Legislation and Communications Committee

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

Item 8-3

September 15, 2026

Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer

Item 8-3 Summary

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

Purpose

Review and approve the proposed amendments

Update Administrative Code

Enhanced Board Review

Standing Committee Review

- Add facilities naming matters to the duties of the Legislation and Communications Committee
- Ad Hoc Committee on Communications and Facilities Naming to conduct initial review, forward naming recommendations to Legislation and Communications Committee
- Legislation and Communications Committee to consider and forward recommendations to Board for final determination

Update Current Policies

Strengthen Practices, Add New Safeguards

Eligibility of Nominees

- Minimum of one (1) year separation from the Board or Metropolitan employment
- Cannot be actively seeking political office
- Board pre-clearance required before consideration of nominations for living persons

Update Current Policies

Strengthen Practices, Add New Safeguards

Facilities Eligible to be Named

- Existing and new buildings, structures, additions, water infrastructure facilities and systems, roads and significant open spaces owned and operated by Metropolitan
- Certain facilities ineligible due to high visibility, federal or state restrictions, security concerns, or other operational or reputational risks
  - Headquarters Building, Rotunda, Colorado River Aqueduct, Diamond Valley Lake
  - All hydroelectric facilities, pressure control structures, operational control centers, and chemical storage facilities

Update Current Policies

Strengthen Practices, Add New Safeguards

Nomination Requirements

- Application
  - Application form and rationale for naming request
  - Background and information about nominee
  - Minimum of 2 substantive letters of support
  - Other relevant information including Information that might be contrary to this policy
  - Other facilities named or proposed to be named for nominee
- Metropolitan will conduct background and ethics screening of nominees

Update Current Policies

Strengthen Practices, Add New Safeguards

Naming Procedures

- Procedures described for naming, renaming, and rescinding a facility name
  - Follow similar procedures with documentation, Ad Hoc Committee review, Legislation and Communications Committee review, and recommendation to Board
- Metropolitan has sole discretion in whether to name a facility and in the name and facility chosen
- Moratorium on naming proposals until Jan. 1, 2027; resubmit under new policy and procedures

Update Current Policies

Strengthen Practices, Add New Safeguards

Public Input Opportunities

- Member Agencies notified of nominations received
- Proposed nominations announced at Legislation and Communications Committee
- Minimum 60-day public comment period
- Opportunity to provide public comment at committee and board meetings
- Public comment considered in evaluation of nomination and selection of facility

Naming History

Recent Naming Activities

- Carl Boronkay East Dam (GM, 2019)
- Lois B. Krieger Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve (Board Chair, 2019)
- Grace F. Napolitano PWSC Innovation Center (2023)
- Donald Galleano Overlook (MWD Director, 2023)
- Phillip J. Pace Boardroom (Board Chair, 2023)
- Michael J. McGuire Water Quality Laboratory (Director of Water Quality, 2024)
- N. Gregory Taylor Inlet/Outlet Tower (General Counsel, 2024)
- Randy Record, San Jacinto Tunnel (Board Chair, 2024)
- Judy Abdo DVL Wildflower Trail (Board Vice Chair, 2024)
- Ina S. Roth Ozone Facility at Jensen (MWD Director, 2024)

Cost of Naming Activities

Cost Estimates

- Estimate: $30,000 - $45,000 per event
  - Staff labor
  - Equipment rentals, food, commemorative plaque
  - Remote locations have higher costs
- Estimate of 2 events per year included in External Affairs O&M budget

Board Options

Option #1:

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

Option #2:

Do not amend the Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code concerning review of matters for the naming of facilities, or amend the naming criteria, policies and procedures for the naming of facilities

Board Options

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1928