THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGAL AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

August 18, 2026

Chair Kassakhian called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

Members present: Directors Camacho, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Douglas, Kassakhian, Katz, Miller, Ramos, and Shepherd Romey (teleconference posted location).

Members absent: Directors Crawford and Kurtz.

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman (teleconference posted location), Alvarez, Barrera, Bryant, Cordero, Crane, Daniels, Denham, Dennstedt (teleconference posted location), Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Jay, Lewitt, McCoy, Pakala, Paule, Pressman, Seckel, and Sutley.

Committee Staff present: Deshmukh, Gaxiola, Hudson, Rubin, and Scully.

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

None

2. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

A. Subject: General Counsel's report of monthly activities

General Counsel Scully provided an update on attorney recruitment and announced the attorney spotlight feature coming in the updated General Counsel monthly report.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. COMMITTEE ACTION ONLY

A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee for June 9, 2026.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

7-3	Subject	Authorize increase of $200,000, to a maximum amount payable of $800,000, for existing General Counsel contract with Olson Remcho LLP to provide general government law advice related to the Political Reform Act, the Fair Political Practices Commission regulations, conflict of interest law and other legislative and ethics matters regulated by state law; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA
	Motion	Authorize increase of $200,000, to a maximum amount payable of $800,000, for existing General Counsel contract with Olson Remcho LLP to provide general government law advice related to the Political Reform Act, the Fair Political Practices Commission regulations, conflict of interest law and other legislative and ethics matters regulated by state law.

No presentations were given, Director Katz made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho, to approve the consent calendar items 3A and 7-3.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Camacho, De Jesus, Douglas, Kassakhian, Katz, Miller, Ramos, and Shepherd Romey
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Director Crawford and Kurtz

The motion for Items 3A and 7-3 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Chair Kassakhian called the meeting into closed session.

Director Dennstedt withdrew from the meeting for the report on item 7a.

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Report on: Katano Kasaine v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 25STCV05250; Heather Beatty v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 26STCV15010; Adel Hagekhalil v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 26STCV19144; Mohsen Mortada v. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 26STCV22196 [Conference with legal counsel—existing litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]

Presented by: Emilio Gonzalez, Partner, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Tony Zepeda, Sr. Deputy General Counsel

Directors Camacho and Fong-Sakai, and General Counsel Scully withdrew from the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Chair Kassakhian reported there was no action taken in closed session on Item 7a.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Chair Kassakhian requested staff to bring the employment litigation update to the full Board at a future date.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Ardy Kassakhian
Chair