THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

COMMUNITY AND WORKPLACE CULTURE COMMITTEE

May 11, 2026

Chair McCoy called the meeting to order at 2:37 pm.

Members present: Directors Dennstedt (alternative teleconference), Faessel, McCoy, McMillan, Ramos, and Seckel.

Members absent: Directors Cordero, Fong-Sakai, Gray, and Phan

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Crane, Erdman, Garza, Kurtz, Lewitt, Miller, Ortega, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley

Vice Chair of the Board Garza was present for purposes of quorum.

Director Dennstedt stated she was participating using alternative teleconference due to an illness and was alone in the room.

Committee Staff present: Aguirre, Beatty, Deshmukh, Hudson, Thomas, and Wisdom

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

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS — ACTION

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Community and Workplace Culture Committee for February 10, 2026.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Director Faessel made a motion, seconded by Director McMillan, to approve the consent calendar for item 2A.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Dennstedt, Faessel, McCoy, McMillan, Ramos, and Seckel
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Cordero, Fong-Sakai, Gray, and Phan

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

Director Dennstedt stated she was alone in the room.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATINAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Quarterly Workforce Development Update

Presented By: Brenda Martinez, Workforce Development Manager

Ms. Martinez provided an overview of a regional branding campaign on workforce development, developed in collaboration with the Member Agency Workforce Development Working Group, and of the upcoming Second Annual Workforce Development Summit, scheduled for June 24, 2026.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega
2. Seckel

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

b. Subject: Quarterly Business Outreach Update

Presented By: Wendy Barba, Principal Administrative Analyst

Ms. Barba presented an overview of Metropolitan's Small Business Program, highlighting its certification options, reciprocity with state agencies, and transparency tools, including CCAP tracking and audits. She also noted the program's 25% S/DVBE goal, industry-based eligibility criteria, and its regional reach, with certifications recognized by more than 80 public agencies.

c. Subject: Equal Employment Opportunity Quarterly Statistical Report

Presented By: Marisol Arzate, Deputy Chief EEO Officer

Marisol Arzate presented the EEO quarterly complaints statistics covering January through March 2026.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Faessel
2. Ramos
3. Ortega
4. Crane

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities

Presented: Liji Thomas, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

Ms. Thomas presented key DEI initiatives, highlighting Metropolitan's national leadership in procurement best practices for small businesses, and recent contributions such as the HR Playbook and generational water-use insights. She also recognized the 25th anniversary of Business Outreach and acknowledged the team's ongoing efforts to advance opportunities for small, veteran-owned, and regional businesses.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

a. Subject: Equal Employment Opportunity activities

Chair McCoy stated the EEO activities report is available online.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 pm.

Tana McCoy
Chair