THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

July 13, 2026

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 11:27 a.m.

Members present: Directors Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Jung (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Katz, Lewitt, Paule, Ramos, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Members absent: Directors Ackerman and Gray

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Kurtz, Miller, Ortega, Pakala, Pressman (teleconference posted location), and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Deshmukh, Hudson, Novoa, Rubin, Teraoka, and Zinke.

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

None

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for June 8, 2026.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

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

Ayes:	Directors Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Jung, Kassakhian, Lewitt, Paule and Shepherd Romey
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	Director Katz, Ramos, and Sutley
Absent:	Directors Ackerman and Gray

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 3 abstain, and 2 absent.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

8-2 Subject: Adopt resolution supporting the Association of California Water Agencies Vision for Our Water Future Initiative; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Dee Zinke – Assistant General Manager

Motion: Adopt resolution supporting the Association of California Water Agencies "Vision for Our Water Future" Initiative

Ms. Zinke provided an overview of the Association of California Water Agencies Vision for Our Water Future initiative.

Director Kassakhian left the meeting.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1.) Sutley
2.) Fellow
3.) Ortega
4.) Katz
5.) Ramos
6.) Jung

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

Director Katz made a motion, seconded by Director Ramos, to approve item 8-2 as amended:

Adopt a resolution supporting the framework for the Association of California Water Agencies Vision for our Water Future, and request staff bring back the ACWA Vision recommendations to review for consistency with Metropolitan's 2027 legislative priorities and principles.

Ayes:	Directors Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Jung, Katz, Lewitt, Paule, Ramos, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Ackerman, Gray, and Kassakhian.

The motion for item 8-2 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 3 absent.

Director Katz left the meeting.

8-3 Subject: Express support for AB 1894 (Rubio—D, West Covina) Fish and Wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Jay Jefferson – Executive Legislative Representative

Motion: Express support for AB 1894 (Rubio) Fish and Wildlife: invasive mussels: imported water

Mr. Jefferson provided the background and status on golden mussel issues and presented the provisions of AB 1894 (Rubio).

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1.) Jay
2.) Fellow
3.) Ramos
4.) Miller
5.) Sutley
6.) Ortega

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Ramos, to approve item 8-3:

Ayes:	Directors Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Jung, Lewitt, Paule, Ramos, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Ackerman, Gray, Kassakhian, and Katz.

The motion for item 8-3 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 4 absent.

8-4 Subject: Amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code concerning review of matters for the naming of facilities, and amend the criteria, policies and procedures for the naming of facilities; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer – Group Manager External Affairs

Motion: Amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code concerning review of matter for the naming of facilities, and amend the criteria, policies and procedures for the naming of facilities

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1.) Ortega

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

Ms. Schaffer presented the proposed updates to the Metropolitan Administrative Code and the criteria, policies and procedures for naming facilities.

After completion of the presentation, Director Camacho made a motion, seconded by Director Fellow, to approve item 8-4:

Ayes:	Directors Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Jung, Lewitt, Paule, Ramos, Shepherd Romey and Sutley.
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Ackerman, Gray, Kassakhian, and Katz.

The motion for item 8-4 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 4 absent.

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

9-1 Subject: Report on Assembly Bill 1881 (Ramos, D- Highland): California Indian Freedom Act of 2026 (May 19, 2026); Assembly Bill 2218 (Kalra, D – San Jose): Water Policy: California Native American Tribes (April 16, 2026); and Senate Bill 1326 (Wahab, D – Hayward): California Environmental Quality Act: tribal cultural resources: mitigation measures (June 11, 2026)

Presented by: Jay Jefferson – Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an overview of three bills—AB 1881 (Ramos), AB 2218 (Kalra), and SB 1326 (Wahab)—addressing tribal sacred sites, water policy, and tribal cultural resources. The presentation outlined each bill's objectives, potential impacts on Metropolitan's operations and regulatory processes, and ongoing advocacy efforts to seek amendments while maintaining collaboration with California Native American tribes.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1.) Ramos
2.) Shepherd Romey
3.) Sutley
4.) Kurtz

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

Director Jung left the meeting.

Director Kurtz made a disclosure for item 6a. Item 6a involves discussion about sponsoring a float in the 2028 Rose Parade. Her spouse serves on the Tournament of Roses Foundation Board. Although not a member recused herself from participating in item 6a and left the meeting.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Discussion on Metropolitan's Centennial Recognition

Presented by: Brittany Ritzi Foust – Section Manager, Media Services and Rupam Soni – Section Manager, Member Services and Public Outreach

Staff provided an update on preliminary planning for Metropolitan's 2028 Centennial celebration, including proposed outreach, branding, educational activities, employee engagement, and commemorative activities. The presentation also highlighted a potential Rose Parade float as a signature Centennial event and solicited Board feedback on celebration ideas, future planning, and potential funding considerations.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1.) Bryant
2.) Paule
3.) Ortega
4.) Jay
5.) Ramos
6.) Dennstedt
7.) Garza

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

b. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider, provided a federal legislative update, including the congressional calendar, Fiscal Year 2027 Bureau of Reclamation appropriations, developments related to post-2026 Colorado River operations and negotiations, and the appointment of Aubrey Bettencourt as Principal Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. .

c. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an update on the legislative calendar. Key legislative efforts include multiple supported bills related to the State Water Project (AB 2215, SB 872, SB 952), affordability and Proposition 4 programs (AB 35, AB 2739, SB 1125), wildfire preparedness impacts on water suppliers (SB 1153), and Advanced Clean Fleets regulations (AB 1436).

The following director provided comments or asked questions:

1.) Ortega

Staff responded to the director's questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: External Affairs Activities

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

Ms. Zinke announced that the "Can't Beat the Tap" campaign will launch at the end of the month, noted that the Ina Roth Facility Naming Recognition Ceremony at Jensen is scheduled for August 20, and that staff is currently collecting proposals for legislation for 2027.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Jay Lewitt
Chair