



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Via Electronic Mail

Date: November 7, 2021
To: Board of Directors
From: Chairwoman Gloria D. Gray
Subject: Referral of Potential Violation

Item 7-13, on the agenda for the November meeting of the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee and full Board, proposes rescinding and reconsidering prior board actions approving Local Resources Program agreements with Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), Santa Margarita Water District, and El Toro Water District.

These actions were deemed necessary after discovery that Director Linda Ackerman inadvertently failed to disclose potential remote financial interests arising through her spouse's consulting work.

Director Ackerman disclosed her mistake to the General Counsel, who consulted with outside counsel and the Ethics Office. After the Ethics Officer reviewed the facts, he concluded that Administrative Code section 7140(a) requires him to refer the matter to the Fair Political Practices Commission. Notice of the referral was provided to Director Ackerman, the MWDOC Board President, and Metropolitan's Audit and Ethics Committee Chair. This notice and referral occurred on Thursday, November 4, 2021.

I am reporting these facts to the full board to ensure full transparency. This matter is another reason to stay up to date with government ethics rules, closely review the monthly Conflicts Bulletins, and seek the advice from the Ethics Office if you have any questions regarding whether a matter before the Board might trigger disclosure and recusal requirements. I have asked the Ethics Office to ensure that additional conflict of interest training is provided to the Board as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria Gray".

Gloria D. Gray
Chairwoman of the Board

cc: Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager
Marcia Scully, General Counsel
Abel Salinas, Ethics Officer