THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AG AND TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

August 25, 2026

Chair Kurtz called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Members present: Directors Cordero, Daniels, De Jesus (teleconference posted location, entered after rollcall), Erdman, Fellow, Garza, Kurtz, Miller (teleconference posted location), Paule (teleconference posted location), Ramos, and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: None.

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Barrera, Bryant, Camacho, Crane, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Gray, Jay, Ortega, Pakala, Seckel, and Sutley.

Committee Staff present: Deshmukh, Hudson, Hughes, Rubin, Salgado, Scully, and Zinke.

Director Ackerman stated she was participating using alternative teleconferencing due to a medical procedure and was alone in the room.

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

1. Darcy Burke, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District regarding serving Metropolitan's agricultural and tribal customers.

Director De Jesus entered the meeting.

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Ag and Tribal Partnerships Special Committee for June 23, 2026.

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Shepherd Romey to approve consent calendar item 2A.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Daniels, De Jesus, Erdman, Fellow, Garza, Kurtz, Miller, Paule, Shepherd Romey
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	Directors Cordero and Ramos
Absent:	None

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 9 ayes, 0 noes, 2 abstentions, and 0 absent

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Guest Speaker: Bard Water District and Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe

Presented by: Bill Hasencamp, Manager – Colorado River Resources
Nick Bahr, Bard Water District
Frank Venegas, Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe

Mr. Hasencamp introduced guest speakers Mr. Bahr and Mr. Venegas to provide an overview of the partnerships among Metropolitan Water District, Bard Water District, and Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe to support sustainable water management. The partnerships focus on seasonal fallowing, water conservation, infrastructure improvements, and reliable Colorado River water delivery, while providing benefits to agriculture, tribal communities, and urban water users. The presentation also highlighted shared goals of improving efficiency, protecting water resources, enhancing resilience, and supporting economic development through continued investment and collaboration.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Fong-Sakai
2. Daniels
3. Cordero
4. Shepherd Romey
5. Ortega

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

b. Subject: Discuss Revised Purpose Statement of the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships

Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer, Group Manager – External Affairs

Ms. Schaffer presented a revised purpose statement for the Special Committee on Agriculture and Tribal Partnerships. Based on committee direction, staff will make final revisions to the purpose statement, and it will be used to guide future committee agendas and activities.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Erdman
2. Cordero
3. Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

7. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Cynthia Kurtz
Chair