THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGISLATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

October 13, 2025

Chair Lewitt called the meeting to order at 10:49 a.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Jung (teleconference posted location, entered after roll call), Kassakhian (entered after roll call), Katz, Lewitt, and Shepherd Romey (entered after roll call).

Members absent: Directors Gray, Luna, and Ramos

Other Board Members present: Directors Bryant, Cordero, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Kurtz, McCoy, McMillan, Miller, Ortega, Pressman (teleconference posted location), and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Hudson, Novoa, Rubin, Schaffer, Stites, Upadhyay, and Zinke

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

None

Director Sheperd Romey entered the meeting.

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Legislation and Communications Committee held August 18, 2025.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Director Ackerman, to approve the consent calendar item 2A.

Ayes:	Directors Ackerman, Camacho, Dennstedt, Fellow, Jay, Katz, Lewitt, and Shepherd Romey
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Gray, Jung, Kassakhian, Luna, and Ramos

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 5 absent.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Director Kassakhian entered the meeting.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Pure Water Southern California Outreach

Presented by: Elisa Mendez, Principal Public Affairs Representative

Ms. Mendez provided a report on Pure Water Southern California outreach, including results of outreach efforts, who and how they have engaged, results of DEIR outreach and future outreach.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1) Lewitt
2) Katz
3) Ortega
4) Fellow
5) Dennstedt
6) Seckel
7) Fellow
8) Kassakhian
9) Jay

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments

b. Subject: Update on Research and Framework for A Community Benefits Program for Pure Water Southern California

Presented by: Elisa Mendez, Principal Public Affairs Representative

Ms. Mendez provided information on research findings and a potential framework to implement a community benefits program for Pure Water Southern California.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1) Dennstedt
2) Fellow
3) Shepherd Romey
4) Garza

Staff responded to the Directors questions and comments

Director Jung entered the meeting.

c. Subject: Inspection Trip Information

Presented by: Rupam Soni, Section Manager, Member Services and Public Outreach

Ms. Soni provided an update on additional funding available for strategic inspection trips in 2025-2026.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1) Ortega
2) Kassakhian
3) Bryant

Staff responded to the Director's comments or questions.

d. Subject: Quarterly State and Federal Regulatory Update

Presented by: Christopher Gabelich, Principal Environmental Specialist, Operations Regulatory Services

Mr. Gabelich provided an update on USEPA (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and Waters of the United States), CARB (advanced clean fleets regulation) and SWRCB (manganese, pest control, water measurement and reporting and Bay-Delta water quality control Plan).

e. Subject: Report on Activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by: Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Ms. Schneider provided an update on the federal legislative calendar, the government shutdown, Water Resources Development Act 2026 hearings, National Defense Authorization Act, and Department of the Interior and USEPA nominations.

f. Subject: Report on Activities from Sacramento

Presented by: Christine Frey, Team Manager, Legislative Services

Ms. Frey provided an update on the state legislative calendar, Metropolitan's sponsored bill AB 580 on a Surface Mining and Reclamation Act exemption, member agency proposals, other legislation, and Metropolitan's trailer bill priorities for the Delta Conveyance Project and golden mussels.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1) Lewitt

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Subject: External Affairs Activities

Presented by: Dee Zinke, External Affairs Assistant General Manager

Ms. Zinke introduced Jose Cornejo, the new Section Manager for Legislative Services in External Affairs, and shared the recent CAPIO awards received.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Jay Lewitt
Chair