THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

August 17, 2026

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

Members present: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Crawford, Dennstedt (teleconference posted location), Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Jay, Lewitt, Miller, Pakala, and Seckel

Members absent: Director Petersen

Other Board Members present: Directors Ackerman (teleconference posted location), Barrera, Camacho, Cordero, Crane, Denham, Fellow, Ortega, Paule, and Shepherd Romey (teleconference posted location)

Committee Staff present: Chapman, Crawford, Deshmukh, Hattar, Hudson, Rohen, Rubin, and Scully

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

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

2. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for July 13, 2026.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

7-1 Subject: Authorize an increase of $25,000 in change order authority to an existing procurement contract with B&K Valves and Equipment Inc. to furnish two valves for the Lake Skinner outlet tower; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Motion: Authorize an increase of $25,000 in change order authority to an existing procurement contract with B&K Valves and Equipment Inc. to furnish two valves for the Lake Skinner outlet tower.

7-5 Subject: Award a $5,164,432 contract to Bigfoot Homes Inc. to furnish and install up to twenty-one manufactured houses at four Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Motion: Award a $5,164,432 contract to Bigfoot Homes Inc. to furnish and install up to twenty-one manufactured houses at four Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants.

7-6 Subject: Authorize an agreement with Nokia of America Corporation in an amount not to exceed $6.831 million for equipment procurement and design support to upgrade the Western Region wide-area network; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Motion: Authorize an agreement with Nokia of America Corporation in an amount not to exceed $6.831 million for equipment procurement and design support to upgrade the Western Region wide-area network.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller (7-5)
2. Fong-Sakai (7-1)

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

No presentations were given, Director Seckel made a motion, seconded by Director Bryant, to approve the consent calendar, consisting of items 2A, 7-1, 7-5, and 7-6.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Crawford, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Jay, Lewitt, Miller, Pakala, and Seckel
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	Director Alvarez (2A)
Not voting:	None
Absent:	Director Petersen

The motion to approve item 2A passed by a vote of 1111 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 1 absent.

The motion to approve items 7-1, 7-5, and 7-6 passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 1 absent.

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

8-1 Subject: Authorize a $29,214,000 agreement with PCL Construction West Coast Inc. for Phase 1 progressive design-build services for the Lake Mathews Pressure Control Structure and Electrical System Upgrades Project; and an increase of $3.1 million to an existing agreement with Carollo Engineers Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of $4.4 million to serve as the owner's advisor through the Phase 1 design-build agreement; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Cathy Chau, Principal Engineer, Program Management Section, Engineering Services Group

Motion:

a. Authorize a $29,214,000 agreement with PCL Construction West Coast Inc. for Phase 1 progressive design-build services for the Lake Mathews Pressure Control Structure and Electrical System Upgrades Project; and
b. Authorize an increase of $3.1 million to an existing agreement with Carollo Engineers Inc. for a new not-to-exceed amount of $4.4 million to serve as the owner's advisor for the Phase 1 design-build agreement.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Miller
2. Seckel
3. Pakala

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Bryant made a motion, seconded by Director Crawford, to approve item 8-1, option 1.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Crawford, Dennstedt, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Jay, Lewitt, Miller, Pakala, and Seckel.
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Not voting:	None
Absent:	Director Petersen

The motion for item 8-1, option 1, passed by a vote of 12 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 1absent.

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

a. Subject: Annual Infrastructure Resilience Update

Presented by: Ernie Ariza, Team Manager, Facility Planning, Engineering Services Group
Albert Rodriguez, Principal Engineer, Facility Planning, Engineering Services Group

Mr. Ariza and Mr. Rodriguez reported on the following:

- Updates on Strategic Infrastructure Resilience Plan (SIRP) and Seismic resilience activities.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Seckel
2. Erdman

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

b. Subject: Reservoir Management Update

Presented by: Ying Wu, Team Manager, Limnology and Reservoir, Treatment & Water Quality Section

Ms. Wu reported on the following:

- Provide an overview of Metropolitan's comprehensive reservoir monitoring and management practices to ensure operational flexibility and resilience

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Jay

Staff responded to the Director's questions and comments.

c. Subject: Seawater Desalination Research Study Findings

Presented by: Patrick Murphy, Resource Specialist, Water Resources Management

Mr. Murphy reported on the following:

- Findings of the Seawater Desalination Research Study conducted by CDM Smith for Metropolitan. The study was undertaken as part of Metropolitan's broader efforts to identify, evaluate, and advance potential future core water supply projects that could enhance long-term regional water supply reliability and resilience.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Lewitt
2. Fellow
3. Fong-Sakai
4. Miller
5. Seckel
6. Crane
7. Ortega
8. Pakala

Staff responded to the Directors' questions and comments.

d. Subject: Update on Artificial Intelligence

Presented by: Jonathan Houck, IT Architect, Information Technology Group

Mr. Houck reported on the following:

- Update on the progress of AI at Metropolitan

Questions for item 6d were deferred to next month.

e. Subject: Pure Water Southern California Quarterly Update

Item was deferred.

Chair Erdman called the meeting into closed session.

f. Subject: Quarterly Cybersecurity Update
[Conference with Metropolitan Director of Information Technology Services, Information Technology, Jacob Margolis, or designated agents on threats to public services or facilities; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957(a)]

Presented by: Jacob Margolis, Director of Information Technology Services, Office of Enterprise Cybersecurity, Information Technology Group

In closed session, the committee heard the item. No action was taken.

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

a. Engineering Services activities
Information Technology activities
Water System Operations activities

Item was deferred.

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Director Lewitt requests that Metropolitan staff meet with Las Virgenes before the final publication of the desalination report.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Dennis Erdman
Chair