



June 2, 2021

*Via email (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)*

Honorable Chairwoman Gray  
Honorable Board of Directors  
c/o Board Executive Secretary  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

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

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.

The MWD Board selected a proven leader to guide MWD and Southern California into the future as the region faces a changing climate and shrinking water supplies.

Mr. Hagekhalil's acumen as a water and organizational leader is well recognized across California and the nation. His appearance on The Water Values Podcast in February 2019 documents his knowledge of the industry, his empathetic leadership, and his genuine character. Mr. Hagekhalil brings to MWD the lessons learned and relationships developed over 32 years of public service experience in the management of water, environmental, and infrastructure programs and initiatives.

His transformational leadership style will maintain MWD's existing good relationships and will continue to build bridges and partnerships, foster continued innovation, and create inclusive cultures. These qualities define the types of leaders needed today, and Mr. Hagekhalil maintains all of them in his skill set.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. Under Mr. Hagekhalil's leadership, MWD will ensure its continued success.

Congratulations on a job well done!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave McGimpsey', is positioned above the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'D' and 'M'.

David T. McGimpsey

**From:** [WALID AZAR](#)  
**To:** [Board Executive Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Mr. Adel Hagekhalil - Next Metropolitan GM  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 4:15:09 PM

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To the Honorable Members of the Board of MWD,

I write this letter with great enthusiasm to congratulate you on the selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil to be the next GM of METROPOLITAN.

I have know Adel professionally for more than 15 years during his tenure at the City of LA.

Adel is a true leader and a visionary in the water industry.

His achievements have made a big impact on the residents and clients that he served. He embraces innovation, partnering, and consensus building.

Congratulations on your decision!

Walid Azar, PE  
18761 Winnwood Lane  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

**From:** [Adeena Bleich](#)  
**To:** [Board Executive Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Commendation for Adel Hagekhalil  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 6:10:42 PM

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June 2, 2021

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

Congratulations on the selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the next General Manager of MWD.

He has been one of the most qualified, effective and innovative General Managers I have ever seen in recent times at the City of Los Angeles. Though it will be a huge loss to the City to lose his leadership, it will be a big win for MWD and all of us in Southern CA.

Climate and water issues are literally at the base of our survival and Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water and environmental leader. He is inclusive of all communities and has won the respect and hearts of the City of LA family as well as the neighborhood groups who rely on the StreetsLA Department.

Again, I applaud your selection of Mr. Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. As an active member of the community, I look forward to working with him and MWD to help make all of our communities better and sustainable.

Thank you,  
Adeena Bleich  
310-867-3591



# Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

Protecting public health and the environment

5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA 94553-4392

PHONE: (925) 228-9500  
FAX: (925) 372-0192  
[www.centrsan.org](http://www.centrsan.org)

June 2, 2021

ROGER S. BAILEY  
General Manager

KENTON L. ALM  
Counsel for the District  
(510) 375-4571

KATIE YOUNG  
Secretary of the District

Honorable Chairwoman Gray  
Honorable Board of Directors  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
P.O. Box 54153  
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

VIA Board Executive Secretary

**Subject: Congratulations on the Selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil as the next General Manager for Metropolitan Water District**

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.

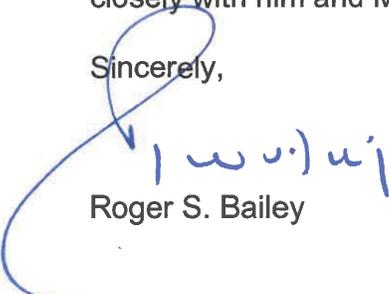
Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person for the job to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face changing climate, prolonged droughts and shrinking water supplies. He is very innovative, futuristic and has the passion to help solve complex problems.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a transformational leader, who has a proven water and organizational track record. As a leader, he is very compassionate, and knows how to build bridges and partnerships to lead innovation and create inclusive cultures. These are the skills I believe a progressive organization like MWD needs today.

With over 32 years of unparalleled public service experience, he has successfully managed complex water, environmental and infrastructure programs, and initiatives. He is nationally regarded and has been recognized in the water sector, including many of our communities across California.

Indeed, Adel Hagekhalil is a world-class leader, and I applaud your selection of him as the next General Manager of the premier water utility in the country. We look forward to working closely with him and MWD to ensure continued success.

Sincerely,

  
Roger S. Bailey

**From:** [CHAIM KOLODNY](#)  
**To:** [Board Executive Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** Congratulations on the selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil as General Manager  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 6:18:20 PM

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**Honorable Chairwoman Gray  
Honorable Board of Directors  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2944**

Dear Honorable Chairwoman Gray and Board:

Congratulations on the selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for General Manager of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Mr. Hagekhalili has proven to be an adept leader of innovation and more importantly consensus amongst the disparate communities that make up the beautiful mosaic that is Southern California.

You could not have chosen a better leader.

I wish him and the entire board lots of successes as you go about the vital and critical work so important to us all.

Sincerely,  
Chaim

**Rabbi Chaim Kolodny, CMC**  
*Los Angeles County Fire Dept., Dept. Chaplain  
Los Angeles Council of Jewish Organizations, President  
LAPD Senior Bureau Chaplain (Ret.)  
Los Angeles County EMS Commissioner (Ret.)  
Hatzolah of Los Angeles EMS, Founder*

8484 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 215  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211  
Phone: (323) 864-3615  
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[Email: Chaim@Hatzolah.org](mailto:Chaim@Hatzolah.org)



June 1, 2021

Honorable Gloria D. Gray  
Chairwoman, Board of Directors  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
via [BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com](mailto:BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)

**RE: Congratulations on the Selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for MWD GM**

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

On behalf of the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles (KAFLA), I would like to extend my support and congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager.

I believe Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person for the job to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face climate change and shrinking water supplies. Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water industry and organizational leader. He is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation, and creates inclusive cultures—skills that are 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 throughout 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.

Founded in 1962, the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles (KAFLA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit civic leadership organization that represents and empowers the Korean American community and serves as an umbrella to over 250 community organizations in LA County.

Sincerely,

James An  
President



COUNCILMEMBER  
**MITCH O'FARRELL**  
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL ★ 13TH DISTRICT

June 2, 2021

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

Dear Chairwoman Gray and Board Members:

As the Chair of the Los Angeles City Council's Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice and River Committee, please accept my strong support for your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager.

Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person for the job to lead the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and Southern California into the future as the region faces changing climate and shrinking water supplies. In his most recent post leading StreetsLA, Adel has fostered an atmosphere of hard work, fidelity to the public good, and world class service to the residents of Los Angeles.

Mr. Hagekhalil is already a proven water and infrastructure expert. A former president of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), Adel has delivered hallmark recommendations that have moved Los Angeles forward. The "One Water" initiative for example, brought together multiple players to develop an integrated framework for managing water resources, watersheds and facilities. He is a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, leads innovation and creates inclusive cultures, while keeping an eye towards cost with practical goals and outcomes.

With over 32 years of service to the people of Los Angeles and California, I once again 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.

With kind regards,

**MITCH O'FARRELL**  
Councilmember, 13th District  
City of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles City Council



Date: June 3, 2021

To: Whom it May Concern

From: Tom Ford

Re: Enthusiastic Support for Adel Hagekhalil as General Manager of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

I have had the pleasure to work with Adel Hagekhalil over the past two decades. Our professional relationship was centered on improving the services provided by the City of Los Angeles in wastewater collection. Adel led an effort that engaged numerous agencies, non-profits, the City of Los Angeles, neighborhood associations, and individuals to renovate thousands of linear miles of infrastructure. His expertise as an engineer, manager and leader were required in order to assure success. The success was a decade-plus effort and a commitment of five billion dollars that moved the City of Los Angeles to the forefront of technological development and implementation.

The transformation of this system didn't go unnoticed and catalyzed other investments within the City to advance Los Angeles' commitment and capacity to better manage its water. In particular the upgrade of the Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant to 100% recycled stands as testimony. Expansive stormwater capture-treatment-infiltration projects are recharging to our aquifers and changing the landscape of our City. The recent commitment to 100% recycling at Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant is, in my thinking, an expression of the confidence the City of Los Angeles' leadership has in the Bureau of Sanitation, based in part upon the exceptional work I referenced. In my many interactions with Adel it was about people, community, his team and staff, as much as it was about pipes, pumps, and valves. In summary, I was always impressed by his diligence and capacity to work the problem for the betterment of all involved.

As the CEO of The Bay Foundation I support the implementation of a 44 Action strategic plan to protect and restore Santa Monica Bay in concert with State Water Board through our participation in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program. The City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation and Environmental Monitoring Division have been instrumental in informing and improving the condition of our coastal water quality. Without their support and the commitment of their personnel to our efforts much of our precedent setting work to restore that Bay could not be realized.

I could say much more on Adel's behalf, I hope this brief letter helps convey his legacy and impact on Los Angeles. He is a leader with the vision and skills necessary to support the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Sincerely,

Tom Ford

CEO, The Bay Foundation

Director, Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program

Co-Executive Director, Coastal Research Institute, Loyola Marymount University

[tford@santamonicabay.org](mailto:tford@santamonicabay.org), 310-738-6915



**KACCLA** 로스앤젤레스 한인상공회의소

3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 2450 Los Angeles, CA 90010 T. 213-480-1115 / F. 866-936-4497 / [info@lakacc.com](mailto:info@lakacc.com)

May 28, 2021

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

via Board Secretary ([BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com](mailto: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 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.

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,

Il Han Kang  
President  
Korean American Chamber of Commerce, LA

June 1, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gray and Honorable Board members;

Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board of Directors; Via Board Secretary

- Congratulations on your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil P.E. as the next General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District. I write as the former Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, where I worked across the table with Mr. Hagekhalil on a number of water quality and water supply issues, including the settlement of a USEPA lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles that resulted in a major upgrade to the City's sanitary sewer system to bring social justice and improved water quality to the City of Los Angeles. The settlement was accepted by the United States Department of Justice.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a transformational leader with a well-deserved reputation of building partnerships with all stakeholders. Given California's water challenges, these are the skills that are needed to bring MWD into the future. He is well recognized in the water sector and across many of our communities across California and the nation. Again, I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD.

Mr. Hagekhalil's 32 years of experience in the management of water, environment and infrastructure programs and initiatives will serve MWD well into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Unger".

Samuel Unger, P.E..

1-818-661-0247



June 3, 2021

The Honorable Gloria D. Gray  
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2944

**RE: Congratulations to the MWD Board on its Selection of Adel Hagekhalil as General Manager**

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

It is our pleasure as the leaders of the US Water Alliance to congratulate you and the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager. The Alliance is an organization dedicated to bringing together water leaders from across the country to help push the water sector towards a more collaborative and sustainable approach to water management. We have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Hagekhalil for years in his role at LA Sanitation & Environment, and he has been a strong model that has helped shape and move the conversation on One Water for many years.

Mr. Hagekhalil is also a leader on national water policy advocacy, and has played a leadership role in the sector in advocating for water infrastructure loan and grant programs, low-income ratepayer assistance, and water workforce development programs. As the water sector (and the nation) begins to recover from the upheaval of the pandemic, it is a wise move to bring in someone whose more than 30 years of public service experience in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs and initiatives has been well-recognized in the water sector. MWD will be well-positioned to take this moment of disruption and turn it into a source of lasting transformation in how we view, value, and manage the region's water systems.

At the US Water Alliance, we are dedicated to forging the pathway needed to recover stronger by seeking to reknit a local, state, and federal partnership for water. Now more than ever, we need bold leaders across the country to step up and we look forward to working with Mr. Hagekhalil and MWD to ensure a sustainable water future for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renee Willette".

Renee Willette  
Vice President, Programs & Strategy  
Co-Interim CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Aminzadeh".

Sara Aminzadeh  
Vice President, Partnerships  
Co-Interim CEO

CC: The Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California



## A Competitive Local Exchange Carrier, Licensed in California, Arizona, Oregon, and Nevada

June 3, 2021

Honorable Chairperson Gloria Gray and Honorable Directors  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
Letter Transmitted Electronically to Board Secretary,  
[BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com](mailto:BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)

Dear Honorable Chairperson Gray and Board Members,

You have a challenging and historic decision to make concerning the next Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC) General Manager. With major and ostensibly permanent erosions of our dependable imported water supplies, your choice will either strengthen MWDSC to face water supply uncertainty and unreliability with creativity and vision. Or, that individual will apply past successful experiences from the 20th century to new and permanent realities of the 21st. Please allow me to explore my thinking a bit here.

In 1978 I went to work for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). This was for Director Ronald B. Robie. You will recall that this was the first time that Jerry Brown was Governor. During my decades at DWR, I had the privilege of working with some of the very engineers who had designed and built the State Water Project.

At DWR I was the Chief of Planning Evaluation and ultimately built the water recycling program through the infancy of California's entrance into the making of recycled water what an important role it currently plays in our water portfolio.

I had the privilege of working for the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), as the Planning Officer in charge of water planning for southern

California where we examined the extent of potential for expanding recycled water both non-potable uses and potable uses.

Additionally, I have worked for the Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency as the Recycled Water Project Manager. And, I was promoted at the USBR to become the Desalination Project Manager with jurisdiction over those projects in the 17 western states.

I provide that brief glimpse into some of my career to illustrate that my observations herein have at least a basis in our water resources history over the past over 40 years.

I have personally played a key role in promoting a diversification of supplies for our water resource needs. As an economist, I have been keenly aware that dependable supplies are the most important characteristic of our water portfolio.

Today, you Directors and leaders of one of the World's premier water supply agencies. MWDSC has been a leader in promoting diversity of supply and promoting increasing efficiencies of those limited and expensive supplies.

We are all proud of the leadership that MWDSC has provided to better water management in the West.

Today, you MWDSC Directors stand at a crossroads of water history. We are faced today with new challenges and even old challenges requiring new strategies to relief pressures from their impacts. Water supply unreliability, ever increasing environmental water demands from supply to temperature, and the continuing emergence of a better understanding of environmental justice, water quality, and how to cooperate and avoid water distribution acrimony.

Still, to be absolutely honest, imported water has always been the foundational supply. Conservation, water recycling, and seawater desalination have all been niceties that agencies include in their budgets. However, deep in the souls of those agencies has been the belief that snow pack, impoundments, and transmission of snow melt through rivers, canals, pumps, and distribution systems, is our primary foundational water supply in California (and in the West).

This reliance in imported snow melt from far away and through facilities that date back to the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, has now increasingly

become unreliable. We cannot depend upon those facilities to assure supply reliability. Even, more efficient transfer of that unreliable water through new facilities in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta cannot reflect a valued investment with little or no snow melt. Take this year for example to face the clear picture I am illustrating. There is little snow pack and we are facing extreme shortage of imported surface waters from both the SWP and the Colorado River facilities. This, sadly, looks like real impacts from climate change. We can only stretch such limited supplies between competing users and other states so far when we fail to provide adequate supplies to fuel our amazing California economy.

Yes, Honorable Board Chairperson Gray and Board Members you are standing at a crossroads in water resource history. Your decision on who will take the General Manager leadership position at MWDSC can either continue to follow the belief that we are going to be best served by traditional water resources knowledge or can we shift our vision to a distinctly 21st Century perspective and leave think outside the imported water "box."

Your choice will reflect your best understanding of the delicate role climate changes have on imported water. Moreover, you will most importantly face your understanding that the traditional imported water path is not assuring a reliable, dependable supply. Our water customers should benefit most from reliability. They do not get a good return on investment paying on the hope and dry promise of dwindling snow melt missing from transport facilities and pipelines.

I want to lastly thank you for reading to this point. And I want to remind you that imported water will always be critically important to southern California. But imported water will not be the foundational supply that it has been in history. The future belongs to extreme wastewater recycling and brackish and seawater desalination.

Please keep these facts in mind and choose a leader well versed in these perspectives and not one steeped in the myths and beliefs so strongly supported during the past century that is so very lacking today. That is why I recommend Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the job. Mr. Hagekhalil sees the water world through the 21st century lens. He understands the great value that sustainable water supplies hold for southern Californians. His competitor is a brilliant water resource manager whose approach is based on the tradition of

reliance on imported supplies, political acrimony, and strong willed adherence to traditions. We cannot afford to stand still or worse to move in reverse.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Kasower', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Kasower, Chief Executive Officer

Digital Transportation Corporation



**CURREN D. PRICE, Jr.**

June 3, 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.

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. We 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.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact my Deputy Chief of Staff & Director of Policy, Marissa Alcaraz via email [Marissa.Alcaraz@LAcity.org](mailto:Marissa.Alcaraz@LAcity.org) or phone (213) 978-7009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Curren D. Price, Jr.' in a cursive style.

**CURREN D. PRICE, JR.**

Councilmember, 9<sup>th</sup> District

**Christopher M. Westhoff, J.D.**  
**Assistant City Attorney (Retired)**  
**6258 Altura Avenue**  
**La Crescenta, California 91214**  
**(213) 359-8620**

June 3, 2021

*Via Electronic Mail*

Chairwoman Gray, Honorable Board Members,  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012-2944

Dear Chairwoman Grey and Honorable Board Members:

I could not have been happier and prouder when I heard that your Honorable Board has selected Adel Hagekhalil to succeed Jeff Kightlinger as General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Happy for both the MWD and Adel and proud of my colleague for both seeking and being selected to follow such a distinguished leader of your organization as Jeff Kightlinger has been for the District.

It is never easy to replace a distinguished head of an organization, especially one that has served the MWD over such a long and accomplished career as Mr. Kightlinger. I know how arduous your selection process had to be to ensure that whomever you selected would be able to follow in Mr. Kightlinger's footsteps without missing a beat but also be able to meet the ever growing challenges of providing all of Southern California with the water it needs to survive and flourish. Drought, climate change, political turmoil, aging infrastructure and our growing population, which increases demand on the Colorado River and California Aqueduct, all make the mission of the MWD that much more difficult to accomplish.

To help you understand how well I know Mr. Hagekhalil and so that you can put my support for his selection in context, I will provide you some of my background.

I was lucky enough to spend 27 years of my 35-year career in the Los Angeles City Attorneys Office as the General Counsel to the City's Department and Board of Public Works. The Board of Public Works is the only full-time citizen commission in the City of Los Angeles and I was the only full time Attorney assigned to the Department and

the Board during my career. As General Counsel I worked intimately with all the Board members and Department leadership, on a daily basis, over those 27 years.

Water, wastewater, stormwater, and reclaimed water dominated the majority of my time over my career. As such, I spent most of my working life working with both the leadership and the staff engineers of the City's Bureau of Sanitation. This is where I first became acquainted with Mr. Hagekhalil. Adel and I spent over 20 years working together to help address issues, both simple and complex, as he continued to grow as an engineer and leader within the Bureau of Sanitation.

I was able to observe first hand, during our long relationship, how Adel worked throughout his career within the Bureau, with both individuals above his level of responsibility and those who worked for him, as he promoted through the organization. His ability to engender support from both those he worked for and those who worked for him was remarkable. Even during stressful situations, which were many, Mr. Hagekhalil always maintained a calm demeanor and remained focused on helping solve the problem at hand. His personality allowed him to bring divergent points of view together to reach an outcome that in most instances was a "win, win" result, whenever possible.

As I am sure you are already aware, because of the broad support Mr. Hagekhalil has received from the NGO environmental community, he was able to forge positive and productive relationships with this community even when the City's needs and the NGO's interests were not necessarily aligned. Adel has always sought consensus, where possible, while always seeking to protect the City and its responsibilities to the broader public interest of its citizens.

Adel was able to foster confidence and support within the City's elected leadership throughout his career. I observed the incredible respect and reliance that these officials had for Mr. Hagekhalil, both in private meetings as well as before the full City Council, on numerous occasions. Adel was a "go to" resource for the Mayor and many Council members on all City water related environmental issues that were part of his responsibility.

I was proud to be the City's representative to the National Association of Clean Water Agencies ("NACWA") for over 20 years, culminating in my selection as their President in 2008. When it was time for me to retire from my career at the City, there was no other person more qualified to become the City's representative to NACWA other than Mr. Hagekhalil. He had worked on national clean water issues for NACWA for many years and then succeeded me on their Board of Directors and was President of the organization in 2016.

Adel's background in both national and local water issues is unparalleled. As the need for ever expanding sources of consumable water challenges our region, for all the well-known reasons, the need to solve this resource problem has never been more critical. Wastewater, reclaimed water, stormwater and groundwater will all play a role in helping our region and the MWD meet the potable water demands of the Southern California

population. Mr. Hagekhalil is uniquely qualified to help bridge the gap between the MWD's traditional sources of potable water and the non-traditional sources that will most certainly be necessary to augment the supply needs of the future. Thinking "out of the box", engaging diverse interest groups, motivating staff and providing steady and grounded leadership make your choice of Mr. Hagekhalil to help your Board meet these challenges, the correct result.

Your search process identified the right person to lead your organization during these difficult times and your Board clearly made the correct choice for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's future. Congratulations!

Sincerely,

*Christopher M. Westhoff*

Christopher M. Westhoff,  
Assistant City Attorney, Retired

**From:** [Soysegura](#)  
**To:** [DL-Board Support Team](#)  
**Subject:** GM Letter of Support for Mr. Hagekhalil, from Marta Segura  
**Date:** Thursday, June 3, 2021 4:57:41 PM

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Dear MWD Board of Directors:

I read in the LA Times that you have voted for and selected Adel Hagekhalil as your next General Manager. He is the best fit and leader for this position, especially at this time of great need and opportunity to prepare for long-term water sustainability projects and infrastructure investments during California's continuing drought, undeniable climate change and economic recovery from the Pandemic.

My experience with Mr. Hagekhalil has been at the City of Los Angeles, both when I served as a Planning Commissioner and now as the Director of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office for the City of Los Angeles.

He is a decisive servant leader that thoughtfully considers all possibilities with the big lens at the forefront of those decisions. He makes decisions in alignment with policies and the greater good, with an eye on equitable investments with the greatest returns. His character and experience are what our region needs now, more than ever before.

He will bring a focus on the values of resilience, transparency, sustainability, and inclusivity to the MWD that will also support local job creation and local water infrastructure investments.

Adel has the needed leadership skills and commitment for the greatest public interest for this very diverse region and multi metropolis that is in striking contrast to the days when water was seen as a plentiful resource that could just be imported from somewhere else. Importing water creates unnecessary divisions in this State, within a polarized nation. These divisions waste time and valuable resources. California must be unified with leaders like Adel who can unify us around common goals. We need an innovative, creative General Manager at MWD who is a realist and has an eye on the future of Los Angeles for all, and that leader is Mr. Hagekhalil.

Thank you.



**Marta A. Segura, M.P.H.**  
This endorsement is my individual endorsement.



**From:** [Ali Poosti](#)  
**To:** [DL-Board Support Team](#)  
**Subject:** Adel  
**Date:** Thursday, June 3, 2021 10:20:12 PM

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June 3, 2021

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

via Board Secretary Ms. Rosa Castro

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.

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.

Best Regards,  
Ali Poosti  
LA Sanitation and Environment

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

June 3, 2021

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

via Board Secretary ([BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com](mailto:BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com))

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

It is with immense pleasure that I extend my congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager.

It has never been more important to have good leadership at the top. Mr. Hagekhalil is the best person for the job to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face water shortages.

Mr. Hagekhalil has a proven track record over many decades as a 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.

It is with great pleasure that I strongly 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,

Steven S. Pedersen  
Chief Environmental Compliance Officer  
City of Los Angeles, Watershed Protection Division  
2714 Media Center Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90065

**From:** [dsneft](#)  
**To:** [Board Executive Secretary](#)  
**Subject:** General Manager MWD  
**Date:** Friday, June 4, 2021 1:31:21 PM

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My name is Darrell Neft from Costa Mesa, Ca and I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District

Sent from my Galaxy Tab A