THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

LEGAL AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

June 9, 2026

Chair Kassakhian called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m.

Members present: Directors Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Kassakhian, Kurtz, McMillan (teleconference posted location), Miller (alternative teleconferencing), and Shepherd Romey.

Members absent: Directors Douglas, Katz, and Ramos.

Other Board Members present: Directors Alvarez, Bryant, Crane, Daniels, Denham, Dennstedt, Erdman, Fellow, Fong-Sakai, Garza, Jay, Lewitt, McCoy, Ortega, Paule, Pressman, and Seckel.

Director Miller stated he was participating using alternative teleconferencing due to caregiving and was alone in the room.

Committee Staff present: Boucher, Deshmukh, Hudson, Rubin, and Scully.

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

None

2. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

A. Subject: General Counsel's report of monthly activities

General Counsel Scully reported on completion of recent settlement.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

3. COMMITTEE ACTION (ONLY)

A. Subject: Approval of the Minutes of the Legal and Claims Committee for May 12, 2026.

4. COMMITTEE ITEMS (FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

Director Shepherd Romey made a motion, seconded by Director Camacho, to approve item 3A.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus, Kassakhian, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, and Shepherd Romey
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Douglas, Katz, and Ramos

The motion for Item 3A passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 3 absent.

Director Miller stated he was alone in the room.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

Chair Kassakhian called the meeting into closed session. For Item 7b it was announced that agency representatives were Chair of Legal and Claims Committee Kassakhian, Vice-Chair Sutley, and Chair Ortega.

Director Crane and Director Daniels entered the meeting.

5. COMMITTEE ITEMS (ACTION FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

8-2 Subject Authorize an increase under contract with Van Ness Feldman, LLP
in the amount of $500,000 for a total amount not to exceed $1,000,000 and with Milbank, LLP in the amount of $1,000,000 for
a total amount not to exceed $1,250,000 for legal advice on Colorado River matters; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [Conference with legal counsel - anticipated litigation; unknown number of potential cases; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)]

Presented by: Marcia Scully, General Counsel

Motion	Authorize an increase under contract with Van Ness Feldman, LLP in the amount of $500,000 for a total amount not to exceed $1,000,000 and with Milbank, LLP in the amount of $1,000,000 for a total amount not to exceed $1,250,000 for legal advice on Colorado River matters

Chair Kassakhian reported on Item 8-2 there was no action taken in closed session.

In open session, Director Kurtz made a motion, seconded by Director Shepherd Romey to approve the contract increase in Item 8-2.

The vote was:

Ayes:	Directors Camacho, Crawford, De Jesus, Kassakhian, Kurtz, McMillan, Miller, and Shepherd Romey
Noes:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Directors Douglas, Katz, and Ramos

The motion for Item 8-2 passed by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 3 absent.

Director Miller stated he was alone in the room.

7. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL)

Resume closed session.

a.	Subject:	Discussion of department head performance and goal setting [Public employee performance evaluation – General Counsel; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957]
	Presented by:	Eleanor Allen, Catapult for Change

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

b.	Subject:	Conference with Labor Negotiator; agency designated representative: Chair of Legal and Claims Committee Kassakhian; Unrepresented employee: General Counsel; to be heard in closed session pursuant to Gov. Code Section 54957.6
	Presented by:	Eleanor Allen, Catapult for Change

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

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (INFORMATIONAL FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION)

None

8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Ardy Kassakhian
Chair