

From: [Randy Nichols](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 1:37:09 PM

Dear MWD:

As a citizen, I want someone like Adel Hagekhalil as the general manager of MWD. I worry that outside or special interests have for too long influenced our water decisions and impacted the environment we live in.

I trust Adel Hagekhalil. I have heard there are behind-the-scenes to oppose a legitimately won position he deserves. This must not happen. Enough with scandals. Adel Hagekhalil must be the next general manager of MWD.

Sincerely,

Ralph Nichols
Montrose, CA



June 4, 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, social justice, and Tribal 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.

This letter has been amended to now include our 34 signatory environmental, social justice, and Tribal organizations, including the Gabrielleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians.

Sincerely Yours,

Chief Anthony Morales, Gabrielleno/
Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Lydia Ponce
Idle No More

Bruce Reznik, *Executive* Director
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Susan Jordan, *Executive* Director
California Coastal Protection Network

Charming Evelyn, Chair
Angeles Chapter Water Committee

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

Eric Wesselman, Executive Director
Friends of the River

Shelley Austin, Executive Director
Kootenai Environmental Alliance

Jennifer Clary, California Director
Clean Water Action

Andrea Leon-Grossmann
Climate Action Director, Azul

Claire Robinson, Managing Director
Amigos de los Rios

Conner Everts, Executive Director
Southern California Watershed Alliance

Siobhan Dolan, Director
Desal Response Group

Conner Everts, Facilitator
Environmental Water Caucus

Barry Nelson, Founder and Consultant
Western Water Strategies

Alexandra Nagy, California Director
Food and Water Action

Sean Bothwell, Executive Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance

Ben Eichenberg, Staff Attorney
San Francisco Baykeeper

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

Craig W. Cadwallader, Policy Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter

Anna Christensen
Puvunga Wetlands Protectors

Kyle Roerink, Executive Director
Great Basin Water Network

Dave Hamilton, President
Residents for Responsible Desalination (R4RD)

Gary Wockner, Executive Director
Save the Colorado

Leslie Mintz Tamminen, Legal Director
7th Generation Advisors

Evelyn Wendel, Founding Director
WeTap

Lisa Pederson, Founder
Peace Builders of Orange County

From: [Michael Schwager](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Adel Hagekhalil for General Manager of the MWD
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 2:49:54 PM

I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District. We in Southern California need Mr Hagekhalil's skills, experience, and knowledge at MWD to handle the challenges ahead of drought and climate change.

Michael Schwager
1212 Grand Canal
Irvine CA 92620
1-949-331-2017
myklschwager@gmail.com

From: [Samuel Butler](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: MWD GM Candidate Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 3:05:11 PM

I wish to express my full support for Adel Hagekhalil for the position of GM at MWD.

Mr. Hagekhalil has significant and relevant experience for this role, especially given the coming challenges of climate change and water scarcity. We need someone that can bring innovative solutions and that has the capacity to problem solve for the issues that we are facing today and will face tomorrow. Selecting a business-as-usual candidate will not work. Therefore I urge you to appoint Mr. Hagekhalil as the next MWD GM.

I am unable to attend the meeting on June 8 due to work commitments, so thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this appointment by email.

Kind regards,

Sam Butler
Los Angeles, CA 90045



June 4, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Sent via electronic mail to the Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)

RE: Congratulations on the Selection of Adel Hagekhalil for Next General Manager of MWD

On behalf of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), please accept our congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on the selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager. Mr. Hagekhalil has demonstrated commitment to the integrated water management approach our region needs to thrive during the current drought crisis and in the uncertain climate conditions to come. We applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as MWD General Manager, whom we know from his leadership in two LA City departments with which we've worked closely. We look forward to the Board's vote to approve his contract this coming Tuesday.

Among LAANE's campaigns is an effort to support water infrastructure investments that yield benefits for our economy, our communities, and our environment, and as such, we strongly support stormwater capture and wastewater recycling. Mr. Hagekhalil has championed the kind of multi-benefit approaches to water management that we support and believe will result in a modern water system, family-sustaining careers, sustainability, and community benefits.

There are state and federal opportunities to secure billions of dollars in water infrastructure investments in projects that can help secure local, diversified, drought- and seismic-resilient water supplies for our region. We need to act urgently to secure these outside resources for our water future and for greater economic growth and stability. We are excited to see Mr. Hagekhalil bring his decades of experience and expertise on these matters, as well as his demonstrated respect for the water workforce and his focus on inclusivity and public process. These skills, combined with the expertise of MWD staff and the leadership of the Board, will position MWD to build on its legacy and be poised for future success.

Sincerely,

Lauren Ahkiam, Director, Water Projects
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)

From: [Christopher Wachlin](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: I support Adel Hagekhalil for general manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 4:13:45 PM

Hello,

Mr. Hagekhalil's commitment to innovative and SUSTAINABLE solutions to Southern California's water needs will put people and the environment first. As you know, Mr. Hagekhalil has already won the position in a vote by the MWD board on May 8. Don't let the losing board members thwart this.

Please appoint Mr. Hagekhalil.

Sincerely,
Christopher Wachlin
Redwood City
San Mateo County

From: [David Nahai](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Cc: [David Nahai](#)
Subject: Adel Hagekhalil - Support Letter from David Nahai
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 4:51:18 PM

Dear Honorable Chairwoman Gray, Honorable Members of the Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

I am writing to express my strong support for your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil as the next General Manager of MWD.

I have known and worked with Mr. Hagekhalil over a number of years. I know him to be a person of integrity and a proven leader and uniter. He is committed to building consensus, forging partnerships, fostering inclusiveness, and pursuing equity. He has extensive knowledge and expertise in the water arena, having served as the Assistant Director at LA Sanitation for two decades and as a leader of the One Water LA initiative, among other involvements. In all, he has 32 years of public service experience and is highly respected as a dedicated and capable public servant, with many accomplishments to his credit.

Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person to lead MWD into the future as we face the impacts of a changing climate, perennial droughts, and the pressing need to replace and rebuild our shrinking water supplies.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD.

Best regards,
David Nahai

David Nahai Companies
1875 Century Park East
Suite 1120
Los Angeles CA 90067
Tel (310) 201-6800
Fax (310) 201-6802

[https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.davidnahai.com_!!OxHIEl8K!rr1Y7FNEzlt3cT9VxnmYT8nt9T09-xqgZfjM1oVdf-I6t2FAeR0HInc_ZBeupqGEubi-FahF5kPf\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.davidnahai.com_!!OxHIEl8K!rr1Y7FNEzlt3cT9VxnmYT8nt9T09-xqgZfjM1oVdf-I6t2FAeR0HInc_ZBeupqGEubi-FahF5kPf$)

FROM THE DESK OF MATT HALL

June 4, 2021

Chairwoman Gloria Gray
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(sent via email: boardexecutivesecretary@mdwh2o.com)

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

I read the recent Los Angeles Times article and wanted to congratulate you and the Metropolitan Board of Directors on its visionary selection of Adel Hagekhalil to lead Metropolitan on the challenging course that lies ahead to secure a reliable and affordable water supply for Southern California. This comes at a particularly good time as the state is facing yet another historic drought condition.

With Metropolitan at a crossroads, facing important decisions about its imported water supply sources, I believe the selection of Mr. Hagekhalil sends an important signal that Southern California plans to rely more in the future on local water supply development. Mr. Hagekhalil's successful work at the City of Los Angeles demonstrates exactly the kind of change our region needs, not only toward more sustainable, local long-term solutions but also focusing on issues of social justice and how we might better meet the needs of our underserved communities.

No one knows better than you and the Metropolitan Board of Directors that the key challenges have already shifted in California, as the need to protect the environment has become even more important as climate change intensifies the weather and availability of our imported water supplies. With the strong endorsement of Mayor Garcetti, Mr. Hagekhalil's track record demonstrates exactly the kind of multi-benefit planning and solutions called for by Governor Newsom and the California State Legislature and that we have moved to adopt here in San Diego County.

On a separate and final note, I am extremely pleased to see that Mr. Hagekhalil has received strong approval from both the employees who have worked for him and from Metropolitan employees. I have been following with concern the news reports on sexual harassment and other claims pending by Metropolitan employees now pending before the State Auditor and I believe your choice also signals a positive change in regard to this very important issue.

Again, I congratulate you and wish you and Mr. Hagekhalil every success. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Matt Hall
Mayor
Carlsbad, CA

cc: Metropolitan Board of Directors
San Diego County Water Authority
Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate

From: [Barbara Epstein](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: General Manager Selection
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 5:02:36 PM

Dear MWD Board,

I would support Adel Hagekhalil for selection for the position of General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District. This candidate has the best qualifications and strongest water philosophy for this position.

Thank You

Barbara Epstein
justbarb56@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

From: [J'Carlin](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Adel Hagekhalil forMWD General Manager
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 6:17:47 PM

MWD's status quo isn't working for any Californians and we need someone like Adel Hagekhalil to turn things around for MWD employees and the future of water in Southern California. Southern California needs to stop pouring other Californian's water into the ocean.

Best Regards,
Carlin Black
San Jose, CA

--

Carlin Black

Aka J'Carlin

From: [Lorene Keating](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Support from MWD GM Candidate Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 9:19:46 PM

To the MWD personnel,

Hello, my name is Lorene Keating from Ontario, California and I strongly support Adel Hagekhalil for general manager of MWD. Mr. Hagekhalil has exactly the superb knowledge and powerful experience that is needed for leading us through surviving drought and climate change. He can help bring about a positive future for adequate and safe water in California.

I urge you to place Mr. Hagekhalil into the position of general manager of MWD.

Respectfully,

Lorene Keating

Sent from my iPhone

From: lzdldy@att.net
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: support
Date: Friday, June 4, 2021 9:25:47 PM

I support del Hagekhalil for general manager of MWD
Lynn Adams
Sierra Club supporter

From: [Joy Young](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: I Support Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Saturday, June 5, 2021 9:12:54 AM

My name is Joy Young from Mission Viejo, CA and I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of MWD. We need a fresh perspective and approach to address 21st century issues and problems. Mr. Hagekhalil has the knowledge and experience we need to survive drought and climate change. The status quo isn't working. California is in trouble with growing threats from forest fires and severe drought. It's time to turn things around for the future of California and the planet. Please support Adel Hagekhalil for general manager of MWD. Thank you, Joy Young

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [LeeAnn Marienthal](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: I support Adel Hagekhalil for general manager of MWD.
Date: Saturday, June 5, 2021 10:03:29 AM

Dear Board Members for MWD,

Quit stalling and move forward. I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District.

Mr. Hagekhalil is the fresh perspective the agency needs in the 21st century. He has a demonstrated wealth of experience and knowledge that we need for surviving drought and climate change.

MWD's status quo isn't working and we need someone like Adel Hagekhalil to turn things around for MWD employees and the future of water in Southern California.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Marienthal

From: [steve zelman](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Adel Hagekhalil should be next GM
Date: Saturday, June 5, 2021 12:35:16 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this to state my support for Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District. Mr. Hagekhalil will bring a much needed fresh perspective to the MWD. He has an unquestionable wealth of experience and knowledge that we need for surviving drought and climate change.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Stephen Zelman, Woodland Hills

From: [Julian Ponce](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Support for Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Sunday, June 6, 2021 9:52:06 AM

To Whom It May Concern: I am a resident of the MWD of SoCal and I want to voice my support for Mr. Hagekhalil as MWD General Manager in the strongest terms possible. I think to reverse the decision of the Board that has already been duly made would be scandalous and a disservice to the customers of the MWD. Sincerely, Julian Ponce-Long Beach, CA.

From: [Karen Jacques](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Please Elect Adel Hagekhalel as the new MWD Executive Director
Date: Sunday, June 6, 2021 7:07:48 PM

Dear Executive Secretary and Members of the MWD Board

I am writing to express my strong support for Adel Hagekhalel as the next Municipal Water District Executive Director. As you know, California is currently in extreme drought and climate scientists are predicting that we face many years of drought that will be as bad or worse than this year. MWD is a key player in the distribution of California's water and who your board chooses as your next Executive Director will impact all of us whether we live within MWD boundaries or we live, as I do, in areas from which MWD gets much of its water. The reality is that there will be significantly less water available from two of MWD's main water sources: the Colorado River and the San Francisco Bay Delta and this will have a major impact on MWD and all the water agencies it serves.. For the sake of all of us, MWD needs to choose a new Executive Director who is best able to respond to California's current situation. I believe Mr. Hagekhalel is that person. Here are my reasons:

1) Southern California has to make it's local water go farther than it did in the past because there simply isn't going to be as much Colorado River or Northern California water available. MWD needs a leader with a strong commitment to local projects and solutions that increase water conservation, collect and use rain water effectively and recycle as much gray water as possible. Mr. Hagekhalel has expressed a strong commitment to all of these water solutions and the sooner MWD gets started on them the better for all of us. We need to be doing these things now and not counting on a giant tunnel as the only solution to our water woes.

2) Water is an environmental and social justice issue and developing solid local water solutions means gaining the trust of and working with many different groups. Mr. Hagekhalel has pledged to work with environmental and community groups and with tribal organizations and they have thrown their support behind him in his efforts to become MWD's next Executive Director. This says a lot. Especially since many of these groups have lost faith in MWD based on its past actions. Having a new director that these groups want and trust has the potential to make a major difference in finding the best and fairest solutions to Southern California's and the State's water problems.

3). It is also important for MWD to have an Executive Director who is supported by its employees. Mr. Hagekhalel has the support of MWD's union employees and he also has the support of his current union workers who would not be supporting him if he had not been able to establish positive labor relations. Mr. Hagekhalel also has the support of the MWD Women's Caucus. This is extremely important because the previous director had lost that support and many of MWD's women employees had reported feeling discounted and unheard by the previous director. Coming into a job with the strong support of labor is a great advantage for any new Executive Director and it is unlikely Mr. Hagekhalel would have that support if his actions in his current position didn't warrant it.

Thank-you again for this opportunity to comment. The decision you make will have a significant, long lasting impact on water issues throughout California. Please make the right choice.

Karen Jacques,
Sacramento, California

Hal Martin
PO Box 549
San Marcos, CA 92079

June 6, 2021

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Chairwoman Gloria Gray
Board of Directors
PO Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054

RE: Support for Adel Hagekhalil as Metropolitan General Manager
SENT: electronically to: boardexecutivesecretary@mwdh2o.com

Dear Chairwoman Gray and Board of Directors,

Congratulations on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil as the General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California – a wise decision.

I served as a San Marcos City Council member for fourteen years and on the Vallecitos Water District Board for ten years. In these two separate capacities I learned about water and its complexities, and I now have a better appreciation and understanding for providing safe and reliable water to Southern California.

After reading about your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil in the *Los Angeles Times* it prompted me to write this letter. I also did more research on him.

It appears as if you have selected a person who has an incredible background in the world of water. He has the dedication and vision to see Southern California first and foremost and to make sure the Metropolitan Water District is looked upon as an entity known for integrity and transparency that provides a safe and affordable water supply now and in the future.

These are challenging times, and he appears to demonstrate exactly the kind of leadership needed. It is not an easy task in front of him but, from what I have read, he can handle it. His background of being able to partner with and build bridges with entities and individuals is crucial in moving the Metropolitan Water District forward in a positive way, a definite plus to his success.

Visionary greatness can be accomplished with leadership and teamwork. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,



Hal Martin

Cc: San Diego County Water Authority
Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate

From: [Ann Dorsey](#)
To: [DL-Board Support Team](#)
Subject: Comment regarding Board Meeting on June 8
Date: Sunday, June 6, 2021 10:03:19 PM

- Ms. Castro,
- Please forward the following comment to the Board of Directors regarding agenda item 10 for the June 8 meeting:

I urge the Board to confirm Adel Hagekhalil as the next GM for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. He is well qualified to lead the agency and can be the transformative change maker the agency needs.

Thank you,

Ann Dorsey
Northridge, CA 91325



BOB BLUMENFIELD

Councilmember, Third District

June 4, 2021

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 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.

Please contact me or my Deputy Chief of Staff John Popoch at john.popoch@lacity.org with any questions or if you would like any further information.

Respectfully,

BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, City of Los Angeles

From: [Juliet Ellis](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Letter of support-please share with Chairwoman Gray
Date: Sunday, June 6, 2021 10:24:12 PM

Dear Honorable Chairwoman Gray:

Please accept this email of support for Adel Hagekhalil's candidacy for the Director of Metropolitan Water District. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Hagekhalil for almost a decade. He was one of the founding members of the Water Agency Leaders Alliance (WALA). WALA is a coalition of over 25 chief executives from public water and wastewater utilities across the nation focused on advancing federal policy. Mr. Hagekhalil has played a critical role in advocating for federal funding for water infrastructure; workforce training programs to address the retirement crisis in the water sector; and water affordability. I have seen first hand how effective Mr. Hagekhalil is at bringing stakeholders together with differing perspectives to build consensus on complicated issues. For example, during his time with Los Angeles Sanitation, Mr. Hagekhalil hosted utility leaders from around the country to learn more about storm water management practices and the associated legislative policies. Mr. Hagekhalil is extremely skilled at building and maintaining relationships. He takes the time to bring people along in a process and is respected in the industry. Metropolitan Water District would benefit from Mr. Hagekhalil's leadership and deep expertise.

Sincerely,

Juliet Ellis
Chairwoman, WALA

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Cecilia Cabello](#)
To: [DL-Board Support Team](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Item 10-3 Approve New General Manager Employment Contract
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 7:04:02 AM

The Honorable Gloria D. Gray, Chair
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board of Directors
Via email: dl-boardsupportteam@mwdh2o.com

Re: Item 10-3 Approve New General Manager Employment Contract

June 7, 2021

Dear Chair Gray and Board of Directors,

I add my name to the legion of supporters in congratulating you on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil as the next General Manager. The choice of Mr. Hagekhalil is a strong signal to ratepayers and those who do business with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California that this Board of Directors not only recognizes climate change as more than an existential threat but is prepared to address it.

I had the honor to serve with Adel during my tenure as Vice President of the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works. Those who have worked with Mr. Hagekhalil know what an inspiring, diligent and innovative leader he is. As you will see in the months and years to come, Adel is a coalition builder who gets things done. His ability to win over skeptics, bring in projects on time and on budget, and inspire his team and others is unparalleled.

As a former colleague, I couldn't be prouder of Adel, and as a ratepayer, I am heartened that you have our best interest in mind by choosing a visionary leader who will ensure a sustainable future for Southern California. I applaud your vision and thank you for this inspired selection.

Sincerely,
Cecilia Cabello



**FIGHTING FOR
WORKERS AND
OUR COMMUNITIES**

4855 SEMINOLE DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92115
1-800-621-5016 | WWW.UDWA.ORG

EXECUTIVE BOARD

June 4, 2021

Editha Adams
President

Astrid Zuniga
Vice President

Lientuong Rose Nguyen
Secretary-Treasurer

Douglas Moore, Jr.
Executive Director

Nicanora Montenegro
District 1 Vice President

Fernando Velazquez
District 1 Vice President

Christine Nguyen
District 2 Vice President

Angie Nguyen
District 2 Vice President

Rosa Beltran
District 3 Vice President

Desmond Prescott
District 3 Vice President

Florence 'Corie' Crowson
District 4 Vice President

Elva Munoz
District 5 Vice President

William Reed
District 6 Vice President

Maria Isabel Serrano
District 7 Vice President

Chairwoman Gloria Gray
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Via email: BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.org

Dear Chairwoman Gray,
We are writing to you today in solidarity and support of our brothers and sisters of AFSCME Local 1902 on the selection of Adel Hagekhalil as the new General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. UDW AFSCME Local 3930 represents 120,000 home care providers and 20,000 childcare providers statewide. As an AFSCME affiliate, we look to continually support the efforts of our affiliates throughout the state.

AFSCME Local 1902 has been vocal in their concerns related to the MWD workforce over the past few years. The selection of Hagekhalil, who currently serves as the Executive Director and General Manager with the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Street Services, previously served for 9 years as a Board member, and recently President, of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, will be a welcomed change.

We applaud the MWD Board for its selection of Adel as the new General Manager and look forward to his productive partnership with AFCME Local 1902.

Sincerely,

Doug Moore
UDW Executive Director
AFSCME International Vice President

cc: Metropolitan Board of Directors
Alan Shanahan, AFSCME Local 1902
Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate

From: [Margo Finlayson](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Public Comment for June 8th MWD Board Meeting
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 7:52:20 AM

Dear Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board Members,

My name is Margo Finlayson from Foothill Ranch/Lake Forest, California and I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District.

Mr. Hagekhalil will bring the agency a much needed fresh perspective for the new challenges we now face. He has a demonstrated wealth of experience and knowledge that we need for surviving drought and climate change. I urge you to approve Mr. Hagekhalil's contract as general manager.

Sincerely,

Margo

--

Margaret Allen Finlayson
19431 Rue De Valore
Foothill Ranch, CA 92610
margo.ipc@gmail.com

THE CITY OF
SAN FERNANDO

CITY COUNCIL

June 7, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:
See Distribution List

MAYOR
SYLVIA BALLIN

Chairwoman Gloria D. Gray & Members of the Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153

VICE MAYOR
MARY MENDOZA

Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

COUNCILMEMBER
CINDY MONTAÑEZ

COUNCILMEMBER
HECTORA. PACHECO

Subject: Congratulation on Selection of New General Manager

COUNCILMEMBER
CELESTE T. RODRIGUEZ

Dear Chairwoman Gray and Members of the Board of Directors:

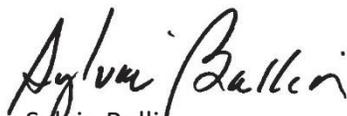
As a former member of the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, I was proud to read in the *Los Angeles Times* about your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil as Metropolitan's next General Manager.

I know Mr. Hagekhalil and am familiar with his impressive national and local experience in water and organizational leadership. Metropolitan needs a compassionate professional with his people skills, ethics, integrity, as well as his modern intellect in water resources management. While the Board was not unanimous in his selection, it was decisive given his election on the first ballot. We all know that is not a typical occurrence given past contested races for the General Manager position where more than two individuals were being considered.

Organizationally, Metropolitan has had a challenging year. Southern California needs Metropolitan to be united and strong given the long-term climate change challenges our region faces. My hope is that under Mr. Hagkhalil's vision and leadership, the board will find policy options to unite around given the troubling workforce issues and the ongoing drought.

Again, I congratulate the Board for coming to an agreement on a new General Manager and wish you the success that our region relies upon from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Sincerely,


Sylvia Ballin
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE
CITY COUNCIL

117 MACNEIL STREET
SAN FERNANDO
CALIFORNIA
91340

(818) 898-1201

WWW.SFCITY.ORG

CHAIRWOMAN GRAY AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Congratulations on Selection of New General Manager

Page 2 of 2

DISTRIBUTION LIST:

Chairwoman Gloria D. Gray (mwdggray@gmail.com)
Vice Chair David D. De Jesus (DDeJesus@mwdh2o.com)
Vice Chair Cynthia Kurtz (dirkurtz@gmail.com)
Vice Chair Heather Repenning (DirRepenning@gmail.com)
Secretary Judy Abdo (jabdo@msn.com)
Boardmember Linda Ackerman (lindaackerman72@gmail.com)
Boardmember Robert Apodaca (boba@centralbasin.org)
Boardmember Richard Atwater (atwater.richard@gmail.com)
Boardmember Steve Blois (sblois@calleguas.com)
Boardmember Jerry Butkiewicz (DirButkiewicz@gmail.com)
Boardmember Michael Camacho (dircamacho@gmail.com)
Boardmember Gloria Cordero (dirgcordero@gmail.com)
Boardmember Larry Dick (larrydick@att.net)
Boardmember Dennis Erdman (DErdman@mwdh2o.com)
Boardmember Stephen Faessel (Dirfaessel@gmail.com)
Boardmember Anthony Fellow (AFellow@mwdh2o.com)
Boardmember Donald Galleano (dongalleano@icloud.com)
Boardmember S. Gail Goldberg (dirgoldberg@gmail.com)
Boardmember Phillip Hawkins (philhawkins1955@gmail.com)
Boardmember Michael T. Hogan (solbch1@roadrunner.com)
Boardmember Fred Jung (fred.jung@cityoffullerton.com)
Boardmember Ardy Kassakhian (AKassakhian@mwdh2o.com)
Boardmember Russell Lefevre (r.lefevre@ieee.org)
Boardmember Miguel Luna (MLuna@mwdh2o.com)
Boardmember Tana McCoy (DirMcCoy@gmail.com)
Boardmember John T. Morris (johnmorriswater@gmail.com)
Boardmember John W. Murray, Jr. (jmurray@jwmjr.org)
Boardmember Adan Ortega (diradanortega@gmail.com)
Boardmember Matt Petersen (matt@lincubator.org)
Boardmember Glen Peterson (glenpsop@icloud.com)
Boardmember Thai Phan (TPhan@mwdh2o.com)
Boardmember Bary D. Pressman (dirpressman@gmail.com)
Boardmember Tracy M. Quinn (tquinn.mwd@gmail.com)
Boardmember Marsha Ramos (Dir.mramos@gmail.com)
Boardmember Randy A. Record (RRecord@mwdh2o.com)
Boardmember Tim Smith (tsmith@otaywater.gov)
Boardmember Satoru Tamaribuchi (STamaribuchi@mwdh2o.com)
Boardmember Harold Williams (harldwms@gmail.com)
BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com



Chairwoman Gloria Gray
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

I read the recent Los Angeles Times article and wanted to congratulate you and the Metropolitan Board of Directors on its visionary selection of Adel Hagekhalil to lead Metropolitan on the challenging course that lies ahead to secure a reliable and affordable water supply for Southern California. This comes at a particularly good time as the state is facing yet another historic drought condition.

With Metropolitan at a crossroads, facing important decisions about its imported water supply sources, we believe the selection of Mr. Hagekhalil sends an important signal that Southern California plans to rely more in the future on local water supply development. Mr. Hagekhalil's successful work at the City of Los Angeles demonstrates exactly the kind of change our region needs, not only toward more sustainable, local long-term solutions but also focusing on issues of social justice and how we might better meet the needs of our underserved communities.

No one knows better than you and the Metropolitan Board of Directors that the key challenges have already shifted in California, as the need to protect the environment has become even more important as climate change intensifies the weather and availability of our imported water supplies. With the strong endorsement of Mayor Garcetti, Mr. Hagekhalil's track record demonstrates exactly the kind of multi-benefit planning and solutions called for by Governor Newsom and the California State Legislature and that we have moved to adopt here in San Diego County.

On a separate and final note, I am extremely pleased to see that Mr. Hagekhalil has received strong approval from both the employees who have worked for him and from Metropolitan employees. I have been following with concern the news reports on sexual harassment and other claims pending by Metropolitan employees now pending before the State Auditor and I believe your choice also signals a positive change in regard to this very important issue.

Again, I congratulate you and wish you and Mr. Hagekhalil every success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ASotelo-Solis", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alejandra Sotelo-Solis
Mayor
City of National City

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mona Rios", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mona Rios
Councilmember
City of National City

Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, Mayor

1243 National City Boulevard, National City, CA 91950-4397

Office: (619) 336-4283 | Fax: (619) 336-4239 | www.nationalcityca.gov | Email: asotelosolis@nationalcityca.gov

From: [Jo Coffey](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Comments for Metropolitan Water District Board Meeting on June 8, 2021
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 9:31:07 AM

Honorable Board Members,

I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of the Metropolitan Water District.

Josephine Coffey
San Francisco, California

From: heykevinjames@aol.com
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 10:39:13 AM

June 7, 2021

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

via Board Secretary - BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com

Congratulations on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as the next General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

As the former President of the Board of Public Works for the City of Los Angeles, I worked closely with Mr. Hagekhalil for over seven years. I am very familiar with his leadership style, his willingness to empower others, and his impressive expertise in collaboration. I believe Mr. Hagekhalil is a transformational leader, and he is the right person to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face a changing climate and shrinking water supplies.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water and organizational leader. He builds partnerships, leads in innovation, and creates an inclusive culture. I am an out and open member of the LGBTQ community, and I always appreciated Mr. Hagekhalil's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity in the way he leads a large municipal department.

Mr. Hagekhalil has 32 years of public service and experience in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs and initiatives. He is not only well-respected in the water sector and throughout Southern California, but he is greatly admired by many of LA's Neighborhood Council leaders -- to the point of being considered a local celebrity when it comes to water and municipal infrastructure issues. I know this because I have witnessed it first hand.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. You made an excellent choice.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kevin James
President, City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works
2013-2020

From: [Judith S. Anderson](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Comment RE: Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 11:02:41 AM

I support the Sierra Club's opinion that Adel Hagekhalil should be the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District.

Mr. Hagekhalil is the fresh perspective the agency needs in the 21st century.

Mr. Hagekhalil has a demonstrated wealth of experience and knowledge that we need for surviving drought and climate change.

MWD's status quo isn't working and we need someone like Adel Hagekhalil to turn things around for MWD employees and the future of water in Southern California.

Thank you for your time and attention

Judith S Anderson



MARRS Services, Inc.

205 S. Broadway, Suite 618
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel. 213.253.4771
www.marrscorp.com

May 28, 2021

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

VIA: BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com

To the SCMWD Board of Directors:

On behalf of MARRS Services, Inc., 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.

We are confident that Mr. Hagekhalil will lead MWD towards a sustainable future for our region. Adel has an exemplary record of managing 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's 32 years of public service experience in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs. He has been well-recognized in the water sector within our communities and the nation, and has recently served as President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a transformational leader who 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 as we face changing climate and shrinking water supplies.

We 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,
MARRS Services, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rubina Chaudhary".

Rubina Chaudhary, MBA
President

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0053
(916) 319-2053
FAX (916) 319-2153

DISTRICT OFFICE
320 WEST 4TH STREET, SUITE 1050
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013
(213) 620-4646
FAX (213) 620-6319

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Santiago@assembly.ca.gov



COMMITTEES
CHAIR: COMMUNICATIONS AND
CONVEYANCE
HEALTH
HIGHER EDUCATION
PUBLIC SAFETY
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
SELECT COMMITTEE
CHAIR: LOS ANGELES COUNTY
HOMELESSNESS

June 7, 2021

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

Dear Board of Directors:

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

Access to clean, affordable water is crucial for 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 a strong record as a public servant and a clear vision for sustainable and integrated water planning. He has led in supporting disadvantaged communities and in creating policies and programs that center on equity.

I respectfully support your selection of Adel Hagekhalil as incoming General Manager and look forward to a new chapter at MWD and to a sustainable water future for our region. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (916) 319-2053.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miguel Santiago". The signature is written in a cursive style.

MIGUEL SANTIAGO
Assembly Member, 53rd District

MS:ba

JOHN H. LAVELY, JR.
MARTIN D. SINGER
BRIAN G. WOLF
LYNDA B. GOLDMAN
PAUL N. SORRELL
MICHAEL E. WEINSTEN
EVAN N. SPIEGEL
TODD S. EAGAN^Δ
ANDREW B. BRETTLER.

LAVELY & SINGER
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SUITE 2400
2049 CENTURY PARK EAST
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067-2906
TELEPHONE (310) 556-3501
FACSIMILE (310) 556-3615
WWW.LAVELYSINGER.COM

ALLISON S. HART
T. WAYNE HARMAN
DAVID B. JONELIS
MELISSA Y. LERNER
JAKE A. CAMARA
KELSEY J. LEEKER
MARTIN F. HIRSHLAND
OF COUNSEL
KEVIN L. JAMES
^Δ ALSO ADMITTED IN NY
^{*} ALSO ADMITTED IN NY AND NJ

June 7, 2021

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

via Board Secretary - BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com

Congratulations on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as the next General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

As the former President of the Board of Public Works for the City of Los Angeles, I worked closely with Mr. Hagekhalil for over seven years. I am very familiar with his leadership style, his willingness to empower others, and his impressive expertise in collaboration. I believe Mr. Hagekhalil is a transformational leader, and he is the right person to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face a changing climate and shrinking water supplies.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water and organizational leader. He builds partnerships, leads in innovation, and creates an inclusive culture. I am an out and open member of the LGBTQ community, and I always appreciated Mr. Hagekhalil's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity in the way he leads a large municipal department.

Mr. Hagekhalil has 32 years of public service and experience in the management of water, environmental and infrastructure programs and initiatives. He is not only well-respected in the water sector and throughout Southern California, but he is greatly admired by many of LA's Neighborhood Council leaders -- to the point of being considered a local celebrity when it comes to water and municipal infrastructure issues. I know this because I have witnessed it first hand.

I applaud your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to serve as General Manager of MWD. You made an excellent choice.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kevin James
Former President, City of Los Angeles
Board of Public Works
2013-2020

From: forestsump@aol.com
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Support for Adel Hagekhalil for MWD General Manager
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 12:13:33 PM

Greetings,

I am writing in support for Mr. Hagekhalil for Metropolitan Water District's General Manager. The efforts of some on your Board to derail Mr. Hagekhalil's appointment are shortsighted and harmful. We need courageous leadership in the face of unrelenting pushback by entrenched monopolists who will do anything to preserve the status quo. Please confirm Mr. Hagekhalil, for all our sakes.

Greg Nelson

From: [Janice Elliott](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: MWD general manager
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 12:28:12 PM

MWD board members,

I am Janice Elliott from Upland, CA and I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District for the following reasons.

- Mr. Hagekhalil is the fresh perspective the agency needs in the 21st century.
- Mr. Hagekhalil has a demonstrated wealth of experience and knowledge that we need for surviving drought and climate change.

Please appoint Mr. Hagekhalil as the next MWD general manager. Thank you for your service.

Respectfully,

Janice Elliott

From: [Patricia](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: SUPPORTING ADEL HAGEKHALIL AS GM OF MWD
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 12:53:11 PM

I am Pat Hrycyszyn from San Diego, Ca and I support Adel Hagekhalil for next General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District.

His credentials are impeccable for this position and his many. varied and honorable support organizations confirm that.

Confirm this appointment.
Thank you,

Pat Hrycyszyn
H,L 858-292-5259
C- 619-840-5259



June 7, 2021

The Honorable Chairwoman Gloria D. Gray
Honorable MWD Board Members
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Via MWD Board Secretary
(e-mailed due to COVID-19)

RE: Support for Adel Hagekhalil as the Next General Manager for the MWD

Dear Chairwoman Gray and Commissioners:

While I am also the Chairwoman of the California Transportation Commission, I am writing this letter only in my role as President of Effect Strategies. I am writing to wholeheartedly support Adel Hagekhalil as the best person for the job as General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

I have worked closely with Mr. Hagekhalil in my 30 year career in Los Angeles. Mr. Hagekhalil's 32 years of public service experience in stormwater and water management, environmental and infrastructure programs and initiatives have made Southern California a better place to live and work. For his successful work in these areas, Mr. Hagekhalil has been well-recognized in the water sector locally and nationally.

Mr. Hagekhalil is exactly the type of transformational leader that MWD needs. His track record of building partnerships and including various cultures and communities that had previously not been included in the process is important for inclusive 21st century infrastructure planning.

We at Effect Strategies look forward to MWD continuing its many years of success in selecting Adel Hagekhalil as MWD's next General Manager.

Warm regards,

Hilary Norton
President, Effect Strategies

effect strategies . 5120 highland view avenue, eagle rock, ca 90041 . (213) 448-2900

From: [Paula Ocampo](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Adel Hagekhalil for General Manager of MWD
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 2:03:29 PM

My name is Paula Ocampo, I am a long time resident of Whittier, CA and I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District.”

- Mr. Hagekhalil is the fresh perspective the agency needs in the 21st century.
- Mr. Hagekhalil has a demonstrated wealth of experience and knowledge that we need for surviving drought and climate change.
- MWD’s status quo isn’t working and we need someone like Adel Hagekhalil to turn things around for MWD employees and the future of water in Southern California.

Thank you
Paula Ocampo
pocampo@aol.com



The Office of Councilwoman
ANDREA CARDENAS

June 7, 2021

Via Email

Chairwoman Gloria Gray
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

I write today to congratulate you and the Metropolitan Board of Directors on your selection of Adel Hagekhalil to lead Metropolitan on the challenging course that lies ahead to secure a reliable and affordable water supply for Southern California.

With upcoming important decisions about its imported water supply sources, the choice of Mr. Hagekhalil sends an important signal that Southern California plans to rely more in the future on local water supply development. Mr. Hagekhalil's successful work at the City of Los Angeles demonstrates the much-needed shift towards more sustainable, local long-term solutions, as well as a focus on social and environmental justice that will better meet the needs of our underserved communities.

In addition, I was extremely pleased to see the strong approval Mr. Hagekhalil has received from both the employees who have worked for him and Metropolitan employees. I look forward to establishing a positive relationship with your board and once again congratulate you, your board, and Mr. Hagekhalil on this and future successes. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may be of any assistance.

Respectfully,

Andrea Cardenas
Councilwoman
City of Chula Vista, Fourth District

cc: Metropolitan Board of Directors
San Diego County Water Authority
Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate

From: [Lisa Morris](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Support for Abel Hagekhalil
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 2:34:51 PM

I'm writing you to ask that you elect Abel Hagekhalil as General Manager of MWD.

He brings a fresh prospective the Agency needs in the 21st Century. Maintaining the status quo isn't working. He has a demonstrated wealth of experience and knowledge we need for surviving drought and climate change.

Please support him.

Lisa Morris
Zip code 91214

Sent from my iPhone

June 7, 2021

MEMBER AGENCIES

Carlsbad
Municipal Water District
City of Del Mar
City of Escondido
City of National City
City of Oceanside
City of Poway
City of San Diego
Fallbrook
Public Utility District
Helix Water District
Lakeside Water District
Olivenhain
Municipal Water District
Otay Water District
Padre Dam
Municipal Water District
Camp Pendleton
Marine Corps Base
Rainbow
Municipal Water District
Ramona
Municipal Water District
Rincon del Diablo
Municipal Water District
San Dieguito Water District
Santa Fe Irrigation District
South Bay Irrigation District
Vallecitos Water District
Valley Center
Municipal Water District
Vista Irrigation District
Yuima
Municipal Water District
OTHER
REPRESENTATIVE
County of San Diego

Gloria Gray, Chair
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(sent via email: BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)

RE: Support for Adel Hagekhalil as Metropolitan General Manager

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

I want to congratulate you and the Metropolitan Board of Directors on your outstanding choice of Adel Hagekhalil to lead Metropolitan as its next General Manager, as reported in the *Los Angeles Times*. He is exactly the kind of visionary leader we have discussed many times during our one-on-one meetings, and I am very encouraged by the leadership you have shown personally with regard to his selection.

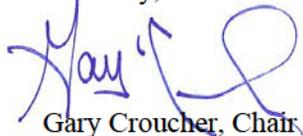
I had the pleasure to meet Mr. Hagekhalil some time ago, and was struck not only by his strong skills as an agency manager, but by the highly collaborative and open style he brings to the workplace. This will be of critical importance as he works to address and resolve challenges we are all facing in regard to resource management and affordability in a rapidly-changing environment. As you well-know, these challenges are great under any circumstances but are especially so now, as we once again grapple with sustained and historic drought conditions.

As a Board Chair myself, with a large board and many different perspectives, I very much appreciate Mr. Hagekhalil's commitment to bring the Metropolitan board together, with his perspectives acknowledging Metropolitan's outstanding achievements of the past, as well as the need for change to meet the challenges of our collective future. I'm sure you appreciate as I do, Mr. Hagekhalil's interest and commitment to address equity and environmental and social justice issues impacting our underserved communities.

In closing, I want to thank you again for your leadership on the selection of Mr. Hagekhalil, and for your ongoing commitment to establishing a renewed and collaborative approach between our agencies in the future.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,


Gary Croucher, Chair

Cc: MWD Board of Directors
Water Authority Board of Directors

From: rawitt@verizon.net
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Support Adel Hagekhalil as MWD General Manager
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 3:18:02 PM

My name is Rose Ann Witt, and I am a resident of Thousand Oaks, California.

As a biologist who supports conservation of our state's limited water supplies and our natural environment, and as an MWD stakeholder and ratepayer who will ultimately have to foot the bill for whatever decisions MWD makes, I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of the Metropolitan Water District.

Mr. Hagekhalil has demonstrated the experience, expertise, consensus-building skills, and commitment to the sustainable, innovative, integrated water management measures California desperately needs to reduce reliance on imported water, increase efficiency, and build the local resilience required for residents to survive escalating drought and climate chaos.

He is the right choice at the right time to lead MWD. Please approve his contract on June 8th.

Thank you,

Rose Ann Witt
rawitt@verizon.net
(805) 495-777

From: [Laurence Lerner](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Support for Adel
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 3:49:56 PM

I am voicing my support for Adele for the board by this email. Lawrence Lerner,

Sent from my iPhone

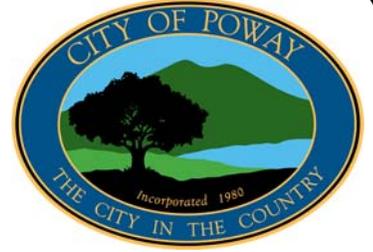
From: [Ronald Askeland](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 4:06:31 PM

My name is Ronald Askeland from San Diego and I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District. Mr. Hagekhalil is the fresh perspective the agency needs for the 21st century.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ronald Askeland

STEVE VAUS, Mayor
BARRY LEONARD, Deputy Mayor
CAYLIN FRANK, Councilmember
DAVE GROSCHE, Councilmember
JOHN MULLIN, Councilmember

CITY OF POWAY



June 7, 2021

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Chairwoman Gloria Gray
Board of Directors
PO Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054

RE: Support for Adel Hagekhalil as Metropolitan General Manager
SENT: electronically to: boardexecutivesecretary@mwdh2o.com

Dear Chairwoman Gray and Board of Directors,

Congratulations on the Board of Directors' choice of Adel Hagekhalil to lead the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

What I have read and understand about Mr. Hagekhalil leads me to believe his background and professional skills in integrated water planning are what is needed to successfully lead the organization starting now and into the future.

As Mayor of the City of Poway it is important to our residents and to the success of our businesses that we have employees such as Mr. Hagekhalil, whose reputation at the City of Los Angeles and among staff is truly commendable.

California needs more leaders such as Mr. Hagekhalil who can unify and work collaboratively with common goals in mind.

I wish Mr. Hagekhalil and all of you the greatest success in putting together the kind of change our region needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Vaus', is written over a horizontal line.

Steve Vaus
Mayor

c: Members of the City Council
Chris Hazeltine, City Manager

From: [Yahoo](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: We support Adel Hagekhalil for general manager of MWD
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 4:14:57 PM
Attachments: [PWP Logo green.png](#)
[LCWTF logo.png](#)

June 7, 2021

Dear Metropolitan Water District Board,

Puvunga Wetlands Protectors and Sierra Club's Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force congratulate the MWD on voting to appoint Adel Hagekhalil as your new General Manager. Since Mr. Hagekhalil has already won the position, approving his contract on May 8th should just be a formality. Unfortunately, we understand it certain board members who opposed his appointment (but lost the vote) are now trying to thwart the vote to approve his contract. We find this outrageous and an For the sake of your customers and employees do not allow this abuse of power to undermine the democratic electoral process. In addition to having been appointed to the position by the majority of the board, Mr. Hagekhalil has the support of over 40 environmental, social justice, and Tribal organizations, as well as his current employee union, MWD's employee union, and the MWD Women's Caucus. Do not undo the trust we place in you.

Thank you, Anna Christensen, Director PWP, Co-chair, Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force





THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCILMEMBER MARNI VON WILPERT
FIFTH DISTRICT

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

via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

I am writing today to congratulate 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's 32 years of public service in the management of water, environmental, and infrastructure programs and initiatives is well-documented. His contributions and reputation in the water sector and efforts in many of our California communities shows him to be an excellent addition to the Board. I am particularly happy that he is dedicated to listening earnestly to our public employees and the communities we serve to inform his management style and the policy it produces. I have no doubt his brand of leadership will help bring the region closer together as the MWD faces future challenges.

I am extremely pleased to see that Mr. Hagekhalil is supported by the MWD's San Diego delegation and that he is committed to rebuilding the organization's relationship with San Diego. The San Diego County Water Authority is MWD's largest customer and will benefit from a strong working relationship in the years to come.

Lastly, Mr. Hagekhalil's commitment to our local reliability projects, including San Diego's Pure Water Project, the East County Water Purification Project, and Oceanside's Pure Water Project, is very encouraging.

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,

Marni von Wilpert
Councilmember, District 5
City of San Diego



CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM STEPHEN WHITBURN
THIRD DISTRICT

June 7, 2021

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

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

I wanted to congratulate you and the Metropolitan Board of Directors on its visionary selection of Adel Hagekhalil to lead Metropolitan on the challenging course that lies ahead to secure a reliable and affordable water supply for Southern California. This comes at a particularly good time as the state is facing yet another historic drought condition.

With Metropolitan at a crossroads, facing important decisions about its imported water supply sources, we believe the selection of Mr. Hagekhalil sends an important signal that Southern California plans to rely more in the future on local water supply development. Mr. Hagekhalil's successful work at the City of Los Angeles demonstrates exactly the kind of change our region needs, not only toward more sustainable, local long-term solutions but also focusing on issues of social justice and how we might better meet the needs of our underserved communities.

No one knows better than you and the Metropolitan Board of Directors that the key challenges have already shifted in California, as the need to protect the environment has become even more important as climate change intensifies the weather and availability of our imported water supplies. With the strong endorsement of Mayor Garcetti, Mr. Hagekhalil's track record demonstrates exactly the kind of multi-benefit planning and solutions called for by Governor Newsom and the California State Legislature and that we have moved to adopt here in San Diego County.

On a separate and final note, I am extremely pleased to see that Mr. Hagekhalil has received strong approval from both the employees who have worked for him and from Metropolitan employees. I have been following with concern the news reports on sexual harassment and other claims pending by Metropolitan employees now pending before the State Auditor and I believe your choice also signals a positive change in regard to this very important issue.

Again, I congratulate you and wish you and Mr. Hagekhalil every success. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Whitburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Council President Pro Tem Stephen Whitburn

cc: Metropolitan Board of Directors

San Diego County Water Authority

Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate

From: [Wendy Popiel](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: MWD General Manager vote
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 5:01:07 PM

[I am sending this email in support of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District. He would be a very good step forward for the MWD.](#)

[Sincerely,](#)

[Wendy Popiel](#)
[Thousand Oaks, CA 91360](#)



Nora Vargas

SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

San Diego County Board of Supervisors

June 7, 2021

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Attention: Chairwoman Gloria Gray
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Dear Chairwoman Gray,

On behalf of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors First District, I am pleased to support the Metropolitan Board of Directors on selecting Adel Hagekhalil to lead Metropolitan on the work that lies ahead to secure a reliable and affordable water supply for Southern California. This comes at a particularly good time as the state faces yet another historic drought condition and as the San Diego County Board of Supervisors shifts to address our regional sustainability and advance our climate action plan.

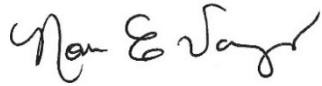
With Metropolitan at a crossroads, facing important decisions about its imported water supply sources, we believe the selection of Mr. Hagekhalil sends an important signal that Southern California plans to rely more in the future on local water supply development. Mr. Hagekhalil's successful work at the City of Los Angeles demonstrates exactly the kind of change our region needs, not only toward more sustainable, local long-term solutions but also focusing on issues of social justice and how we might better meet the needs of our underserved communities.

Mr. Hagekhalil's track record demonstrates exactly the kind of multi-benefit planning and solutions called for by Governor Newsom and the California State Legislature and that we have moved to adopt here in San Diego County. My district is comprised of several communities of concern that are low-income, and which have been at the front lines of environmental injustices and health disparities, which is why last month, I led the creation of the first Office of Environmental and Climate Justice at the County of San Diego. I look forward to working with leadership that connects the creative solutions needed to address water access with our most impacted communities.

I am pleased to see that Mr. Hagekhalil has received strong approval from both the employees who have worked for him and from Metropolitan employees. I am pleased to provide this support that increases diversification and identifies a strong leader for sustainable solutions.

Again, I congratulate you and the Metropolitan Board of Directors on your leadership to advance sustainability and wish you and Mr. Hagekhalil every success. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nora E. Vargas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nora" being the most prominent.

Nora Vargas

cc: Metropolitan Board of Directors
San Diego County Water Authority
Toni Atkins, President pro Tempore, California State Senate
Lorena Gonzalez, 80th District Representative, California State Assembly

From: [Samuel Parnes](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Hagekhalil
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 5:31:51 PM

I support Adel Hagekhalil for General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District.

From: g.barriga
To: [Board Executive Secretary](mailto:Board_Executive_Secretary)
Cc: ahagekhalil@yahoo.com
Subject: Fwd: Congratulations on the Selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 6:10:44 PM

Resending

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **g barriga** <lito19.gb@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jun 3, 2021, 7:54 AM
Subject: Congratulations on the Selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil
To: <BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com>

June 2, 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 you on the Selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil for the Next General Manager for MWD.

Mr. Hagekhalil is definitely the right person for the job. He will 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. I know because he also empowered me early in my career with the City of Los Angeles by mentoring me from an Environmental Compliance Inspector all the way to Chief Environmental Compliance Officer I. Through his mentorship I learned leadership and managerial skills that are essential for large agency operations.

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. He is also recognized by industry leaders, academia and his colleagues as a leader and innovator by tackling large social and economic issues.

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

Regards,

Gonzalo Barriga

From: [Sam Unger](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: MWD Board Meeting
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 6:49:25 PM

June 7, 2021,

Dear Directors of the Metropolitan Water District,
Good Afternoon Members of the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors. My name is Samuel Unger and I am the former Executive Officer for the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. As the Executive Officer, I worked alongside your staff on a broad spectrum of water quality and water supply issues throughout the years, including drafting development plans for greater wastewater recycling to augment Regional water supplies in southern California. I write to lend my support on the selection of Adel Hagekhalil as the General Manager for MWD.

Last week I had the opportunity to witness firsthand what we all know; global warming, extended droughts, and the growing contingent of water equity to the people of California are the new normal. These factors will greatly alter the manner in which water is delivered to Southern California with MWD leading the forefront on these issues. The challenges and adversities before us are real.

The Board today can select a proven leader and an agent of change in Adel Hagekhalil. He possess the ability to handle the technical, infrastructure, and societal complexity needs as MWD moves forward to supply water to Southern California.

I have witnessed Adel's strengths and abilities first-hand. His technical expertise in water treatment and infrastructure is unsurpassed.

He builds consensus among all stakeholders and is well adept in working with engineers, policy makers, and regulatory specialists to cost effectively deliver programs and projects that address the present and future needs of MWD and its stakeholders. All while making sure that the most disenfranchised communities are not left out. His ability to work with water attorneys, technical staff, and Boards of directors has been demonstrated on numerous programs for the City. Adel makes it look easy when we all know it is not. His talents will be well demonstrated at MWD.

Thank you in advance for selecting Adel Hagekhalil as the next General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Samuel Unger, P.E.
Senior Project Manager
Cordoba Corporation
1-323-371-1817

Cordoba Corporation | Making a Difference

c: (323) 371-1817

sunger@cordobacorp.com | cordobacorp.com
[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)

This message is confidential communication for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and then delete it. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not use, print, disclose, or distribute this e-mail. Thank you.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



June 7, 2021

Honorable Chairwoman Gray
Honorable Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)

Dear Chairwoman Gray and Board Members,

Please accept our congratulations to the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on the selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager. Collectively, we have decades of experience working with Mr. Hagekhalil as a senior leader in the City of Los Angeles and we are confident he will do an excellent job stewarding MWD and our region's critical water resources into its next chapter.

Mr. Hagekhalil is a proven water resources and organizational leader. He served as Assistant General Manager in our Bureau of Sanitation and Environment and for the past three years, served as the General Manager of the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA). Adel always worked collaboratively and effectively with the Los Angeles City Council, and delivered impactfully on our key policy and infrastructure investment priorities. We consider him a transformational leader that builds bridges and partnerships, strives for innovation, advances equity, and creates an inclusive work culture. These are the skills needed today given the difficult work of managing water resources in a challenging political and natural environment.

Mr. Hagekhalil is also the right person for the job to lead MWD and Southern California into the future as we face changing climate and shrinking water supplies. As we enter another drought, we know there will be uncertainties and challenges that require adaptive leadership, made more difficult by the climate crisis. He has been well-recognized in the water sector and across many of our communities across California and the nation and we believe is up to the task.



We are of course sad to see Mr. Hagekhalil leave the City family after 32 years of public service; however, we applaud his selection as General Manager. We look forward to working closely with Adel and the MWD to ensure its continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Krekorian".

Paul Krekorian
Councilmember, 2nd District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Blumenfield".

Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember, 3rd District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nithya Raman".

Nithya Raman
Councilmember, 4th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John S. Lee".

John S. Lee
Councilmember, 12th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch O'Farrell".

Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember, 13th District

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Buscaino".

Joe Buscaino
Councilmember, 15th District

From: [Fiona Bremner](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: I support MWD GM Candidate Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 7:27:14 PM

Hello!

I support MWD GM Candidate Adel Hagekhalil.

Thank you!

Fiona Bremner
Ventura, CA 93003



June 2, 2021

Honorable Gloria Gray, Chair
Honorable Board Members
Metropolitan Water District
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2944
(via email)

Dear Chairwoman Gray and Board Members:

Congratulations on your selection of Mr. Adel Hagekhalil as the next General Manager for the Metropolitan Water District. We could not agree more that he will be the best person for the job and appreciate the opportunity to detail why that is the case.

We write as Councilmembers (including a former MWD Board member) who have worked with Mr. Hagekhalil for many years, in some cases for more than a decade, while he was the Assistant General Manager/Director in our Bureau of Sanitation, and, for the past nearly three years, while he was the Director & General Manager (GM) of the Bureau of Street Services.

While it would be bittersweet to lose our visionary GM, we agree that Mr. Hagekhalil's unique skill set would be a perfect fit at MWD, where his holistic view of water issues and expertise can benefit communities across Southern California. He has successfully led the way on a wide variety of the City's interconnected water-related initiatives including the 2040 One Water Plan and the implementation of our enhanced watershed management plans (EWMPs). He oversaw the updating and upgrading of the City's street network, prioritizing an increasingly vital urban forest while developing and emphasizing new climate cooling, green infrastructure, and multi-benefit, cost-effective strategies.

In addition, Mr. Hagekhalil's leadership skills are second-to-none. On his first day as GM of the Bureau of Street Services, he had his door removed to convey that he would always be open and available to his employees, to the Council, and to the greater LA community. Where, in the past, the City had ongoing legal conflicts with environmental and community groups, Mr. Hagekhalil built bridges, mended fences, and established strong collaborative partnerships that continue to benefit the City to this day. His understanding of and leadership in environmental justice and racial equity issues has advanced and deepened the City's work in these arenas.



– Page 2 –

Mr. Hagekhalil is already an internationally recognized leader on water issues. As President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), as the federally-appointed chair of the study group on water resiliency for the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), and as a leader of UNESCO’s global conference on Water in Mega Cities, among many other roles, he has blazed a trail on “One Water” and “Green Infrastructure” issues, policies that are essential for the future of safe, effective global water management.

Nothing could be more important for the future of the MWD than to have a leader who truly values transparency, open communication, and holistic planning. Mr. Hagekhalil is a conciliatory, transformational leader who builds meaningful partnerships, leads through innovation, and creates a safe, inclusive work culture. These are the skills sorely needed today to guide the Metropolitan Water District into an uncertain, climate-disrupted future. He is a man of solid character, possessing a strong moral compass, and deep genuine affection for his employees.

It is time to forge a new water future for Southern California. Adel Hagekhalil is the right person, at the right time, with the right skill set to lead us forward at the Metropolitan Water District.

Sincerely,

PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District
Former MWD Director

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Councilmember, 10th District

MARQUEECE HARRIS DAWSON
Councilmember, 8th District

GIL CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

From: [Angela Mosinskis](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: General Manager for MWD
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 7:49:17 PM

Please consider Abdel Hagekhalil for the next general manager of MWD as his expertise will be invaluable to sustain our watershed. Having water is everyone's right and al that water sustains. Do what is right for our future generations!

Thanks you!
Sincerely,

Angela Mosinskis
7563 McConnell Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90045

From: [Karen H](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Support for Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 8:03:29 PM

I strongly support Adel Hagekhalil for General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District. He has been an innovator at the City of Los Angeles and he has the experience and skill to move forward in handling any number of the urgent issues at hand. He is admired by staff and is a very nice person.

Sincerely,
Karen Higgins, former employee, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation

From: [Genette Foster](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: General manager of MWD
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 8:26:37 PM

I support Adel Hagekhalil for General Manager of MWD. He was selected for this position by an earlier vote. The second vote for June 8 is a blatant attempt to change the outcome.

Genette Foster
Pasadena 91106

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joyce Summers](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: MWD
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 8:38:36 PM

I support Adel Hagekhalil for general manager of MWD.
Best,
Joyce Summers
San Jose, CA 95125

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sharon Ungersma](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Support Adel Hagekhalil as General Manager of MWD
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 8:54:01 PM

As a resident of Los Angeles, I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District. Mr. Hagekhalil is exactly the fresh perspective MWD needs right now. He has a demonstrated wealth of experience and knowledge that we need for surviving drought and climate change. MWD's status quo isn't working; we need someone like Adel Hagekhalil to turn things around for MWD employees and the future of water in Southern California.

Thank you,
Sharon Ungersma

From: [Juliana Erdody](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Election Results
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 9:06:19 PM

Dear MWD Board,

It is my opinion that Adel Hagekhalil, as the clearly preferred candidate for general manager of MWD as indicated by the vote taken on May 8th, should be installed in that position without delay. There should be no further discussion or debate on the topic, but rather respect shown for the process of the free and fair election already held. This would include the appropriate follow through and hand over of the managerial position and duties to Adel Hagekhalil.

Thank you for honoring the integrity of this vote.

Sincerely,

Juliana Erdody

Altadena, Ca

From: [TYNAN WYATT](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: MWD GM candidate comments
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 10:24:24 PM

Hello MWD Board Executives,
I am unable to call in to leave my public commentary so please accept this written statement.

I strongly support Adel Hagekhalil to be confirmed as the new MWD general manager. After reading about who he is and all that he has done I am very impressed. His passion, long standing commitment to water and environmental issues, and his broad base of support demonstrates that he is an excellent choice to lead the MWD into a future of sustainable water use. This sustainable use future will also be the path most likely to save MWD customers money in the long term by avoiding costlier and costlier solutions that focus only on procuring more water rather than the more efficient choice of making better use of what we already have and reducing what we use per capita.

We, the public, have a strong desire to move in the direction that Mr. Hagekhalil is poised to lead us, please confirm him and let's get this ball rolling.

Thank you,
~Tynan Wyatt M.D.

From: [Saran Kirschbaum](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Mr. Hagekhalil for MWD
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 10:57:54 PM

I live in Los Angeles and know how important water is to our city.

We need someone who understands the urgency of reliable local water projects and has experience. The status quo today will not produce the changes needed in today's world.

Adel Hagekhalil is the preferred candidate for general manager of MWD because of his commitment to sustainable, innovative, local water projects (ones that would reduce the reliance on imported water from the Delta and Colorado river). He has pledged a commitment to working with environmental and community organizations. He has the support of over 40 environmental, social justice, and Tribal organizations, as well as his current employee union, MWD's employee union, and the MWD Women's Caucus- the group that exposed the years of harassment at MWD.

From: [Ray Brant](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Hire Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:53:00 AM

Please hire Adel Hagekhalil as your general manager

Regards,
Ray Brant

From: [michaelwauschek](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Supporting adel hagekhalil
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 1:38:31 AM

My name is Michael Wauschek from cerritos ca i am apart of my neighborhood watch group as a captain for my street that i live on.and I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District.

Sent from my Metro By T-Mobile 4G LTE Android Device

From: [Christina](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: support Adel Hagekhalil for general manager of MWD!
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:10:31 AM

Please approve his contract today.

We need Mr. Hagekhalil's commitment to sustainable, innovative, local water projects (ones that would reduce the reliance on imported water from the Delta and Colorado river). He has pledged a commitment to working with environmental and community organizations. He has the support of over 40 environmental, social justice, and Tribal organizations, as well as his current employee union, MWD's employee union, and the MWD Women's Caucus- the group that exposed the years of harassment at MWD.

Please do not allow his contract to be derailed by status quo same old mess opposition.

Thank you
Christina Berteau
Greywater Action

From: [Jack Baylis](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: General Manager Selection
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:20:52 AM

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

via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)

I applaud and congratulate the Board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) on the selection of Adel Hagekhalil for the position of General Manager.

Mr. Hagekhalil is the right person for the job to continue MWD as a world class organization with empowered staff, inclusive partnerships, innovative investments and creative solutions. Mr. Hagekhalil's skills are needed now more than ever as we face a changing climate and the persistent drought. I have known and worked with Mr. Hagekhalil on many programs and initiatives. He was always someone that led with his mind and most importantly with his heart. He led various transformational programs anchored in diversity, equity and inclusion. He built bridges of collaboration and enlisted trust no matter how difficult the issue is. He is a proven consensus builder.

For one of many examples, in 2011, U.S. President Obama appointed me to The National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC). NIAC, created by President George Bush after 9/11, is under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and advises the U.S. President through the Secretary of Homeland Security about the security of critical infrastructure sectors. In 2015 and 2016, NIAC asked me to Chair a Working Group, including other NIAC members, Homeland staff, and a DC based consulting team, to develop a Water Sector Resilience Report and Recommendations. As a noted and distinguished leader in the Water Sector, Adel worked with us. Specifically, as a Study Group Chair, Adel reached out to and led dozens of noted leaders and technical experts from the public and private sector including multiple Water Supply and Water Quality Local, Regional, State, and Federal Agencies from across the U.S. to help develop NIAC's Report to the President.

Jack Baylis
retired, Santa Fe, NM

From: [Wesley T. Chuang](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Public comment: confirm Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021 10:27:05 PM

Dear MWD Board,

Adel Hagekhalil is the preferred candidate for general manager of MWD because of his commitment to sustainable, innovative, local water projects (ones that would reduce the reliance on imported water from the Delta and Colorado river). He has pledged a commitment to working with environmental and community organizations. He has the support of over 40 environmental, social justice, and Tribal organizations, as well as his current employee union, MWD's employee union, and the MWD Women's Caucus- the group that exposed the years of harassment at MWD.

Mr. Hagekhalil has already won the position in a vote by the MWD board on May 8, but board members opposing him are trying to thwart the vote to approve his contract on June 8. The LA Times [first exposed](#) the behind-the-scenes derailing here, and published a [follow-up editorial](#) on June 4, 2021. His opposition wants to install Pat Mulroy, who would bring more of the status quo at MWD, and not the changes we desperately need given climate change and drought in California.

We are tired of throwing our tax money at mega projects that will not fix the root causes of water insecurity. How is the high speed rail chugging along? It's a logistical disaster and boondoggle, regardless of the source of funding. I'm assuming a large water tunnel running from Northern CA to Southern CA won't fare much better in the 2020's when costs of building infrastructure are sky high. Biden's "green new deal" is not doing so well in Congress either. The big solutions are actually low financial cost but requires selflessness and less human ego (like wearing masks). I'll give you a hint, it's not about endangered fish species but hamburgers, avocado toasts, cheese and almond milk. Sooner or later the public will have to know about the risks and reality of climate change, how it affects their water, and how their diet is causing it. The elephant is out growing the room and we are all going to get crushed.

Sincerely,
Wesley Chuang
Concerned citizen, Los Angeles resident

From: [Daniel Bacher](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Support Adel Hagekhalil for GM
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:45:38 AM

Good Morning

My name is Dan Bacher and I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District.

Thanks
Dan

From: [girardjl \(null\)](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Please vote in Hagekhalil
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:22:38 AM

I want to add my support, as a LA resident and DWP customer for Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District.

Thank you,
Jessica Girard
23556 Hatteras Street
Woodland Hills 91367

Sent from my iPhone

June 8, 2021

**Board of Directors
c/o Board Executive Secretary
The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**

Dear Madam Chair and honorable Metropolitan Board of Directors:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your consideration and confidence in my experience, vision, and ability to lead Metropolitan into the future.

I appreciate and respect that this is a large board of directors with many different perspectives and preferences about who should be the next general manager. I was honored to be included among the many talented candidates who were part of the search process.

Through this process, I have enjoyed beginning to get to know many of you, and learning about your individual and agency perspectives, concerns, and priorities. I am eager to work together and have the highest respect for you, individually, and collectively as leaders. I know all of you are deeply committed to the stewardship of this agency.

During the hiring process, and through two interviews with the Board and Executive Committee, I was asked many questions about my background, responsibilities, and track record at the City of Los Angeles.

As you may have heard from many of my colleagues, the hallmarks of my City tenure have been listening to others, leading and empowering teams, engaging diverse stakeholders, charting a unified plan, and achieving success.

I look forward to working with you to bring the same management priorities to Metropolitan.

Regarding two lawsuits filed against the City (the Pearl and Fajardo litigation), I was several levels removed from each of the plaintiffs.

Los Angeles Deputy City Attorney Adena M. Hopenstand has confirmed: "None of the allegations of the Pearl complaint, nor the special verdict form, nor order conditionally granting new trial, nor the appellate decision mention [me] by name anywhere in those documents."

Regarding the Fajardo litigation, attorney Hopenstand has stated: "the City intends to file a motion for summary judgment on the grounds that the entire case (or at a minimum some of the causes of action) are without merit (or that there is no genuine issue of material fact that the City should prevail)."

As I have previously described, I led the reform efforts at the Bureau of Sanitation to ensure that all personnel investigations were investigated independently, outside of Sanitation, by the Personnel Department. I strongly supported the creation of the City's MyVoiceLA system for reporting, tracking, investigating, and addressing complaints in a fair, equitable and independent manner.

I also championed the efforts and worked with the Board of Public Works and the Personnel Department to conduct sensitivity training, communication training, equity listening sessions, and anti-bias training for all staff. These are some of the important experiences and skills that the Mayor and Council sought when I was selected as the General Manager for StreetsLA.

Throughout my career, I have taken pride in creating a healthy work environment based on mutual respect, equity, and fairness. At the City, I reported to the Mayor, Council and Board of Public Works, all of whom have expressed their confidence in my leadership and have never voiced concerns regarding harassment, discrimination or any other such issues.

For the past three years, as General Manager of StreetsLA, I led the transformation of what was acknowledged to be a demoralized and distrusted department to an efficient department with high morale, trusted by the employees, stakeholders, and policy makers. I collaborated with the workforce, bargaining units, and those I reported to in order to build a culture of inclusion and respect. I supported in meaningful ways the creation of a safe space for all.

And it is what I will do at Metropolitan. This is who I am.

Now, as we move forward, I am determined to focus on what unites us and pursue a unified agenda that includes and works for every member agency, no matter how large or how small.

I will listen and work with every Board member and member agency. Each of your member agencies is unique in how they get their water and how they utilize Metropolitan resources. I know that there is no one solution that fits all.

But if we work together, I believe that Metropolitan can confront the challenge of the current drought, climate change, help our underserved communities and provide the value that is needed to each member agency at an affordable and fair cost.

And I will ensure that this agency is compassionate and supportive of our most valuable assets, our hard-working employees, especially at our remote sites.

At this critical moment, I am ready to take the helm at Metropolitan under your policy direction. I promise that I will always uphold the highest standard of integrity as we build, sustain and serve our communities across Southern California.

I look forward to getting started.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adel Hagekhalil', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adel Hagekhalil

From: [Kirby Shanklin](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: in support of Adel Hagekhalil for general manager
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 10:45:56 AM

Civic Leaders:

Any individual who can match the creativity & subtle humor of your email address can surely manage the entire district with similar elan. I do support Mr. Hagekhalil

Thank you for enlivening my day.

Kirby Shanklin
formerly of regions close to the wonderful Lower Arroyo.

From: [VIRGINIA BICKFORD](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Adel Hagekhalil for GM
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 10:55:53 AM

My name is Virginia Bickford from Los Alamitos, CA. I support Adel Hagekhalil for General Manager of the Metropolitan WaterDistrict.

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0043
(916) 319-2043
FAX (916) 319-2143

DISTRICT OFFICE
300 EAST MAGNOLIA BOULEVARD, SUITE 504
BURBANK, CA 91502
(818) 558-3043
FAX (818) 558-3042

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Friedman@assembly.ca.gov

Assembly California Legislature



LAURA FRIEDMAN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-THIRD DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: TRANSPORTATION
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM, AND INTERNET MEDIA
NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

June 8, 2021

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

Dear Board Members:

The selection of a new general manager for the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) will set the course of the organization for years. Out of the pool of well-qualified candidates, I am writing to offer my support for Mr. Adel Hagekhalil. As you well know, Mr. Hagekhalil's record of service to our region is one of diligent leadership with a focus on sustainability that will serve MWD well in the years to come.

Mr. Hagekhalil has led the City of Los Angeles's green infrastructure programs, and the City 2040 One Water LA Plan that incorporates water supply, reuse, conservation, and storm water management. In addition, he played a key role in planning for water resiliency at the federal level. With his background as an engineer, and his experience as a consensus builder, Mr. Hagekhalil has a clear understanding of the complexity of our region's water supply, and the innovation and integration needed to help lead MWD in the effort to effectively manage our most precious resource for over 20 million Californians.

Mr. Hagekhalil's selection as General Manager is also an opportunity to not just lead MWD towards greater sustainability, but also greater transparency. Without a doubt, the years ahead will be challenging for MWD, and California in general. We're once again facing the catastrophic impacts of climate change that demand a greater emphasis on resiliency. In addition, Mr. Hagekhalil will be tasked with changing the culture of MWD to embrace diversity within the workforce, opportunities for women and people of color to advance in their careers, and true accountability for those who violate the law and policies against harassment and discrimination. I believe that he is up to this task.

Given both the internal and external challenges currently facing MWD, and those on the horizon, MWD should choose leadership that embraces sustainability at every level and in every community. Mr. Hagekhalil is a strong choice at this critical moment and I encourage you to consider his appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Friedman".

LAURA FRIEDMAN
Assemblymember, 43rd District

From: [Jeff Safire](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: My support for Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:04:24 PM

Hello –

I support Adel Hagekhalil as the next general manager of Metropolitan Water District.

I believe Mr. Hagekhalil is the best candidate given his fresh perspectives the agency needs for our current times, and going forward. Mr. Hagekhalil has a demonstrated a wealth of experience and knowledge that we need for surviving continuous drought situations and climate change. MWD's status quo doesn't appear to be working very well and we need someone like Adel Hagekhalil to turn things around – for MWD employees *and* the future of water in Southern California and the rest of the State.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of voting for Mr. Hagekhalil.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Safire

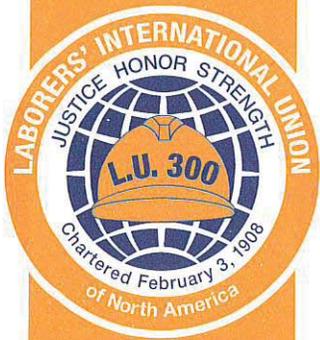
From: [Katarina M Scheck](#)
To: [DL-Board Support Team](#)
Subject: Delay The Vote!
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 12:22:44 PM

Hello,

My name is [YOUR NAME]. I am a resident of [CITY] and I am emailing today to urge you to postpone this new hire until there is more opportunity for public input on this very important position and about Mr. Hagekhalil's ability to change the culture of the MWD. There is a lot to lose by rushing into hiring Mr. Hagekhalil and 30 days is not unreasonable to wait to get it right and have the confidence of those that you serve. Please vote on Item 10 of the Agenda to delay the hiring of a General Manager for 30 days.

Respectfully,

Katarina M. Scheck
University of California, Irvine | Graduate Program in European Thought & Culture
WAVE, Women for American Values and Ethics | Intern
wave4all.org



LiUNA! Local 300

June 7, 2021

SERGIO RASCÓN
Business Manager

LUIS R. ROBLES
Secretary Treasurer

JAVIER NUÑEZ
President

TONY E. OLEA III
Vice President

RICARDO ANDRADE
Recording Secretary

FRANCISCO ARRIZON
Executive Board

DELFINO DE LA CRUZ
Executive Board

To the Board of Directors:

I am writing in support of Adel Hagekhalil's election as the next General Manager at the Metropolitan Water District (MWD).

Adel Hagekhalil has an exemplary record running a large public works agency. We have known Mr. Hagekhalil for over ten years since his tenure as Assistant Director at the Bureau of Sanitation for the City of Los Angeles. We have worked closely with him under his current role as Executive Director and General Manager of the Bureau of Street Services for the City of Los Angeles. As Executive Director and General Manager of the Bureau of Street Services, Adel has faced a challenging role of managing a limited budget and trying to pave and pour thousands of miles of deteriorated Los Angeles streets and sidewalks. He has done so by balancing different workforces to maximize the City's financial resources. He has successfully balanced the use of internal fulltime employees, temporary members of the Building Trades while ensuring street service work is also competitively bid by private sector contractors. All on his way to upgrading and maintaining 23,000 lane miles of streets.

As the Assistant Director of the Bureau of Sanitation, Adel was forward thinking in relation to capturing waste and storm water and its reuse. His vision for sustainable and integrated water planning is the nontraditional sort of thinking our region needs in the face of the growing drought conditions that plague Southern California. He has been a leader in bringing together stakeholders with different interests and backgrounds. Adel can bring his skillset of managing a diverse workforce and delivering high-quality services to the MWD as he did at the Bureau of Street Services. MWD will need to continue to invest in substantial infrastructure projects in the years to come in order to help Southern California find solutions to our water problems. MWD needs someone like Adel who can successfully oversee the necessary investments needed to ensure water security while also supporting disadvantaged communities and making your agency more inclusionary and diverse.

2005 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

Phone 213-385-3550
Fax 213-385-6985

www.local300.com

Feel the Power

As Southern California confronts climate change and the increasing scarcity of water, we need local leaders who will address these challenges head on, including the leader of the largest water agency in the nation.

We are confident that Adel will set MWD on the path towards a more sustainable future for our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sergio Rascon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Sergio Rascon
Business Manager

From: somatichealing@mac.com
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: MWD next General manager
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 3:06:18 PM

To white may concern,

My names Stephen Sova Fully support Mr. Hagekhalil as the next general manager of the Metropolitan Water District. His knowledge and passion can take MWD to the next level.

Thank you,
Stephen Sova

From: [Hugh Bialecki](#)
To: [Board Executive Secretary](#)
Subject: Support for next GM Adel Hagekhalil
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 6:39:07 PM

I support Mr. Adel Hagekhalil as the next GM of the Metropolitan Water District.
Mr. Hagekhalil has a demonstrated wealth of experience and knowledge we need for surviving our California drought and the long term impacts of climate change.

Hugh A Bialecki, DMD
26555 Spyglass Drive
Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

Sent from my iPad

From: [Lalla, Lori M](#)
To: [DL-Board Support Team](#)
Subject: FW: Support today
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 12:02:26 PM

This email was received in the Office of the GM inbox last night. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Annette Pirrone <pirronecenter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 5:47 PM
To: Office of the General Manager <OfficeoftheGeneralManager@mwdh2o.com>
Subject: Support today

Hello,

I was unable to attend the meeting today but I strongly support Adel Hagekhalil for General Manager of MWD. Thank you for considering my request with your support.

Sincerely,
Annette Pirrone
San Anselmo CA

This communication, together with any attachments or embedded links, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain information that is confidential or legally protected. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, disclosure, copying, dissemination, distribution or use of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail message and delete the original and all copies of the communication, along with any attachments or embedded links, from your system.



700 West Liberty Street | Louisville, KY 40203-1911
Phone: 502.540.6000 | LouisvilleMSD.org

June 7, 2021

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

via Board Secretary (BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com)

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.

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

He 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.

Again, 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.

Regards,

James A. Parrott
Executive Director