



**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
December 19, 2024**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Serrano called the Special Board of Directors' meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and stated the meeting was being held in-person.

2. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**  
Vice Chair Hilliker led the salute to the flag.

3. **ROLL CALL, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**  
Clerk of the Board Walker called the roll. Directors present were Chair Serrano, Vice Chair Hilliker, Secretary Lyndes, and Directors Acosta, Arant, Baze, Butkiewicz, Croucher, Elitharp, Fong-Sakai, Heidemann, Katz, Macedo, Madaffer, McMillan, Meyers, Miller, Norman, Paul, Qualin\*, Reeh, Scalzitti, Serrano, Vespi, and Yamane. Absent were Directors Abdullahi, Castaneda, Eich, Hogan (p), Leahy (p), Quiram (p), Smith, Whitburn, and Supervisor Desmond.

Staff present included General Manager Denham, General Counsel Edwards, Deputy General Manager/Chief Operating Officer Berge, Assistant General Manager Bradford, Director of Administrative Services Foster, Director of Engineering Kuzmich, Director of Finance Harris, Director of Human Resources Love, Director of Operations & Maintenance Plajzer, Director of Public Affairs Lee, Director of Water Resources Stephenson, Director of Strategic Initiatives Westford, Colorado River Program Manager Schnell, and Clerk of the Board Walker.

- 3-A **Report on proxies received.** Director Arant was the proxy for Director Leahy, Director Acosta was the proxy for Director Quiram, and Director Lyndes was the proxy for Director Hogan.

4. **OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION.**  
There were no requests to speak.

5. **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**  
There were no additions to the agenda.

At that time, Chair Serrano took the meeting out of order to ensure adequate time for the Closed Session item.

7. **CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Edwards took the Board into Closed Session at 9:11 a.m.

7-A Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation  
Government Code §54956.9(d)(1)  
Name of Case: SDCWA v. Metropolitan Water District of Southern  
California; San Francisco Superior Court Case Nos. CPF-10-510830;  
CPF-12-512466; CPF-14-514004; CPF-16-515282; CPF-16-515391;  
CGC-17-563350; CPF-18-516389; California Court of Appeal (1<sup>st</sup> District)  
Case Nos. A146901; A148266; A154325; A155310; A161144; A162168;  
A170156; California Supreme Court Case Nos. S243500; and S251025

\* Director Qualin arrived at 9:21 a.m.

Mr. Edwards brought the Board out of Closed Session at 10:31 a.m. and stated there was no reportable action.

8. **ACTION FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION**

There was none.

6. **ACTION/DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**

6-1. Resolution to submit a grant application for Phase 2 of the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program.

Staff recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2024-27, a resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Water Authority, supporting the Water Authority’s grant application under the federal Inflation Reduction Act, authorizing the General Manager to accept any grant funds awarded, and committing the Water Authority to the legal obligations associated with the receipt of grant funds.

Mr. Denham explained changes that effect the funding application the Authority submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in 2023 to expand the Claude “Bud” Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant and introduced Ms. Schnell and Ms. Westford to provide further details.

Ms. Schnell provided background information and an overview of changes to the alternative funding application submitted to Reclamation in early December. Ms. Westford reviewed next steps and revisions made to the resolution posted with the agenda following conversations with Reclamation. The revised resolution was provided to the Board and public at the meeting and posted to the Authority’s website.

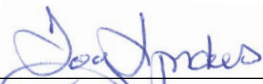
Directors made comments and asked questions, and staff replied.


Director Steiner moved, Director Arant seconded, and the motion carried at 94.6595% of the vote to adopt Resolution 2024-27.

9. **OTHER COMMUNICATION**  
There was no further communication.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**  
There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Serrano adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

  
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Nick Serrano, Chair

  
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Joy Lyndes, Secretary

  
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Kelly Cole-Walker, Clerk of the Board