THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

COMMUNITY AND WORKPLACE CULTURE COMMITTEE

August 17, 2026

Chair McCoy called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Members present: Directors Cordero, Dennstedt (teleconference posted location), Faessel, Fong-Sakai, McCoy, and Seckel.

Members absent: Directors Gray and Ramos

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman (teleconference posted location), Barrera, Crane, Erdman, Fellow, Garza, Jay, Miller, Ortega, Pakala, Paule, and Sutley

Committee Staff present: Aguirre, Beatty, Deshmukh, Maravilla, and Scully.

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 May 11, 2026.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

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

The vote was:

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

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 5 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 2 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL 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 update on Metropolitan's youth informational programs, noting that the Carson pilot has expanded to after-school and career-exploration activities supported by partners through instruction, tours, and career engagement.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Faessel
2. Seckel
3. McCoy
4. Ortega
5. Cordero

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

b. Subject: Quarterly Business Outreach Update

Presented By: Rick Duarte, Principal Public Affairs Rep

Mr. Duarte provided an update on Metropolitan's outreach efforts, highlighting support for engineering and construction through small-business goal setting, pre-bid assistance, industry partnerships, and programs such as MetWorks.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega
2. Erdman

c. Subject: Equal Employment Opportunity Quarterly Statistical Report

Presented By: Marisol Arzate, Deputy Chief EEO Officer

Ms. Arzate presented the EEO quarterly complaints statistics covering April through June 2026.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities

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

Ms. Thomas presented a general update on the recent Executive Order 14398, which is not currently applicable to Metropolitan. Ms. Thomas noted that Metropolitan's existing practices align with legal requirements. She highlighted that DEI efforts remain focused on supporting an inclusive workforce and expanding access to opportunities, while staff continue to monitor federal developments.

b. Subject: Equal Employment Opportunity activities

Chair McCoy stated the EEO activities report is available online.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ortega requested that the CWC Committee host a roundtable and panel of those involved in legislative work for member agencies, to endorse legislative policy principals within the scope of the CWC Committee to advance to Metropolitan's Legislation and Communications Committee.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm.

Tana McCoy
Chair