

From: [Layne Fajeau](#)
To: [DL-Board Support Team](#)
Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 6:58:26 PM

Hello,

Good evening, please forward my message below to the board of directors. Thank you.

Based on the LA Times article that came out today, it sounds like the hiring process of the general manager was disorganized, broke protocol, and maybe even unfair. The article said that General Manager Kightlinger derailed the candidacy of the person who already won the vote count. He is acting against the board's wishes, and the board represents the public. They have constituents, he does not.

MWD owes it to the public and let us know what is going on in the process. MWD should have been more transparent from the very beginning. It is still unclear who will be the next general manager. The article indicates that Pat Mulroy is the preferred choice of current GM Jeff Kightlinger. The Board should not consider Pat Mulroy for this reason alone. Kightlinger did not prioritize water conservation, sustainability, or recycling - all of which will become increasingly more important as California grapples with the unreliability of water resources. It stands to reason that he would want his successor to operate the agency just as he did.

As the article states, Pat Mulroy led the failed effort to build unnecessary, environmentally degrading water infrastructure over the objections of enviros and local communities and residents. This is disturbingly similar to MWD's effort to build a Delta tunnel during the Kightlinger era. This is an era that MWD should keep in the past.

Right now, California and Los Angeles need a complete transformation of our current extractive water practices. MWD needs a new perspective on what a water agency is in this century that implements this necessary transformation. We need to see more transparency and respect for MWD constituents and the environment from MWD. MWD needs a general manager who won't focus on growth and outdated pipeline projects, but rather sustainable solutions that create local jobs, build on existing sources of water, and decrease the agency's dependence on imported water.

I'm asking you all to consider a future based on sustainability instead of one based on extraction and to do so by electing a leader who promotes localizing water resources and opposes the Delta tunnel. That person is not Pat Mulroy.

Thank you,
Layne Fajeau
UC Berkeley '23

From: [martha davis](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Selection of Mr. Hagekhalil as MWD's New General Manager
Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 9:45:38 AM

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@MWDh2o.com)

Re: Congratulations on Your Selection of Mr. Hagekhalil as MWD's Next General Manager

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

I learned yesterday that the MWD Board of Directors had selected Mr. Adel Hagekhalil to serve as MWD's next General Manager. Congratulations.

With 32 years of public experience, Adel is a skilled water leader and manager who will successfully navigate the complicated internal and external challenges facing MWD.

I know Adel from his work with the City of Los Angeles. Adel's understanding of Southern California's complex infrastructure needs and the opportunities to work across communities and agency boundaries to develop integrated solutions is unmatched.

Climate change is forcing water agencies across California to adapt to a future with increasingly uncertain water supplies. In selecting Adel, you have picked a transformational leader who has the vision, experience and the skills to build partnerships, implement advanced technologies and provide the innovative and inclusive management needed to secure MWD's water future in this challenging time.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California!!

Sincerely

Martha Davis
Retired, Assistant General Manager/Executive Manager for Policy

Inland Empire Utilities Agency

--

mlcmarthadavis@gmail.com

From: [Jonathan Parfrey](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Fwd: Adel Hagekhalil selection as MWD General Manager - APPROVE
Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 12:05:35 PM

May 27, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gloria D. Gray
Chair, Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
sent via board secretary (boardexecutivesecretary@mwdh2o.org)

Dear Ms. Gray:

I wish I hadn't learned about Mr. Adel Hagekhalil selection to General Manager via an erroneous *Los Angeles Times* article. I trust you will take appropriate disciplinary action against those directors who violated confidentiality and MWD protocol.

Nonetheless, I wish to wholeheartedly commend the choice of Mr. Hagekhalil. The Board of Directors chose well. After all, Mr. Hagekhalil has thirty-two years of experience in managing water and other infrastructure programs, and is nationally recognized for his superb leadership, exemplified by being asked to lead the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and being honored as the recipient of the US Water Prize.

Our organization, Climate Resolve, focuses on climate change as it impacts Southern California today and into the future. We know the science. And recognize that MWD has a difficult future ahead of it. California will surely experience decreasing water supply and experience challenges on water quality as well.

MWD is fortunate to have a leader in Mr. Hagekhalil who can navigate these enormous climate-fueled challenges, as well as the multifarious demands for water in a tense political environment.

Again, I applaud your selection of Mr. Hagekhalil. Our organization looks forward to continuing to work closely with MWD.

Respectfully yours,

Jonathan Parfrey

--

Jonathan Parfrey
Executive Director | Climate Resolve
Pronouns: he/him
(213) 634-3790 x 101 | (310) 261-0832
[525 S Hewitt St. Los Angeles, CA 90013](#)
climateresolve.org | [@jparfrey](https://twitter.com/jparfrey)

From: [Adi Liberman](#)
To: [DL-Board Support Team](#)
Subject: Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 2:01:38 PM
Attachments: [fb.png](#)
[tt.png](#)
[li.png](#)
[vcard.png](#)

May 27, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

(via Board Secretary - dl-boardsupportteam@mwdh2o.com)

Dear Chairwoman Gray and Members of the Board of Directors:

Please accept my congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager. Choosing Mr Hagekhalil is a brilliant choice for many reasons.

- Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person for the job to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face changing climate and shrinking water supplies.
- Mr. Hagekhalil has extensive experience dealing with all stages of water use, from the importation of fresh water supplies to the reclamation of water that will expand the supply of usable water.
- Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water and organizational leader. He is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation and creates inclusive cultures. These are the skills needed today.
- Mr. Hagekhalil's 32 years of public service experience in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs and initiatives. He has been well-recognized in the water sector and across many of our communities across California and the nation.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. I look forward to working closely with Adel and MWD to ensure continued success.

Sincerely yours,

Adi Liberman
Principal, Environmental Outreach Strategies

.....
Adi Liberman, Principal
Environmental Outreach Strategies
6255 ½ Randi Ave. | Suite 300 | Woodland Hills, CA | 91367
818-257-0906 - office and mobile
www.eoscal.com adi@eoscal.com



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email message and the information contained in this message (including any attachments) is for the sole use of the intended recipient and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender (adi@eoscal.com) by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message. Thank you.



Kevin L. Shafer, P.E.
Executive Director

May 27, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.org)

Congratulations on the selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the next General Manager for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). I have worked with Adel for over ten years and he has shown himself to be a compassionate visionary who can rally his constituents around all the themes of the One Water principles. He is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation, and creates inclusive cultures. These are the skills needed today.

Throughout Adel's 32 years of public service in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs, Adel has been well-recognized in the water sector and the nation.

I applaud your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. We look forward to working closely with him and MWD to ensure your continued success.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Shafer, P.E.
Executive Director



milwaukee metropolitan sewerage district
260 W. Seeboth Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204-1446
414-225-2088 • email: KShafer@mmsd.com • www.mmsd.com



May 27, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.org)

Selection of Adel Hagekhalil for General Manager

Please accept my congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager. As an active and engaged member committed to sustainability within our Southern California community, I am confident that Mr. Hagekhalil's selection as your General Manager will serve each and every one of us as we move forward in these challenging times requiring increased emphasis on reliable water supply and resiliency.

Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person for the job to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face changing climate and shrinking water supplies.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water and organizational leader. He is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation, and creates inclusive cultures. These are the skills needed today.

Mr. Hagekhalil is uniquely qualified with 32 years of public service experience in the management of water, environmental, and infrastructure programs and initiatives. He has been well-recognized in the water sector and across many of our communities throughout California and the nation.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. On behalf of our entire community, we look forward to working closely with Adel and MWD to ensure continued success with the water supply challenges unique to Southern California.

Very Truly Yours,

Scott Dellinger, Past President
Del Rey Neighborhood Council



CORDOBA CORPORATION

SACRAMENTO • SAN FRANCISCO • SAN RAMON • CHATSWORTH
ONTARIO • LOS ANGELES • SANTA ANA • SAN DIEGO

May 27, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.org)

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

Please accept my congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager.

Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person for the job to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face changing climate and shrinking water supplies.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water and organizational leader. He is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation and creates inclusive cultures. These are the skills needed today.

Mr. Hagekhalil has 32 years of public service experience in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs and initiatives. He has been well-recognized in the water sector and across many of our communities across California and the nation.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. We look forward to working closely with Adel and MWD to ensure continued success.

Sincerely,

Maria Mehranian
Managing Partner

From: [Tracey Chavira](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Adel Hajekhalil
Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 2:44:22 PM

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

Hope you're doing well.

I just had to extend my heartfelt accolades to you and your team for selecting Adel Hajekhalil as the new General Manager of MWD.

I worked with Mr. Hajekhalil for the past 15+ years in City Hall and have maintained our professional relationship now that I'm a consultant. I have always found him to be accessible and knowledgeable. And, most importantly, he always follows through.

You have appointed a thought leader, work horse and gentleman to lead your organization and I couldn't be happier for him, MWD and our region.

Kudos to you and God bless.

Best,
Tracey

--



Tracey Chavira

■ O [662-626-2130](tel:662-626-2130) | C [626-665-0836](tel:626-665-0836)

■ tc@veritasla.com

■ veritasla.com

■ 555 S. Flower Street, 51st Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071

From: [Michele Pla](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the Next General Manager for MWD
Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 2:54:39 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Honorable Chairwoman Gray and Honorable Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California:

I want to congratulate and applaud the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on the selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager. He is the right person for the job. He will ensure that MWD is a world class organization with empowered staff, inclusive partnerships, innovative investments and creative solutions for the challenges and opportunities of our time. Mr. Hagekhalil's skills are needed now, more than ever, as we face changing climate and persistent drought.

I have known Adel and I have worked with him on many programs and initiatives. He is creative, intelligent, considerate, and thoughtful. He leads with his mind and most importantly with his heart. Service is his purpose, and he embraces transformational change. He led various transformational programs as a leader in City of Los Angeles and for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. He has always anchored transformations within the context of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

He builds bridges of collaboration and enlists trust no matter how difficult the issue. He is a consensus builder.

I have worked with Adel for more than 15 years. I know that he will serve MWD and all your customers and partners well. Again, I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil as your General Manager and I look forward to working closely with Adel and MWD to ensure continued success.

Michele

Michele M. Pla, Vice President
EPC Consultant, Inc.
Cell: 510 501-2193



CAUTION: If you've received any such texts or email from anyone at EPC requesting you to purchase gift or money cards, PLEASE DISREGARD the text and notify our Operations Manager. Our EPC office staff and management will never text or email you to purchase items without first talking and coordinating with you directly. Do not Click Links or Open Attachments, unless you Recognize the Source of the Email and know the Contents are Safe.

NOTICE:

The security of electronic mail sent through the Internet is not guaranteed. **EPC Consultants** therefore recommends that you do not send confidential information to us via electronic mail, including social security numbers, account numbers, and personal identification numbers unless instructed to do so through a secured site. Delivery, and timely delivery, of electronic mail is also not guaranteed. **EPC Consultants** also recommends that you do not send time-sensitive or action-oriented messages to us via electronic mail unless instructed to do so.

May 27, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Please accept my congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager.

Mr. Hagekhalil is the perfect choice to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face changing climate and shrinking water supplies throughout the region.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water and organizational leader. He is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation and creates inclusive cultures. These are the skills needed today.

Mr. Hagekhalil's 32 years of public service experience in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs and initiatives. He has been well-recognized in the water sector and across many of our communities across California and the nation.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. He is a true change agent and a people person who will champion, enable and support changes to enhance the organization. We look forward to working closely with Adel and MWD to ensure continued success.

[Sincerely, Sherman Torres (Added by R. Castro)]



28 May 20211

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

Please accept my congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager. I have personal experience working with Adel for over 25 years and strongly agree with the Board that he is the right person for the job.

Mr. Hagekhalil has been at the forefront of leading climate change and water supply management issues at the local level with the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) and at the National level as President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). His deep involvement in the industry has provided both technical and financial long term solutions. As a visionary – Mr. Hagekhalil's idea of One Water, is an example of where he led a successful partnership for integrated water planning between LASAN and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. This was ultimately an effort supported by Mayor Garcetti to reduce the reliance on imported water. This experience is sure to benefit MWD as you are an organization based on many partnerships and collaborations.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation and creates inclusive cultures across all levels in the organizations that he serves. This was evident at both LASAN and Bureau of Street Services where he brought City and County Departments together to debate and solve some of the most complex issues in the City. He really is the type of leader that takes on issues head on by rolling up his sleeves and working with his team to solve real problems.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. We look forward to working closely with Adel and MWD to ensure continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeff Berk'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeff Berk
Vice President, West Region
949 414-2065



LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CITY • EAST • HARBOR • MISSION • PIERCE • SOUTHWEST • TRADE-TECH • VALLEY • WEST

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MIKE FONG

Member

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

GABRIEL BUELNA, Ph.D.

MIKE FONG

NICHELLE HENDERSON

ANDRA HOFFMAN

ERNEST H. MORENO

DAVID VELA

STEVEN F. VERES

STUDENT MEMBER

ELIAS GERONIMO

May 26, 2021



Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.org)

As Trustee for the Los Angeles Community College District representing 250,000 students in a service area of over 5 million residents, Congratulations on the Selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the Next General Manager for MWD.

Please accept my congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager.

Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person for the job to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face changing climate and shrinking water supplies. I have known and worked with Mr. Hagekhalil for many years. He is a champion of our students and has collaborated on water treatment worker training programs and other programs to promote sustainability initiatives.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water and organizational leader. He is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation and creates inclusive cultures. These are the skills needed today.

Mr. Hagekhalil's 32 years of public service experience in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs and initiatives. He has been well-recognized in the water sector and across many of our communities across California and the nation.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. Please contact me at (310) 770-8781 or fongmk@email.laccd.edu.

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
May 26, 2021
Page 2

We look forward to working closely with Adel and MWD to ensure continued success in embracing the hopes and aspirations of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Fong', written in a cursive style.

Mike Fong
Member of the Board of Trustees
Los Angeles Community College District

DENITA WILLOUGHBY

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
Denita.willoughby@att.net

May 27, 2021

Board of Directors
Southern California Metropolitan Water District
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

To the Board of Directors:

I am writing in support of your selection of Adel Hagekhalil as incoming General Manager at the Metropolitan Water District.

As the immediate past chair of the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, I greatly appreciate Adel's exemplary ability to work with the business community. He is adept at problem-solving and balancing the interests of diverse stakeholders.

Access to clean, affordable water is the enabling condition of our communities in Southern California. The increasing scarcity of water due to climate change is well-documented and very concerning. We need local leaders who will address this challenge head on, including the leader of the largest water agency in the nation.

Adel Hagekhalil has an exemplary record as a public servant and a vision for sustainable and integrated water planning. He has led in supporting disadvantaged communities and in creating policies and programs that center equity. I feel confident in his ability to bring about the change needed at your agency.

We look forward to a new chapter at MWD and to a sustainable water future for our region.

Sincerely,

Denita Willoughby

Immediate Past Chair, LA Area Chamber of Commerce



Kevin L. Shafer, P.E.
Executive Director

May 27, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.org)

Congratulations on the selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the next General Manager for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). I have worked with Adel for over ten years and he has shown himself to be a compassionate visionary who can rally his constituents around all the themes of the One Water principles. He is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation, and creates inclusive cultures. These are the skills needed today.

Throughout Adel's 32 years of public service in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs, Adel has been well-recognized in the water sector and the nation.

I applaud your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. We look forward to working closely with him and MWD to ensure your continued success.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Shafer, P.E.
Executive Director



milwaukee metropolitan sewerage district
260 W. Seeboth Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204-1446
414-225-2088 • email: KShafer@mmsd.com • www.mmsd.com

From: [Rey Sison](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Congratulation to MWD
Date: Friday, May 28, 2021 8:01:34 AM

May 28, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)

I would like to congratulate the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil as the next General Manager for MWD.

Mr. Hagekhalil has proven his abilities in both technical and organizational leadership. He has been very instrumental in making both technical and non-technical staff work cohesively to enhance the services to our communities.

Under his direction as the Executive Director and General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA), he has transformed StreetsLA into a world class organization in the past 3 years. His leadership focused on the safety, mobility and sustainability of LA Streets.

His participation in various associations as a member, president and even as board member has made him a well-recognized engineer across many organizations, not only within California but also across the nation.

I have worked with Mr. Hagekhalil in various capacities for almost 30 years at the City of Los Angeles in the Bureau of Engineering, LA Sanitation and Bureau of Street Services. I consider Mr. Hagekhalil as both a mentor and a good friend who is always there to give me guidance and advice when needed.

Again, I would like to congratulate the MWD for your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil to serve as the General Manager. He is a tremendous asset that the City of Los Angeles has had for over three decades, and MWD is fortunate to have him.

Rey Sison, PE
Sr Environmental Engineer
Project Award and Control Division
Bureau of Engineering | Department of Public Works
1149 S. Broadway, Suite 140
Los Angeles, CA 90015
Phone: (213) 847-0552





401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101-4231
(619) 699-1900
Fax (619) 699-1905
sandag.org

May 27, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.org)

MEMBER AGENCIES

- Cities of
- Carlsbad
- Chula Vista
- Coronado
- Del Mar
- El Cajon
- Encinitas
- Escondido
- Imperial Beach
- La Mesa
- Lemon Grove
- National City
- Oceanside
- Poway
- San Diego
- San Marcos
- Santee
- Solana Beach
- Vista
- and
- County of San Diego

SUBJECT: Congratulations on the Selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil

Please accept my congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager.

Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person for the job to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face a changing climate and shrinking water supplies. Mr. Hagekhalil's 32 years of public service experience in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs and initiatives prove an asset to MWD..

Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water and organizational leader. His transformational leadership builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation, and creates inclusive cultures.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. We look forward to working closely with Adel and MWD to ensure continued success.

Sincerely,

HASAN IKHRATA
Executive Director

ADVISORY MEMBERS

- Imperial County
- San Diego County
- Regional Airport Authority
- California Department of Transportation
- Metropolitan Transit System
- North County Transit District
- United States Department of Defense
- Port of San Diego
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association
- Mexico

NEGAR N. EZHARI

May 28, 2021

Via Board Secretary BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Congratulations on the Selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the Next General Manager for MWD

Please accept my congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager.

Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person for the job to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face changing climate and shrinking water supplies.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water and organizational leader. He is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation and creates inclusive cultures. These are the skills needed today.

Mr. Hagekhalil's 32 years of public service experience in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs and initiatives. He has been well-recognized in the water sector and across many of our communities across California and the nation.

Sincerely,


Negar N. Ezhari

From: [Mohsen Mortada](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Mr. Adel Hagekhalil's GM Appointment
Date: Friday, May 28, 2021 12:21:20 PM

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)

Congratulations on the Selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the Next General Manager for MWD

Please accept my congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a seasoned professional with a large network in the water sector. This network is essential for achieving MWD's objectives.

Further, Mr. Hagekhalil's will bring vision, transparency, excellence, quality, and passion which is needed to reenergize MWD. I have seen, and personally shared the stage with Adel, at many events addressing climate change, circular economy, and leadership. His global leadership is invaluable to MWD and the California water sector.

Our community stand in support of this wise selection which is a win for California.

Sincerely,

Mohsen Mortada
CEO, Cole Engineering Group



May 28, 2021

Board of Directors
 Southern California Metropolitan Water District
 via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)

RE: Congratulations on Selection of General Manager of MWD

The undersigned environmental and social justice organizations write to congratulate the Southern California Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board of Directors on your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of the agency. This is the right choice during this time to heal the organization and prepare our region in the face of persistent drought and changing climate. We look forward to partnering with you and the new GM on creating a healthy, safe and collaborative work environment at MWD.

In his 32 years of public service in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure initiatives, Mr. Adel Hagekhalil has proven to be a visionary and inclusive leader. He led the award winning LA integrated water resources plan and the 2040 One Water LA plan. His stakeholder-driven integrated water planning led the way to the implementation of the ongoing large water recycling projects and the stormwater capture efforts in the City of Los Angeles. He helped lead several successful

water measures, including groundbreaking Measure W and Prop O stormwater measures that were overwhelmingly approved by voters in LA County and the City of Los Angeles, respectively. He led the resolution of the litigation over sewer system overflows, overseeing the creation of a world-class sewer system and reducing sewer overflows by more than 90% in the City. He has also led many climate adaptation efforts including integrating shade, shelter, equity and stormwater capture into active transportation projects. And he has done this while engaging and building trust with nonprofit groups and local communities.

With the serious allegations of a hostile and discriminatory work environment at MWD that have recently come to light, it is imperative to bring aboard a leader that is willing to tackle these issues head-on. On this front, we are moved by the support from Local 721 of the Service Employees International Union, which represents over 10,000 City of LA workers (including the workers in the City's Bureaus of Sanitation and Streets Services), who called Hagekhalil an "exemplary leader" who has "worked to build a culture of inclusion, respect, and fairness", as well as AFSCME Local 1902, which represents the water professionals of the Southern California Water Districts, who have said that they are "thrilled" with Mr. Hagekhalil's selection. With these votes of confidence from the very people he has been working with, and will be working with now, we are confident that Mr. Hagekhalil will follow through on his pledge to a better working environment at MWD. And we will hold Mr. Hagekhalil to that pledge, and to the same standards that we have held Mr. Kightlinger and other MWD staff - there is no room anywhere for misconduct or discrimination at the workplace.

Mr. Hagekhalil's visionary and consensus-based leadership is well recognized by the community, environmental advocates, local, state and federal officials and industry professionals. He made "one water", green infrastructure, stormwater capture national initiatives and models. For this, Adel's accomplishments have been recognized by Heal the Bay, LA Waterkeeper, Sierra Club, and Climate Resolve, to name a few.

We are encouraged and excited about the future of MWD under Mr. Hagekhalil's leadership, and we expect to be submitting subsequent letters leading up to the June 8 MWD board meeting that will indicate how broad support is for this critical selection.

Sincerely Yours,

Bruce Reznik, *Executive* Director
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Susan Jordan, Executive Director
California Coastal Protection Network

Charming Evelyn
Angeles Chapter Water Committee Chair

Brad Evans
South Platte River Waterkeeper

Belen Bernal
OurWater LA Coalition Coordinator
Nature for All Executive Director

Matt O'Malley
Executive Director & Managing Attorney
San Diego Coastkeeper

Sherri Norris, Executive Director
California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA)

Jonathan Parfrey, Executive Director
Climate Resolve

Barbara Barrigan-Parilla
Executive Director, Restore the Delta

Espe Vielma
Executive Director, EJCW

Cecilia Estolano
CEO Better World Group Advisors

Shelley Austin, Executive Director
Kootenai Environmental Alliance

Andrea Leon-Grossmann, Director
Climate Action

Conner Everts, Executive Director
Southern California Watershed Alliance

Conner Everts, Facilitator
Environmental Water Caucus

Alexandra Nagy, California Director
Food and Water Action

Ben Eichenberg, Staff Attorney
San Francisco Baykeeper

Eric Wesselman, Executive Director
Friends of the River

Jennifer Clary, California Director
Clean Water Action

Claire Robinson, Managing Director
Amigos de los Rios

Siobhan Dolan, Director
Desal Response Group

Barry Nelson, Founder and Consultant
Western Water Strategies

Sean Bothwell, Executive Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance

Martha Camacho-Rodriguez, Director
SEE-LA (Social Eco Education-LA)



Arab American Association of Engineers & Architects

AAAEA – California Chapter

Board of Directors
Southern California Metropolitan Water District
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com

To the Board of Directors:

On behalf of the Arab American Association of Engineers and Architects (AAAEA) California Chapter, please accept our congratulations to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager. This is proof of MWD's commitment to diversity and inclusion as an integral part to bringing innovative leadership.

We are confident that Mr. Hagekhalil will lead MWD towards a sustainable future for our region. Adel has an exemplary record running large public works agencies and programs. Adel is a proven water leader and visionary in the realm of sustainable and integrated water planning. He is celebrated for his ability to bring together stakeholders with different interests and backgrounds. Last but not least, Adel has a very successful track record managing a diverse workforce, delivering high-quality services, overseeing substantial infrastructure investments and supporting disadvantaged communities.

Mr. Hagekhalil has 32 years of public service experience in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs. He has been well-recognized in the water sector locally and nationally, and has recently served as President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies

Mr. Hagekhalil is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation and creates inclusive cultures. These are the skills needed today.

As Southern California confronts climate change and the increasing scarcity of water, we need local leaders who will address these challenges head on. Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person for the job to lead MWD and Southern California into the future.

Again, our board applauds your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. We look forward to working closely with Mr. Hagekhalil and MWD to ensure continued success.

With Sincere Regards,

On behalf of the board and entire team at AAAEA-CA,

Ghina Yamout, President of the Board
Dilara El-Assaad, Secretary
Haitham Aranki, Treasurer
Rick Hijazi, Board Member-at-Large

Amjad Obeid, Board Member-at-Large
Bassem Muallem, Board Member-at-Large
Mamdouh Al-Sakka, Board Member-at-Large
Bilal Al-Masri, Board Member-at-Large

AAAEA is a professional Arab American association dedicated to help, strengthen, empower and inspire its members for excellence. AAAEA promotes and advocates for the Arab American engineers, architects and information technology professionals in North America, by providing career and educational enhancement programs, technical exchange, fellowship, and community service. AAAEA is a non-profit, non-political and non-religious Professional Association. Our membership consists of corporations, academic, professional institutions, and qualified individuals.