THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMPORTED WATER

August 25, 2026

Committee Chair Gold called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman (alternative teleconferencing), Alvarez (teleconference posted location), Camacho, Cordero, Crane, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Denham (teleconference posted location), Garza, Gold, Kurtz, Lewitt (teleconference posted location), and Miller (teleconference posted location).

Members absent: None

Other Board Members present: Directors Barrera, Bryant, Daniels, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Jay, Ortega, Pakala, Pressman, Seckel, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

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

Committee Staff present: Bednarski, Deshmukh, Harms, Hasencamp, Horton, Hudson, Rubin, and Scully.

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

1. Caty Wagner, Sierra Club California spoke in opposition to item 3b.
2. Miguel Miguel, Sierra Club California spoke in opposition to item 3b.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS -- ACTION

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Subcommittee on Imported Water of July 28, 2026

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

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Camacho, Cordero, Crane, De Jesus, Denham, Garza, Gold, Kurtz, Lewitt, and Miller
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 0 absent.

Director Ackerman stated she was alone in the room.

****END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS****

3. SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS

a. Subject: Update on Northern Sierra Watershed Activities

Presented by: Jennifer Nevills, Program Manager, Bay-Delta Initiatives

Ms. Nevills provided an update on the three Northern Sierra watershed pilot investigations, noting continued progress on wildfire risk-reduction and site preparation activities in the North Feather, Plumas, and Upper Butte Creek areas. She also highlighted the Forest Resilience Bond's role in supporting restoration work.

A business case is being developed to evaluate potential benefits to Metropolitan, including water supply reliability and reduced sediment and debris flows. Modeling will be incorporated into CalSIM to assess potential impacts on State Water Project reliability, with a draft recommendation expected to come before the Board early next year.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega
2. Gold

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

b. Subject: Update on the Sites Reservoir Project

Presented by: Randall Neudeck, Manager of Bay-Delta Programs, Bay-Delta Initiatives

Mr. Neudeck provided an update on the Sites Reservoir Project, planned at 1.5 million acre-feet, with Metropolitan's planning share of approximately 311,700 acre-feet, or 22%. Key contracts are progressing, including the reservoir and roads contract awarded to Barnard Construction and the anticipated conveyance and pipeline contract in early 2027.

Metropolitan submitted comments on the State Water Resources Control Board's draft water rights permit, raising concerns about the 55% unimpaired bypass flow requirement, new pulse flows, and legal and due process issues. The permit process continues with additional modeling and fisheries review, with a final permit expected in early November. Further updates on permitting, funding, and investor commitments are expected through spring 2027.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Sutley
2. Gold
3. Ortega
4. Kurtz
5. Seckel
6. Daniels

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

c. Subject: Report on the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Meetings

Presented by: Director Garza

Director Garza provided an update on the August 20, 2026, DCA Board meeting, including his unanimous appointment as DCA Board President for fiscal years 2026/27 and 2027/28. Adnan Anabtawi was appointed Secretary, Katano Kasaine was reappointed Treasurer, and the Vice President will be appointed October 15. The Board also approved a five-year, not-to-exceed $205.7 million agreement with AECOM for programmatic geotechnical and fieldwork services.

Director Garza highlighted the DCA's Community Benefits Program, with seven agreements signed and two in progress supporting education, conservation, environmental literacy, and infrastructure improvements. DWR provided updates on water rights proceedings, Delta Plan certification of consistency, and CEQA and CESA requirements, with associated costs and timing to be incorporated into the next project schedule and budget.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

d. Subject: Report on the Colorado River Board Meeting

Presented by: Director Cordero

Director Cordero provided an update on the August 12, 2026, Colorado River Board meeting, highlighting the California Water Plan update and post-2026 Colorado River operations. Nancy Vogel was sworn in as the new DWR representative and discussed the five-year Water Plan update, which will address potential statewide water supply reductions of up to 9 million acre-feet due to changing climate conditions. The 2028 update will focus on the South Coast region, including Metropolitan's service area.

The Board also discussed concerns with proposed Glen Canyon Dam operations that could reduce Lake Powell releases to as low as 5 million acre-feet annually, potentially retaining water otherwise available to the Lower Basin and Mexico. The Executive Director noted the provision appears to be an internal policy decision rather than a federal legal requirement, and the Board directed staff to develop materials for consideration of a California position.
There were no questions or comments.

e. Subject: Report on Development of Post-2026 Guidelines

Presented by: Shanti Rosset, Special Projects Manager, Colorado River Resources
Laura Lamdin, Team Manager, Water Resource Management

Ms. Rosset and Ms. Lamdin provided an update on the Interior Department's final post-2026 Colorado River operating guidelines. The Record of Decision establishes a 10-year framework with decisions approximately every two years. For 2027–28, Lake Powell releases are expected at 6–7 million acre-feet, with operations focused on maintaining elevation 3,510, while the Lower Basin will face a 1.25-million-acre-foot annual shortage. The guidelines also include 700,000 acre-feet of additional system conservation and parameters for ICS storage and deliveries.

The August 24-month study forecasts Lake Powell at 3,515.8 feet on October 1, placing it in the low-elevation infrastructure protection range. Lake Mead is projected to fall below 1,025 feet during the next water year, although the new guidelines allow ICS deliveries down to 1,000 feet, subject to consultation and other conditions. The forecast does not include all 700,000 acre-feet of required conservation or new California conservation actions related to the 440,000-acre-foot reduction, leaving some uncertainty in future projections.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Seckel
2. Sutley
3. Miller
4. Gold

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

Director Bryant entered the meeting.

Chair Gold called the meeting into closed session.

f. Subject: Update on Colorado River negotiations and protection of Metropolitan's Colorado River water rights [Conference with legal counsel – anticipated litigation – deciding whether to initiate litigation; unknown number of potential cases; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)]

Presented by: Michael Hughes, Senior Deputy General Counsel
Shanti Rosset, Special Projects Manager, Colorado River Resources

In closed session, the committee heard the item. No action was taken.

4. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: Bay-Delta Resources activities

Presented by: John Bednarski, Assistant General Manager

Mr. Bednarski reported that the State Water Resources Control Board released the revised final draft of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan on August 19, with comments due September 18. Metropolitan expects the plan to incorporate the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes program (formerly the Voluntary Agreements), allowing participating water users to meet objectives through a combination of flow and habitat measures. Metropolitan staff are reviewing the draft and will provide an assessment and proposed comments before the deadline.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Gold

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments.

5. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Ortega requested an update on Colorado River messaging.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on September 22, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Mark Gold
Chair