THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

COMMUNITY AND WORKPLACE CULTURE COMMITTEE

September 22, 2026

Chair McCoy called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Members present: Directors Cordero (teleconference posted location), Dennstedt, Faessel, Fong-Sakai (alternative teleconferencing), McCoy, and Seckel.

Members absent: Directors Gray and Ramos

Other Board Members present: Directors Alvarez, Crane, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Garza, Jay, Lewitt, Ortega, Pakala, Shepherd Romey, and Sutley

Director Fong-Sakai stated she was participating using alternative teleconferencing due to caregiving and was alone in the room.

Committee Staff present: Beatty, Brual, Deshmukh, Hudson, Rubin, and Scully.

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

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS — ACTION

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Community and Workplace Culture Committee for August 17, 2026.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Director Dennstedt made a motion, seconded by Director Seckel, to approve the consent calendar for item 2A.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Cordero, Dennstedt, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, McCoy, and Seckel
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Gray and Ramos

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

Director Fong-Sakai stated she was alone in the room.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Panel discussion on advocacy priorities for underserved communities
Moderated By: Chair Adán Ortega

Panelists:
Assistant Relations Manager Richard Wilson
- Burbank Water and Power

Kristine McCaffrey
- Calleguas Municipal Water District

President Gary Mendez
- Central Basin Municipal Water District

General Manager Anatole Falagan
- Long Beach Utilities

Art Castro
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Fabiola Moreno
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

General Manager Harvey De La Torre
- Municipal Water District of Orange County

Government Relations Manager Meggan Quarles
- San Diego County Water Authority

Senior Water Policy and Resources Analyst Tammy Hierlihy
- West Basin Municipal Water District

Government Relations Manager Michael Hadley
- Western Water Municipal Water District

Additional Panelist:
Dean Wang
• Long Beach Utilities

Representatives from member agencies participated in a panel discussion on key priorities and challenges affecting disadvantaged communities.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Seckel
2. Fellow
3. Garza
4. Erdman
5. McCoy

Staff responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

None

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Tana McCoy
Chair