MINUTES

MEETING OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

January 14, 2025

53893 The Board of Directors of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California met in on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

Chair Ortega called the teleconference meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

53894 The Meeting was opened with an invocation by Tuannee Holmes, Admin Analyst External Affairs and President, Black Employees Association.

53895 The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Director Jeffrey D. Armstrong, Eastern Municipal Water District.

53896 Board Secretary Fong-Sakai administered the roll call. Those responding present were: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Bryant, Camacho, Cordero, Crawford, De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Erdman, Faessel, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Gold, Goldberg, Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, Katz, Kurtz, Lefevre, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Morris, Ortega, Petersen, Pressman, Quinn, Ramos, Seckel, and Sutley.

Those not responding were: Directors Douglas, Lewitt, Luna, and Phan.

Board Secretary Fong-Sakai declared a quorum present.

Chair Ortega announced that Metropolitan be honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with social media posts. On January 28, 2025, the Phil Pace Boardroom Dedication will unveil a new portrait, signage, and a video highlighting the Chair Pace's personal and professional accomplishments and legacy.

53897 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.	John Bednarski	Metropolitan Employee	Metropolitan response to employees affected by the fire

Chair Ortega announced that the Chair's Second Term Priorities meeting has been deferred until February 2025 (Agenda Item 5.1).

Chair Ortega addressed the following: Other Matters and Reports.

53898 Chair Ortega asked if there were any corrections to the report of events attended by Directors at Metropolitan's expense during the month of December, as previously posted and distributed to the Board. None were made.

53899 Chair Ortega referred to the Chair’s monthly report, which was previously posted and distributed to the Board. Chair Ortega asked if there are any questions. None were made.

53900 Interim General Manager Upadhyay reported on Metropolitan response and support forthe 2025 fires. An update on Brad Coffey, Metropolitan employee returning to work. Lastly, announcing on February 3, 2025, Geraldine Walters, Assistant Board Administrator, will be retiring after 33 years of service.

The Public Comment Line was reopened due to technical difficulties.

53897 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.	John Vrsalovich	Metropolitan Employee, Foothill municipal water district board member, treasurer of Rubio Canyon Water, President MAPA	Metropolitan response to employees affected by the fire

Director Sutley made remarks regarding Metropolitan response to member agencies affected by the fire.

53901 General Counsel Scully reported on the legal department employees affected by the fire and Metropolitan response to employees affected by the fire.

53902 General Auditor Suzuki stated he was heartened by the Metropolitan response to employees affected by the fire.

53903 Assistant Ethics Officer Shope stated that she was heartened by Metropolitan response to employees affected by the fire and thanked Geraldine Walters for her service.

Chair Ortega announced that the presentation of the 10-year service pin to Director Ramos, the City of Burbank, has been deferred (Agenda Item 5G).

53904 Induction of new Director Mel Katz, San Diego County Water Authority (Agenda Item 5H). General Counsel Scully reported the credentials are in order and have been received.

53905 Chair Ortega asked the Directors if there were any comments or discussions on the Approval of the Minutes of the Special Joint Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meeting for December 10, 2024 (Agenda Item 6A).

53906 Approve commendatory resolution for Director Timothy Smith representing San Diego County Water Authority (Agenda Item 6B). No comments or questions.

53907 Approve waiver of Administrative Code to extend the term of Nonofficer Members of the Executive Committee through the End of March 2025 (Agenda Item 6C). No comments or questions.

Chair Ortega called on Directors who are requesting that any items be pulled from the Consent Calendar Action Items and to state any recusals, abstentions, and disclosures. None were made.

53908 Authorize an increase of $5.55 million to an agreement with Arcadis U.S. Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of $7.55 million for final design to rehabilitate the finished water reservoirs at the Henry J. Mills and Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plants, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-1 board letter.

53909 Authorize the General Manager to enter into a funding agreement for the Disadvantaged Communities Leak Detection and Repair Program with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to implement phase two of the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-2 board letter.

53910 Authorize: a. renewal of the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Agreement between the Department of Water Resources, the State Water Contractors, and participating urban State Water Project Contractors; and b. renewal of the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Program Specific Project Agreement between the State Water Contractors and participating urban State Water Project Contractors, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-3 board letter.

53911 Adopt CEQA determination that the proposed action related to the fallowing program was previously addressed in various CEQA documents and related actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement for Reclamation to fund the generation of up to 36,066 AF of conserved Colorado River system water between August 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-4 board letter.

53912 Authorize an increase of $150,000, to an amount not to exceed $450,000 for an existing contract with GeoPentech, Inc. for consulting services, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-5 board letter.

53913 Authorize increase in the maximum amount payable under a contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP for Darren A. Reese v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in the amount of $150,000 for a total amount not to exceed $900,000, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-6 board letter.

53914 Authorize the General Counsel to increase the amount payable under its agreement with Olson Remcho LLP by $200,000 to a maximum amount payable of $600,000, as set forth in Agenda Item 7-7 board letter.

Director Camacho moved, seconded by Director Erdman, that the Board approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1 through 7-7 follows:

Chair Ortega called for a vote to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1 through 7-7.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Consent Item(s):	6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1 through 7-7								
Member Agency	**Total Votes**	**Director**	**Present**	**Yes**	**Yes Vote**	**No**	**No Vote**	**Abstain**	**Abstain Vote**
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x	x	2766				
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt							
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	27945				
		Petersen	x	x	27945				
		Quinn	x	x	27945				
		Luna							
		Douglas							
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17540				
		Goldberg	x	x	17540				
		Miller	x	x	17540				
		Katz	x	x	17540				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	14382				
		Gray	x	x	14382				
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	**406315**				**399522**				
Present and not voting									
Absent	**6793**								

The motion to approve the Consent Calendar Items 6A, 6B, 6C, 7-1 through 7-7 (**M.I. No. 53905 through 53914**) passed by a vote of 399,522 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,793 absent.

Chair Ortega called on Directors who would request to vote on Board Items 8-1, 8-2, or 8-3 separately or discuss Board Items 8-2 or 8-3 in closed session. None were made.

53915 Adopt a resolution to support a grant application selected to receive United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART: Applied Sciences Program funding for fiscal year 2023 for an amount totaling $390,000; authorize Metropolitan's non-federal cost share of $130,000; and authorize the General Manager to enter a contract with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, subject to General Counsel approval (Board Item 8-1).

53916 Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with Seyfarth Shaw LLP, in the amount of $250,000 for a total amount not to exceed $500,000 (Board Item 8-2).

53917 Authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under contract for legal services with BDG Law Group, APLC, in the amount of $250,000 for a total amount not to exceed $500,000 (Board Item 8-3).

Director Faessel moved, seconded by Director Morris, that the Board approve the Board Items 8-1, 8-2, and 8-3 as follows:

Chair Ortega called for a vote on the motion for Board Items 8-1, 8-2, and 8-3, as stated.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	**8-1, 8-2, and 8-3**								
Member Agency	**Total Votes**	**Director**	**Present**	**Yes**	**Yes Vote**	**No**	**No Vote**	**Abstain**	**Abstain Vote**
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x	x	2543				
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x	x	2766				
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt							
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	27945				
		Petersen	x	x	27945				
		Quinn	x	x	27945				
		Luna							
		Douglas							
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x	x	17540				
		Goldberg	x	x	17540				
		Miller	x	x	17540				
		Katz	x	x	17540				
			Subtotal:		70158				
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	14382				
		Gray	x	x	14382				
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	**406315**				**399522**				
Present and not voting									
Absent	**6793**								

The motion to approve the Board Items 8-1, 8-2 and 8-3 (**M.I. No. 53915 and 53917**) passed by a vote of 399,522 ayes; 0 noes; 0 abstain; 0 not voting; and 6,793 absent.

53918 Discuss and confer with legal counsel in closed session and provide direction to staff and approve staff recommendation provided in closed session. (Agenda Item 8-5).

Director Camacho moved, seconded by Director Morris, that the Board approve the Board Item 8-5 as follows:

Chair Ortega called for a vote on the motion for Board Item 8-5 as stated.

The following Director(s) asked questions or made comments:

Director(s)

1. Bryant

General Counsel responded to the Directors' comments and questions.

The following is a record of the vote:

Record of Vote on Item:	8-5								
Member Agency	Total Votes	Director	Present	Yes	Yes Vote	No	No Vote	Abstain	Abstain Vote
Anaheim	6306	Faessel	x	x	6306				
Beverly Hills	4677	Pressman	x	x	4677				
Burbank	3330	Ramos	x	x	3330				
Calleguas Municipal Water District	13627	McMillan	x	x	13627				
Central Basin Municipal Water District	20265	Garza	x	x	10133				
		Crawford	x	x	10133				
			Subtotal:		20265				
Compton	678	McCoy	x	x	678				
Eastern Municipal Water District	13623	Armstrong	x	x	13623				
Foothill Municipal Water District	2543	Bryant	x			x	2543		
Fullerton	2766	Jung	x	x	2766				
Glendale	4165	Kassakhian	x	x	4165				
Inland Empire Utilities Agency	17103	Camacho	x	x	17103				
Las Virgenes	3224	Lewitt							
Long Beach	6805	Cordero	x	x	6805				
Los Angeles	83835	Sutley	x	x	41918				
		Petersen	x	x	41918				
		Quinn							
		Luna							
		Douglas							
			Subtotal:		83835				
Municipal Water Dist. of Orange County	68102	Ackerman	x	x	17026				
		Seckel	x	x	17026				
		Dick	x	x	17026				
		Erdman	x	x	17026				
			Subtotal:		68102				
Pasadena	4042	Kurtz	x	x	4042				
San Diego County Water Authority	70158	Fong-Sakai	x						
		Goldberg	x						
		Miller	x						
		Katz	x						
			Subtotal:						
San Fernando	274	Ortega	x	x	274				
San Marino	836	Morris	x	x	836				
Santa Ana	3569	Phan							
Santa Monica	5055	Gold	x	x	5055				
Three Valleys Municipal Water District	9019	De Jesus	x	x	9019				
Torrance	3781	Lefevre	x	x	3781				
Upper San Gabriel Valley Mun. Wat. Dist.	14079	Fellow	x	x	14079				
West Basin Municipal Water District	28764	Alvarez	x	x	28764				
		Gray							
			Subtotal:		28764				
Western Municipal Water District	15689	Dennstedt	x	x	15689				
Total	**406315**				**326821**		**2543**		
Present and not voting	**70158**								
Absent	**6793**								

The motion to approve the Board Item 8-5 (**M.I. No. 53918**) passed by a vote of 326,821 ayes; 2,543 noes; 0 abstain; 70,158 not voting; and 6,793 absent.

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Chair Ortega advised Board Vice Chair Camacho would proceed with chairing the board meeting for Item 8-4. Vice Chair Camacho called the meeting into closed session.

Coming out of closed session, Board Vice Chair Camacho reported there are no reportable actions on Board Item 8-4.

Board Vice Chair Camacho advised Chair Ortega would proceed with chairing the remaining of the board meeting.

53919 Chair Ortega asked if there were questions or need for discussion on Board Information Items 9-1, 9-2 or 9-3. No requests were made.

Chair Ortega called on Director Katz for an introduction to the Board. Director Katz made remarks.

53920 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Follow-Up Items.

The following Director(s) asked questions or made comments:

Director(s)

1. Camacho
2. Bryant

53921 Chair Ortega asked if there were any Future Agenda Items. No requests were made.

53922 There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

LOIS FONG-SAKAI
BOARD SECRETARY

ADÁN ORTEGA, JR.
CHAIR OF THE BOARD