

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**APRIL 12, 2021**

Chair Cordero called the teleconference meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Members present: Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Kurtz, Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Butkiewicz, Erdman, Galleano, Morris, Murray, G. Peterson, Quinn, Record, and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Luna and Repenning.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray, Directors Atwater, Blois, De Jesus, Dick, Fellow, Goldberg, Hogan, Jung, Lefevre, Pressman, and Tamaribuchi.

Committee Staff present: Kightlinger, Rojo, Sims, Stites, and Zinke.

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

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of the Communications and Legislation Committee held March 8, 2021.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

Director Morris made a motion, seconded by Director Kurtz to approve the consent calendar consisting of items 2A:

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Abdo, Ackerman, Butkiewicz, Cordero, Erdman, Galleano, Kurtz, Morris, Murray, G. Peterson, Quinn, Record, and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Luna and Repenning

The motion passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 2 absent.

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

#### **4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

#### **5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

9-2            Subject:            Report on SB 480 (Stern, D-Calabasas) Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: rules: inappropriate conduct

Presented by:    Kathy Viatella, Executive Legislative Representative

Executive Legislative Representative Viatella provided a Report on SB 480 (Stern, D-Calabasas) Metropolitan Water District of Southern California: rules: inappropriate conduct including background information and a short summary of the bill.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Hogan
2. Morris

#### **6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

a.            Subject:            Report on activities from Washington, D.C.

Presented by:    Abby Schneider, Executive Legislative Representative

Executive Legislative Representative Schneider reported on activities from Washington, D.C. including an update on the American Rescue Plan, the proposed Infrastructure package, appropriations and nominations.

b.            Subject:            Report on activities from Sacramento

Presented by:    Kathy Viatella, Executive Legislative Representative

Executive Legislative Representative Viatella reported on activities from Sacramento including meetings with legislators on Metropolitan sponsored bills and legislative priorities; update on COVID-19 financial assistance; update on special elections; and update on Metropolitan-sponsored legislation.

c. Subject: Update on Education Activities

Presented by: Adrian Hightower, Education Unit Manager

Education Unit Manager Adrian Hightower provided an update on education activities including how staff has better responded to serve students, teachers, and parents. He also reported on water education programs, online resources, partnerships and collaborations, the online Scout program, and how Metropolitan has pivoted Solar Cup and Student Art programs to online formats.

## **7. MANAGEMENT REPORT**

a. Subject: External Affairs Management Report

Presented by: Susan Sims, External Affairs Group Manager

External Affairs Manager Sims reported on the press coverage on drought issues, the new multilingual California Friendly Landscaping classes, and invited the board to the Theodore Payne Foundation's online garden tour.

## **8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None

Next meeting will be held on May 10, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Gloria Cordero  
Chair