sutley							
		Petersen	x	x	20043				
		Quinn	x	x	20043				
		Luna	x	x	20043				
		Douglas	x	x	20043				
			Subtotal:		80172				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	64634	Ackerman	x	x	16159				
		Seckel	x	x	16159				
		Dick	x	x	16159				
		Erdman	x	x	16159				
			Subtotal:		64634				
Pasadena	3864	Kurtz	x	x	3864				
San Diego County Water Authority	67201	Fong-Sakai	x	x	16800				
		Goldberg	x	x	16800				
		Miller	x	x	16800				
		Smith	x	x	16800				
			Subtotal:		67201				
San Fernando	260	Ortega	x	x	260				
San Marino	800	Morris	x	x	800				
Santa Ana	3431	Phan	x	x	3431				
Santa Monica	4861	Abdo	x	x	4861				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	8634	De Jesus	x	x	8634				
Torrance	3590	Lefevre	x	x	3590				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	13418	Fellow	x	x	13418				
West Basin Municipal Water District	27064	Alvarez	x	x	27064				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		27064				
Western Municipal Water District	14775	Dennstedt	x	x	14775				
<b>Total</b>	<b>386141</b>				<b>380103</b>				
<b>Present and not voting</b>									
<b>Absent</b>	<b>6038</b>								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 7A, 7B, 7-2 through 7-7, and 7-9 through 7-11 (M.I. No. 53490 through 53500)\* passed by a vote of 380,103 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,038 absent.

Director Armstrong, using AB 2449 just cause, appeared on video and did not have anyone over the age of 18 present during the vote.

**\*Note: Individual vote tally for Item 7A**

Director Quinn abstained from minutes. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 7A passed by a vote of 360,060 ayes; 0 noes; 20,043 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,038 absent.

**\*Note: Individual vote tally for Item 7-2**

Director Phan recused herself from Item 7-2, which involves J.F. Shea Construction Inc. which is an entity to Shea Homes, a company which is a client of her employer Rutan & Tucker, LLP. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Item 7-2 passed by a vote of 376,672 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 3,431 not voting; and 6,038 absent.

**\*Note: Individual vote tally for Item 7-3**

Director Quinn abstained on Item 7-3. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 7-3 passed by a vote of 360,060 ayes; 0 noes; 20,043 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,038 absent.

**\*Note: Individual vote tally for Item 7-5**

Director Fong-Sakai voted no on Item 7-5. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 7-5 passed by a vote of 363,303 ayes; 16,800 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,038 absent.

**\*Note: Individual vote tally for Item 7-6**

Directors Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Miller, and Smith voted no on Item 7-6. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 7-6 passed by a vote of 312,902 ayes; 67,201 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,038 absent.

**\*Note: Individual vote tally for Item 7-7**

Director Fong-Sakai voted no on Item 7-7. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 7-7 passed by a vote of 363,303 ayes; 16,800 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,038 absent.

**\*Note: Individual vote tally for Item 7-9**

Directors Cordero, Dick, Erdman, and Miller recused themselves on Item 7-9. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 7-9 passed by a vote of 373,545 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 6,558 not voting; and 6,038 absent.

**53501** Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or need for discussion for Board Information Item 9-1. No requests were made.

**53502** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Other Matters Items. There were none.

**53503** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items. There were none.

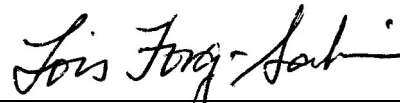
**53504** Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. There were none.

Director Quinn confirmed her vote of yes for the consent calendar items, except abstaining on Items 7A and 7-3.

Chair Ortega announced Item 7-11 that at the Legislation, Regulatory Affairs, and Communications Committee the Committee adopted the Legislative Priorities and Principles for 2024 with the revisions by staff and the committee members.

Chair Ortega requested the Board meeting be adjourned in honor of Colorado River Indian Tribes Chairwoman Flores's late spouse, Judge Neil Flores, Sr. who passed away during the holidays.

**53505** There being no objection, at 2:05 p.m., Chair Ortega adjourned the meeting in honor of the late Judge Neil Flores, Sr.



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**LOIS FONG-SAKAI**  
**SECRETARY OF THE BOARD**



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**ADÁN ORTEGA**  
**CHAIR OF THE BOARD**