

# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## MINUTES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

July 27, 2021

Chairwoman Gray called the teleconference meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Members present: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, Camacho, Cordero, De Jesus, Gray, Hogan, Kurtz, Murray, Ramos, Record, Repenning, and Smith

Member absent: Director Dick

Other Board members present: Directors Blois, Butkiewicz, Faessel, Fellow, Goldberg, Hawkins, Hogan, Jung, Lefevre, Morris, Ortega, Peterson, Pressman, Tamaribuchi, and Williams

Committee staff present: Beatty, Castro, Chapman, Hagekhalil, Kasaine, Riss, Salinas, Scully, Upadhyay, and Walters

#### **1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction**

None

#### **2. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS**

a. Subject: Chairwoman's Report

Presented by: Chairwoman Gloria D. Gray

Chairwoman Gray stated she had nothing to add to her report.

b. Subject: General Manager's report of Metropolitan's activities

Presented by: General Manager Adel Hagekhalil

General Manager Hagekhalil reported on the following:

- "Coffee with the GM" virtual meetings continue with Metropolitan employees; in August the Zoom live meeting will be hosted from Gene pumping plant.

- Addressed the “Voluntary Agreement” approach to updating the State Water Board’s Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay Delta.
- Provided an update on the first Member Agency Managers retreat, held on July 16, 2021 at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency.
- Acknowledged recent meetings with Imperial Irrigation District General Manager and staff, also with Central Arizona Project General Manager and staff, Southern Nevada Water Authority General Manager and staff, as well as Palo Verde Irrigation District Board and staff to begin a dialog and build relationships with water stakeholders across the region, everyone has been welcoming.
- Announced that the Member Agency Manager Meetings will now be held two weeks prior to the monthly Board meetings.
- General Manager continues to meet with representatives of our Congressional and State Legislative delegations. This week, the General Manager along with Chairwoman Gray, Vice Chair Kurtz and Communications and Legislation Committee Chair Cordero have meetings scheduled with several legislators to discuss water supply conditions and Metropolitan’s federal priorities, as well as updating state legislators on the Shaw Law Group report.

c.           Subject:           General Counsel’s report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by:   General Counsel Marcia Scully

General Counsel Scully reported she had nothing to add to her report.

d.           Subject:           General Auditor’s report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by:   General Auditor Gerald Riss

General Auditor Riss reported he had nothing to add to his report.

e.           Subject:           Ethics Officer’s report of Metropolitan activities

Presented by:   Ethics Officer Abel Salinas

Ethics Officer Salinas reported he had nothing to add to his report.

f. Subject: Report from Audit and Ethics Committee

Presented by: Chairwoman Gray

Chairwoman Gray announced this Committee will not be meeting in August.

g. Subject: Report from Bay-Delta Committee

Presented by: Chairwoman Gray

Chairwoman Gray announced this Committee will not be meeting in August.

h. Subject: Report from Communications and Legislation Committee

Presented by: Committee Chair Cordero

Committee Chair Cordero announced that the Committee will hear one action item:

- Approve Metropolitan's annual membership in the U.S. Water Alliance and authorize payment of \$18,500 and approve Metropolitan's annual membership in Water Education for Latino Leaders and authorize payment of \$25,000

In addition, the Committee will hear the following items:

- Update on Conservation Messaging.
- Report on Activities from Sacramento.
- Report on Activities from Washington D.C.
- External Affairs Management Report.

i. Subject: Report from Engineering and Operations Committee

Presented by: Committee Chair Smith

Committee Chair Smith announced that the Committee will hear the following two consent items:

- Award a \$492,440 procurement contract to Royal Industrial Solutions for equipment to upgrade the ozone control system at the Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant, and authorize an agreement with Suez Treatment Solutions, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$430,000, for specialized technical assistance to support the upgrade

- Authorize an agreement with CDM Smith Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$2.75 million, for support of engineering and technical studies at the advanced water treatment demonstration facility

In addition, the Committee will hear two oral reports:

- Update on Emerging Water Quality issues
- Developments in Coatings and Materials selection for Metropolitan's projects

Lastly, the Committee will hear the following two management reports:

- Water System Operations Manager's report
- Engineering Services Manager's report

j. Subject: Report from Finance and Insurance Committee

Presented by: Committee Vice Chair Record

Committee Vice Chair Record announced that the Committee will hear the following items:

- Report on list of certified assessed valuations for fiscal year 2021/22 and tabulation of assessed valuations, percentage participation, and vote entitlement of member agencies as of August 17, 2021
- Adopt resolution establishing the tax rate for fiscal year 2021/22

The following items from the August draft agenda are being deferred to October:

1. Item 7-2, Approving proposed updates to the Rate Refinement Structure Principles recommended by the Member Agency Workgroup
2. Item 9-2, Rate Refinement Workgroup's Review of Demand Management Cost Recovery Alternatives

In addition, the Committee will hear the following items:

- Quarterly Financial Report
- Quarterly Investment Activities Report
- Chief Financial Officer will present a monthly activity report.

k. Subject: Report from Legal and Claims Committee

Presented by: Director Tamaribuchi

Director Tabaribuchi announced that the Committee will hear the General Counsel's monthly activities; and will also consider the following two consent items:

1. Adopt amendment to the Administrative Code establishing Metropolitan-specific parliamentary procedures.
2. In closed session, hear a report on existing litigation OHL USA, Inc. v. Metropolitan.

In addition, the Committee will hear two Committee items:

1. The General Counsel's Business Plan for Fiscal Year 2021/22
2. In closed session, a report on San Diego County Water Authority v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, et al.

- I.           Subject:           Report from Organization, Personnel and Technology Committee

Presented by:   Committee Chair Murray

Committee Chair Murray announced that the Committee will hear the following two committee items:

- Labor Negotiations Update; and
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council Update

as well as hear two Manager's reports:

- Human Resources Group Manager
- Information Technology Group Manager

In addition, the Committee may also present a follow-up item regarding the Shaw Law Report.

- m.           Subject:           Report from Real Property and Asset Management Committee

Presented by:   Committee Chair Hogan

Committee Chair Hogan announced that the Committee will hear the following consent item:

- Authorize the General Manager to enter into a ten-year agreement with Urban Park Concessionaires to operate and maintain the marina facility at Diamond Valley Lake in the City of Hemet.

Also, the following consent item was removed from the August draft agenda:

- Authorize the General Manager to acquire up to 702 gross acres of property located in Riverside County in the Palo Verde Valley from Cox Family Farms, LLC.

In addition, the Committee will hear a committee item on Desert recreation.

Lastly, the Real Property Manager will present her monthly report.

n. Subject: Report from Water Planning and Stewardship Committee

Presented by: Committee Chair Atwater

Committee Chair Atwater announced that the Committee will hear one consent item:

- Review and consider the City of Beverly Hills' approved Final Mitigated Negative Declarations and Addendum and take related CEQA actions, and authorize the General Manager to reinstate and amend the existing Groundwater Recovery Program Joint Participation Agreements

as well as the following three committee items:

- Update on Water Surplus Drought Management
- Report on Upcoming Colorado River Operational Guidelines Negotiations – (Added Item)
- Overview of Preferential Rights

Lastly, the Committee will hear two management reports:

- Colorado River Matters
- Water Resource Management Manager's Report

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Hogan
3. Peterson
4. Kurtz
5. Atwater

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION****3. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held June 22, 2021
- B. Approve draft committee and Board meeting agendas, and schedule for August 2021

Chairwoman Gray asked Directors if there were any comments or discussion on the Minutes of the June 22, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting.

Chairwoman Gray then asked Directors if there were any comments, additions, or corrections to the August 2021 Draft Packet.

Chairwoman Gray called for the vote:

After hearing committee reports, Director Atwater made a motion, seconded by Director Hogan to approve the consent calendar consisting of Items 3A and 3B.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Atwater, Camacho, Cordero, De Jesus, Gray, Hogan, Kurtz, Murray, Ramos, Record, Repenning, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Director Dick

The motion for Item 3A and 3B passed by a vote of 14 ayes; 0 no; 0 abstain; and 1 absent.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

**5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

**6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**7. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

The following Director provided comments or asked questions.

1. Smith

Staff responded to the Directors' comments or questions.

**8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Chairwoman Gray commented on Shaw Law Group Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Gloria D. Gray  
Chairwoman of the Board