

# The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

# Agenda

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

## UC Committee

N. Sutey, Chair  
C. Miller, Vice Chair  
L. Ackerman  
R. Atwater  
M. Camacho  
G. Cordero  
D. Erdman  
F. Jung  
A. Ortega  
T. Quinn  
T. Smith  
H. Williams

## **Underserved Communities Committee**

Meeting with Board of Directors \*

**October 25, 2022**

**1:00 p.m.**

## **Tuesday, October 25, 2022 Meeting Schedule**

**08:30 a.m. Sp. BOD  
09:00 a.m. A&E  
10:30 a.m. DE&I  
12:00 p.m. Exec.  
01:00 p.m. UC  
02:00 p.m. OW**

Live streaming is available for all board and committee meetings on [mwdh2o.com](http://mwdh2o.com) ([Click Here](#))

A listen only phone line is also available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 831 5177 2466. Members of the public may present their comments to the Committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction as listed on the agenda via in-person or teleconference. To participate via teleconference (833) 548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 815 2066 4276.

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\* The Metropolitan Water District's meeting of this Committee is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee may participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee will not vote on matters before this Committee.

- 1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))**

**\*\* CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION \*\***

- 2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

NONE

- 3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION**

NONE

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

- 4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION**

Meeting Delayed

NONE

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

NONE

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Underserved Communities Committee: Duties, Functions, and [21-1607](#)  
General Overview

**Attachments:** [10252022 UC 6a Presentation](#)

**7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

NONE

**8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

NONE

**9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**NOTE:** This committee reviews items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors. Final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Agendas for the meeting of the Board of Directors may be obtained from the Board Executive Secretary. This committee will not take any final action that is binding on the Board, even when a quorum of the Board is present.

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site <http://www.mwdh2o.com>.

Requests for a disability related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.



Underserved Communities Committee

# Underserved Communities Committee: Duties, Functions, and General Overview

October 25, 2022

Item 6a

# Overview

- Admin Code Section - Duties & Functions
- Common Terms
- Current Programs Underway
- Sources of Authority
- Limits on Authority
- Next Steps – Potential Actions

# Admin Code Section - Duties & Functions

## **Admin Code Section 2499.30**

The Underserved Communities Committee shall study, advise, and make recommendations regarding the ways Metropolitan can:

- (a) Better serve the disadvantaged and underserved communities within Metropolitan's service area;
- (b) Improve the access of disadvantaged and underserved communities to reliable, high-quality drinking water supplies;
- (c) Increase the participation of currently underserved communities in Metropolitan's rebate, conservation, and other local resources programs; and
- (d) Assist and support member agency programs and advocate for underserved communities, including providing operational and technical assistance.

# Common Terms

## **Disadvantaged Community (DAC):**

CalEPA designation based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria; used for funding decisions for programs funded through California Climate Investments:

- Census tracts receiving the highest 25 percent of overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (1,984 tracts).
- Census tracts lacking overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 due to data gaps but receiving the highest 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen 4.0 cumulative pollution burden scores (19 tracts).
- Census tracts identified in the 2017 DAC designation as disadvantaged, regardless of their scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (307 tracts).
- Lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes.

# Common Terms

## **Socially disadvantaged:**

- Individuals who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within American society because of their identities as members of groups and without regard to their individual qualities. The social disadvantage must stem from circumstances beyond their control. *13 CFR § 124.103*

## **Environmental Justice:**

- The fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. *California Government Code § 65040.12*

## **Transitional Workers:**

- Any individual qualifying in one or more of the following categories..."veteran, no high school diploma or GED, former foster youth, formerly incarcerated, documented income at or below 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, experiencing protracted unemployment (defined as receiving unemployment benefits for at least three months), etc. (Project Labor Agreement)

# Common Terms

## **Underserved Community:**

(a) The term “equity” means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

b) The term “underserved communities” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of “equity”.

*Executive Order 13985-Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*



# Current Programs Underway

- Conservation programs
  - BeWaterWise & SoCalWater\$mart – Multi-lingual education, rebates, incentives
  - Multi-family Toilet Retrofit
  - Direct Install Partnership with So Cal Gas
- Community Services
  - Sponsorships – Community Partnering Program, Community Outreach
  - Public Education Programs - K through grey
- Capital Projects
  - Public Outreach – informing & engaging public (e.g., Pure Water)
  - Business Outreach – Small Business Program, PLAs, Equity in Infrastructure

# Sources of Authority

- Metropolitan Water District Act
  - Purpose (Sec. 26)
  - Authority - Express and Implied (Secs. 120, 122, 130)
  - Conservation mandate (130.5, SB 60)
- Supplemental Statutory Authority
  - Water Code
  - Financial Code
  - Public Contracts Code
  - Government Code

# Limits on Authority

- Rate Revenues: Service rates, charges, and fees collected to recover cost of service; Uniform rates for like classes of service (MWD Act Sec. 134.5, Various State laws)
- Contracts: Competitive bidding requirement on public works contracts (MWD Act Sec. 21565)
- Gift of public funds, Cal. Constitution Article XVI, Section 6
- Affirmative Action Initiative, Prop. 209

# Next Steps – Potential Actions

- Set meeting schedule
- Consider Committee mission statement/charter
- Define "underserved communities" for Metropolitan
- Develop white paper
  - Assess region
  - Determine key issues/barriers to clean, affordable water
  - Identify potential solutions

# Committee Discussion

