THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

September 14, 2026

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Jung (teleconference posted location, entered after rollcall), Katz, Lewitt, Paule, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.

Members absent: Directors Camacho, Gray, Kassakhian, and Ramos.

Other Board Members present: Directors Barrera, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Kurtz, Miller, Ortega, Pakala, and Seckel.

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

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

a. Maura Monagan, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, spoke on item 8-5, Proposition 45.

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee for August 17, 2026.

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

Ayes:	Directors Ackerman, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Katz, Lewitt, Paule, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Camacho, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, and Ramos

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 5 absent.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

8-3 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; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer – External Affairs Group Manager

Motion: 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

No presentation was given, Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Shepherd Romey, to approve item 8-3.

Ayes:	Directors Ackerman, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Katz, Lewitt, Paule, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Camacho, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, and Ramos

The motion for item 8-3 passed by a vote of 10 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 5 absent.

Director Jung entered the meeting.

8-5 Subject: Consider Staff Recommendation to Take No Position on Proposition 45: Building an Affordable California Initiative

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, II – Executive Legislative Representative

Motion: Decline to take a position on Proposition 45

Mr. Jefferson provided an overview of Proposition 45: Building an Affordable California Initiative.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1.) Sutley
2.) Paule
3.) Jay
4.) Fong-Sakai

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Sutley made a motion, seconded by Director Katz, to approve item 8-5 as amended:

Decline to take a position on Proposition 45: Building an Affordable California Initiative.

Ayes:	Directors Ackerman, Crane, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Jung, Katz, Lewitt, Paule, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley.
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Camacho, Gray, Kassakhian, and Ramos.

The motion for item 8-5 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

9-2 Subject: Overview of Proposition 43: Assembly Constitutional Amendment Number 22 on Local Taxes: Limitation

Presented by: Trevor Taylor – Senior Legislative Representative

Mr. Taylor provided an overview of Proposition 43: (ACA 22), which is on the November 2026 ballot and would require a two-thirds vote instead of a simple majority to approve voter-led local special tax initiatives. For Metropolitan, its own special taxes are already subject to a two-thirds requirement, but the measure would make voter-led special tax initiatives affecting Metropolitan and its member agencies harder to pass.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Discuss 2027 Legislative Priorities

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, II – Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an overview of Metropolitan's proposed 2027 Legislative Priorities, focusing on strengthening Colorado River and State Water Project reliability, addressing invasive species, supporting infrastructure and capital improvements, conserving existing supplies, expanding local water supply projects, and protecting safe drinking water.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Katz
2. Sutley
3. Seckel
4. Lewitt

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

b. Subject Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an overview of activities from Washington, D.C. and highlights of the MORE Water Act (S.3738), which extends key federal water recycling and ecosystem restoration grant programs. She also covered the Water Cyber Shield Act, legislative calendar, and fiscal year 2027 appropriations, including a continuing resolution through December 11, 2026, at fiscal year 2026 funding levels.

The following director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Sutley

Staff responded to the director's questions and comments.

c. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Jay Jefferson, II, Executive Legislative Representative

Mr. Jefferson provided an overview of activities from Sacramento and the legislative session, highlighting bills related to the State Water Project, water affordability, wildfire preparedness, invasive mussels, and tribal communities. Several Metropolitan-supported measures have already been signed into law, including AB 35, SB 935, and SB 952.

The following director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Katz

Staff responded to the director's questions and comments.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: External Affairs Activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke – Assistant General Manager, External Affairs

Ms. Zinke provided highlights of External Affairs activities, including the launch of the "Can't Beat the Tap" campaign to build public awareness. She also invited directors to the upcoming 50th-anniversary celebration of the Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant on October 1, 2026.

The following directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega
2. Lewitt

Staff responded to the directors' questions and comments.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Jay Lewitt
Chair