THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ETHICS COMMITTEE

September 15, 2026

Chair Seckel called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Members present: Directors Cordero, Daniels, Douglas (teleconference posted location), Katz, Pakala, Paule, Ramos (entered after roll call), Seckel, and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: Directors Lewitt, and McCoy

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Bryant, Crawford, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Kurtz, Miller, Ortega, and Sutley

Committee Staff present: Beatty, Deshmukh, Hudson, Rodriguez, Rubin, Salinas, and Shope

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

None

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ****

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Ethics Committee for July 14, 2026.

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

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Daniels, Douglas, Katz, Pakala, Paule, and Seckel
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	Directors Cordero and Shepherd Romey
Absent:	Directors Lewitt, McCoy, and Ramos

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 noes, 2 abstentions, and 3 absent.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

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

Director Ramos entered the meeting room.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

8-6 Subject: Approve a limited waiver of the Brown Act closed session privilege regarding the closed session meeting of the Organization, Personnel, and Effectiveness Committee on October 14, 2025 for the limited purpose of disclosing pertinent ethics investigation information and materials 1) in a Board letter and its attachments for the Executive Committee's consideration of action pursuant to Administrative Code sections 7416(d) and 7432(b)(1); 2) during the September 2026 Executive Committee meeting to discuss and consider taking action on the item pursuant to Administrative Code section 7432(b)(1); and 3) in connection with a mandatory referral to the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) pursuant to Administrative Code Sections 7416(d) and 7433 and as also may be requested by the FPPC in addressing the matter, with the understanding that Metropolitan directors and staff may disclose information from the closed session to the FPPC and the FPPC may use and disclose information and materials publicly in accordance with its procedures; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Abel Salinas, Ethics Officer

Motion: Approve a limited waiver of the Brown Act closed session privilege regarding the closed session meeting of the Organization, Personnel, and Effectiveness Committee on October 14, 2025 for the limited purpose of disclosing pertinent ethics investigation information and materials 1) in a Board letter and its attachments for the Executive Committee's consideration of action pursuant to Administrative Code sections 7416(d) and 7432(b)(1); 2) during the September 2026 Executive Committee meeting to discuss and consider taking action on the item pursuant to Administrative Code section 7432(b)(1); and 3) in connection with a mandatory referral to the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) pursuant to Administrative Code Sections 7416(d) and 7433 and as also may be requested by the FPPC in addressing the matter, with the understanding that Metropolitan directors and staff may disclose information from the closed session to the FPPC and the FPPC may use and disclose information and materials publicly in accordance with its procedures

The following Directors asked questions and provided comments:

1. Seckel
2. Paule
3. Daniels
4. Katz
5. Shepherd Romey
6. Garza
7. Ortega
8. Pakala
9. Sutley
10. Dennstedt

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

After the presentation, Director Pakala made a motion, seconded by Director Katz, to approve item 8-6.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Cordero, Douglas, Katz, Pakala, Paule, Ramos, Seckel, and Sheperd Romey

Noes: Daniels

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Lewitt and McCoy

The motion for item 8-6 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 1 no, 0 abstentions, and 2 absent.

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

None

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: Ethics Officer's report on monthly activities

The Ethics Officer’s report was received and filed.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Karl Seckel
Chair