

Ellen Mackey's OPT Committee comments 3-8-21

Good morning Chairperson Murray, Directors, fellow employees, and guests. My name is Ellen Mackey; I am an ecologist and chair of the AFSCME Women's Caucus. We thank you for this public session opportunity and invite the public to download copies of *all* our comments in the MWD Board, **Document Archives**.

As we celebrate International Women's Day in Women's History Month, the AFSCME Women's Caucus is celebrating an anniversary - it was just one year ago, founding members, while still in crises, were in discussions regarding a subcommittee within AFSCME to specifically address women's/LGBTQIA+ issues. We feel we've made significant progress since that time; we are inconvenient to some and champions to others. We look forward to another productive year that yields many changes within Metropolitan.

Meanwhile, we wish to remind all, in Laurel Thatcher Ulrich's words,

Well-behaved women seldom make history.

Thank you

Thank you, LA Times editorial staff and Adam Elmahrek for your continuing support of employees at MWD, and exposing the culture of abuse that abounds there. As we celebrate **National Women's History Month**, we, the AFSCME Women's Caucus, will continue to speak out about these issues until we have affected change that allows all people regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation or identity, or disability to thrive at MWD. As public servants, we have a responsibility to bring clean, good tasting drinking water to Southern California, and we take that responsibility seriously. We understand that many may advance at MWD but too many are left behind, or bullied and harassed until they retire, emotionally devastated. That people feel safe to come forward now simply means conditions are ripe for change.

To those who feel we are disruptive recall, *Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History*.

Ellen Mackey, Senior Ecologist
Chair, AFSCME 1902 Women's Caucus