THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGAL AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

September 15, 2026

Vice Chair Shepherd Romey called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Members present: Directors Crawford, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Katz, Kurtz, Miller, and Shepherd Romey.

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

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Barrera, Bryant, Cordero, Crane, Daniels, Denham, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gray (teleconference posted location), Jay, Lewitt, Ortega, Pakala, Paule, Seckel, and Sutley.

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

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

None

2. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

A. Subject: General Counsel's report of monthly activities

General Counsel Scully announced the roll-out of the updated General Counsel monthly report.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. COMMITTEE ACTION ONLY

A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee for August 18, 2026.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

7-4 Subject: Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Thompson Coburn LLP for legal advice on state and federal energy regulatory and contractual matters by $400,000 to a maximum amount payable of $1,000,000; the General Manager has determined that this proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Motion: Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract with Thompson Coburn LLP for legal advice on state and federal energy regulatory and contractual matters by $400,000 to a maximum amount payable of $1,000,000.

No presentations were given, Director Katz made a motion, seconded by Director Crawford, to approve the consent calendar items 3A and 7-4.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Crawford, De Jesus, Katz, Kurtz, Miller, and Shepherd Romey
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Director Camacho, Douglas, Kassakhian, and Ramos

The motion for Items 3A and 7-4 passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

Vice Chair Shepherd Romey called the meeting into closed session.

Director Dennstedt and Chair Ortega withdrew from the meeting for the report on item 8-9.

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

8-8	Subject:	Report on Jose Santos v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Workers Compensation Appeals Board, Long Beach, Case No. ADJ12942093, and consider authorizing settlement; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel—existing litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
	Presented by:	Tony Zepeda, Sr. Deputy General Counsel
8-9	Subject:	Report on litigation in Adel Hagekhalil v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California et al., Los Angeles Superior Court, Case No. 26STCV191440, and authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in the amount of $350,000 for a total amount not to exceed $600,000; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel – existing litigation; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
	Presented by:	Emilio Gonzalez, Partner, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP Tony Zepeda, Sr. Deputy General Counsel
	Motion	Authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in the amount of $350,000 for a total amount not to exceed $600,000.

General Counsel Scully withdrew from the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Vice Chair Shepherd Romey reported on item 8-8, there was no reportable action taken in closed session, and on item 8-9, no action was taken in closed session.

In open session, Director Katz made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz to approve the contract increase in Item 8-9.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Crawford, De Jesus, Katz, Kurtz, Miller, and Shepherd Romey.
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Camacho, Douglas, Kassakhian, and Ramos

The motion for Item 8-9 passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

None

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Gretchen Shepherd Romey
Vice Chair