MINUTES

MEETING OF THE

SPECIAL JOINT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

August 25, 2026

54593 The Special Joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met on Tuesday, August 25, 2026.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 1:18 p.m.

Director Ackerman stated that she is using alternative teleconferencing due to physical illness and that she is alone in the room.

54594 The Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

54595 Board Secretary Fong Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman (alternative teleconferencing), Alvarez (teleconference posted location available for the public), Barrera, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero, Crane, Daniels, Dennstedt (teleconference posted location available for the public), Douglas (teleconference posted location available for the public), Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gold, Jay, Jung (teleconference posted location available for the public), Kurtz, McCoy, Miller (teleconference posted location available for the public), Ortega, Pakala, Paule (teleconference posted location available for the public), Petersen, Pressman, Seckel, Shepherd Romey, Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Crawford, De Jesus, Denham, Gray, Kassakhian, Katz, Quinn, and Ramos.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Director(s) entered after roll call: Lewitt (teleconference posted location available for the public).

54596 Chair Ortega invited members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction (in-person and via teleconference).

	Name	Affiliation	Comment
1.	Darcy Burke		Director Fellow painting

The public comment was closed.

OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

54597 Chair Ortega stated that in September, he will add a Board-requested item to approve amending the Admin Code to realign the office of the board with the Board Executive Officer. Director Alvarez reported on the Ad Hoc Committee on Delta Islands. Chair Ortega and Vicki Quinetero Brashear, CPSHR Consulting, the Chair reported on the Ad Hoc on Executive Performance. Lastly, He provided an update on a handbook for the incoming Chair of the Board that is being developed.

Director Lewitt entered the meeting.

54598 General Manager Deshmukh reported on the Water Reuse conference.

54599 General Counsel Scully stated she had nothing to add to the report.

54600 Ethics Officer Salinas stated he had nothing to add to the report.

54601 General Auditor Suzuki reported that the next Audit Committee meeting is September 14, 2026, highlighting occupational fraud and enterprise risk management items.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the minutes of the Executive Committee of July 28, 2026.

B. Approve the draft of the Committee and Board meeting agendas and schedule for September 2026.

Chair Ortega asked if there were any additions or deletions to the September 2026 draft packet.

Committee Chair Seckel stated that for the Ethics Committee, the following was added:

- Ethics Committee will be added to September 15, 2026; and
- Action item to 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 that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Committee Chair McCoy stated that for the Community and Workplace Culture Committee, the following was revised:

- Panel discussion on advocacy priorities for underserved communities.

Vice Committee Chair Shepherd Romey stated that for the Legal and Claims Committee, the following was revised

- 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

Chair Ortega announced the Ethics Committee will be meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Chair Ortega called for the vote on Items 6A and 6B.

Director Sutley made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho, to approve the committee Action Items 6A and 6B.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Bryant*, Camacho, Crane*, Douglas, Erdman, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Jung, Kurtz, Lewitt, McCoy, Miller, Ortega, Pressman, Seckel, Shepherd Romey*, and Sutley.

Abstention: None

Recusal: None

Absent: Gray, Kassakhian*, Katz*, Quinn, and Ramos*

The motion for Items 6A and 6B passed by a vote of 17 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstention; and 2* absent. *not counted as absent for purpose of quorum given alternate present.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Chair Ortega announced that the board items for action were deferred.

54602 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up or Future Items. No requests were made.

54603 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

LOIS FONG-SAKAI
BOARD SECRETARY

ADÁN ORTEGA, JR.
CHAIR OF THE BOARD