THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AG AND TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS

June 23, 2026

Chair Kurtz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Directors Daniels (entered after roll call), De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Fellow, Garza, Kurtz, Miller (entered after roll call), Paule, and Shepherd Romey (entered after roll call).

Members absent: Directors Cordero, Erdman and Ramos.

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman, Bryant, Camacho, Crane, Dennstedt, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Gray (teleconference posted location), Jay, McCoy, Ortega, Pakala and Seckel.

Committee Staff present: Deshmukh, Kim, Novoa, Rubin, Schaffer, and Zinke

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

None

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Ag and Tribal Partnerships Special Committee for April 28, 2026.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Director Garza left the meeting.

Director Fellow made a motion, seconded by Board Vice Chair Camacho to approve consent calendar item 2A.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Camacho, De Jesus, Fellow, Kurtz, Paule and Shepherd Romey
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Cordero, Daniels, Erdman, Garza, Miller and Ramos

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 6 absent

Director Miller entered the meeting.
Director Garza entered the meeting.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

NONE

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Director Shepherd Romey entered the meeting.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Discuss Revised Purpose Statement of the Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships

Presented by: Carolyn Schaffer, Group Manager – External Affairs

Ms. Schaffer presented a revised purpose statement for the Special Committee on Agriculture and Tribal Partnerships. Based on committee direction, staff will return with an updated purpose statement for consideration.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1) Ortega
2) Daniels
3) Shepherd Romey
4) Miller
5) Kurtz
6) Jay
7) Fellow

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

b. Subject: Water Savings Incentive Program for Agricultural Customers

Presented by: Elise Goldman, Team Manager – Water Efficiency

Ms. Goldman provided an update on enhancements to the Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP) to improve participation by agricultural users within Metropolitan's services area. The changes expand incentives for converting water-intensive crops to more water-efficient crops by estimating water savings over a 30-year project life instead of the standard 10 years. The modifications were developed with input from the Conservation Program Advisory Committee and approved by management.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1.) Fellow
2.) Kurtz
3.) Daniels
4.) Paule
5.) Shepherd Romey
6.) Garza

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

e. Subject: Provide information on the evaluation of crop substitution with Metropolitan's Colorado River agricultural partners

Presented by: Jessica Arm – Resource Specialist

Ms. Arm provided an update on a crop substitution evaluation in the Palo Verde Valley that could inform a new pilot program. Crop substitution is being evaluated as a potential strategy to help California reduce Colorado River water use.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1.) Daniels
2.) Pakala
3.) Denham
4.) Fong-Sakai
5.) Kurtz

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

d. Subject: Report on the Palo Verde Valley Community Enhancement Collaborative

Chair Kurtz reported on recent activities of the Community Enhancement Collaborative, including the first round of grand distributions and their recipients.

7. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Cynthia Kurtz
Chair