

## MINUTES

**Tuesday, January 28, 2025  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
Board of Directors  
375 Eleventh Street  
Oakland, California**

### Regular Closed Session Meeting

President Marguerite Young called to order the Regular Closed Session Meeting of the Board of Directors at 11:26 a.m. in the Administration Building Boardroom.

### ROLL CALL

Directors April Chan, Andy Katz, Luz Gómez, Valerie D. Lewis, Jim Oddie, Joey D. Smith and President Marguerite Young were present at roll call.

Staff participants included General Manager Clifford C. Chan and General Counsel Derek T. McDonald.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

President Young announced the closed session agenda and the Board convened to Administration Building Conference Room 8 for discussion.

### Regular Business Meeting

At 1:02 p.m., General Manager Clifford C. Chan informed Secretary of the District Rischa S. Cole that due to an extended Closed Session Meeting, the Regular Business Meeting would start at 1:45p.m. President Marguerite Young called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors at 1:51 p.m. in the Administration Building Boardroom.

Directors April Chan, Luz Gómez, Andy Katz, Valerie D. Lewis, Jim Oddie, Joey D. Smith, and President Marguerite Young were present at roll call.

Staff participants included General Manager Clifford C. Chan, General Counsel Derek T. McDonald, and Secretary of the District Rischa S. Cole.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Young led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Employee Service Awards October – December 2024

Senior Human Resource Analyst Chad R. Thigpen highlighted the employees that reached service award milestones ranging from five to 40 years during this period. These employees were also recognized by their organizational leadership through the Employee Recognition and Service Award Program and received a service

award on behalf of the District. Mr. Thigpen read the names of the recipients including the following in attendance: Associate Civil Engineer Sanna L. Garcia; Associate Civil Engineer Samuel J. Gambino, Jr.; Manager of Wastewater Environmental Services Alicia R. Chakrabarti; Assistant Engineer Mark H. Chien; Senior Software Engineer Orlando M. Calderon; Senior Administrative Clerk Ruth Knop; and Senior Human Resources Analyst Lori Worden.

- Director Chan left the meeting at 1:54 p.m. and returned at 1:58 p.m.

#### Recognizing Black History Month and the District's Black Employee Network Affinity Group

Director Joey D. Smith announced EBMUD is recognizing Black History Month and the District's Black Employee Network Affinity Group. The Black Employee Network or BEN, formerly known as the Black History Committee, has been a vital part of the District since its establishment in 1994. BEN's mission is to celebrate African American heritage, foster inclusion and visibility, and support the advancement of employees who identify as Black, African American, or are of African descent. Director Smith highlighted the planned events centered around the 2025 National Theme – African Americans and Labor which are scheduled to kick off on February 4. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Director Smith extended gratitude to the Black Employee Network and encouraged all employees to support BEN's efforts and participate in the celebration of Black History Month at the District.

#### 2025 Board Assignment Preferences for Committees, Joint Powers Authorities and Associations

President Young announced the proposed 2025 Committee, Joint Powers Authorities, and Association assignments were included in the agenda materials and called for questions or comments from the Board. Director Katz welcomed additional Board members interested in serving on the EBMUD/EBRPD Liaison Committee. He noted he has served on the committee for most of his tenure and remains interested in continuing in that role. There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

- Motion by Director Chan, seconded by Director Gómez to approve the 2025 assignments for Board committees, joint powers authorities, and associations carried (7-0) by the following voice vote: AYES (Chan, Gómez, Katz, Lewis, Oddie, Smith and Young); NOES (None); ABSTAIN (None); ABSENT (None).

**Motion No. 014-25** – Approved the 2025 Board Assignments for Committees, Joint Powers Authorities and Associations.

#### Planning

Director Chan, Chair  
Director Gómez  
Director Lewis

*2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.*  
Administration Center Building

#### Legislative/Human Resources

Director Gómez, Chair  
Director Oddie  
Director Smith

*2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.*  
Administration Center Building

**Finance/Administration**

Director Katz, Chair  
Director Lewis  
Director Oddie

*4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.*  
Administration Center Building

**Sustainability**

Director Smith, Chair  
Director Gómez  
Director Katz

*4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, quarterly, time to be determined*  
Administration Center Building

**DSRSD/EBMUD Recycled  
Water Authority (DERWA)**

Director Chan  
Director Gómez  
Director Smith, Alternate

*1<sup>st</sup> Monday in Feb.;*  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May;*  
*4<sup>th</sup> Monday in March, July,*  
*Sept., and Nov. meets at 6:00 p.m.*  
Contact: Florence T. Wedington  
Tel: 510-287-1625

**Freeport Regional Water Authority**

Director Gómez  
Director Oddie  
Director Katz, Alternate

*2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, quarterly at 10:00 a.m.,*  
*location to be announced*

**Retirement Board**

Director Chan  
President Young

*3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday odd numbered months at 9:00 a.m.*  
Administration Center Building  
Contact: Valerie Weekly  
Tel: 510-287-0760

**Los Vaqueros Reservoir Joint Powers Authority**

Director of Water and  
Natural Resources Tognolini

*3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday odd numbered months at 9:00 a.m.*  
Administration Center Building  
Contact: Valerie Weekly  
Tel: 510-287-0760

**Upper Mokelumne River  
Watershed Authority**

Director Smith  
Director Oddie, Alternate  
Director Katz, Alternate  
Director Gómez, Alternate

*4<sup>th</sup> Friday of January, April, and October; and third*  
*Friday of August, at 10:00 a.m.*  
McLean Hall, Pardee Center

**EBMUD/EBRPD Liaison**

Director Oddie  
Director Smith  
Director Katz, Alternate

*Meeting dates, times, and location to be determined*

**Business Forum (Ad Hoc)**

*Meeting dates, times, and location to be determined*  
*Board Representatives to be determined as needed*

**Oakland Chamber of Commerce**

Director Oddie  
Director Lewis, Alternate  
President Young, Alternate

**Special Districts Association of Alameda County/Special Districts  
Selection Committee**

Director Chan, Member  
Director Katz, Alternate  
Director Lewis, Alternate

**Special Districts Association of Contra Costa County**

Director Smith, Member  
Director Gómez, Alternate  
Director Chan, Alternate

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CLOSED SESSION**

There were no announcements required from closed session.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Addressing the Board was George Cleveland, EBMUD Retiree, who commented on morale and ongoing concerns by staff regarding Contact Center management.

General Manager Clifford C. Chan noted management is aware of the issues raised by George Cleveland and will provide an information memo to the Board.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- General Manager Clifford C. Chan said an error on page 7 of the January 14, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes will be updated to reflect that Director Oddie left the meeting at 3:16 p.m., not Director Smith.
  - Motion by Director Katz, seconded by Director Oddie, to approve the recommended actions for Items 1-8 on the Consent Calendar carried (7-0) by the following voice vote: AYES (Chan, Gómez, Katz, Lewis, Oddie, Smith, and Young); NOES (None); ABSTAIN (None); ABSENT (None).
1. **Motion No. 015-25** – Approved the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2025.
  2. The following correspondence was filed with the Board: **1)** Presentation entitled, “Water Supply Update,” dated January 28, 2025; and **2)** Speakers’ Bureau and Outreach Record CY25, dated January 28, 2025.
  3. **Motion No. 016-25** – Authorized an agreement beginning on or after January 28, 2025 with Montrose Environmental Solutions, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$125,000 for development of an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for watershed maintenance and restoration projects on the East Bay Watershed.

4. **Motion No. 017-25** – Authorized an agreement beginning on or after January 28, 2025, with PGB Global Investments, Inc. dba Golden State Irrigation and Pump Services, in an amount not to exceed \$294,300 for the installation of automated debris-clearing screens at the Clay Station Pumping Plant intake.
5. **Motion No. 018-25** – Authorized an agreement beginning on or after January 28, 2025 with Siemens Industry, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$505,110 for procurement and installation of new security cameras and Wi-Fi routers at the District’s Administration Building at 375 11th Street in Oakland.
6. **Motion No. 019-25** – Authorized an agreement beginning on or after January 28, 2025 with Trussell Technologies, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$95,966 for completion of the North Richmond Water Recycling Plant pipeline corrosion evaluation.
7. **Motion No. 020-25** – Authorized an amendment to the agreement originally authorized under Board Motion No. 039-22 with Development Dimensions International, Inc. to increase the agreement amount by \$170,000 to a total amount not to exceed \$434,817 and extend the agreement term to May 8, 2027 for the usage, reproduction, and printing of leadership development curriculum, content, and related instructor certifications.
8. **Motion No. 021-25** – Approved the November and December 2024 Monthly Investment Transactions Reports.
9. **Resolution No. 35436-25** – Confirming Appointment Of Standby Officers For The East Bay Municipal Utility District Board Of Directors Under The Emergency Succession Plan For The Board Of Directors.

#### **DETERMINATION AND DISCUSSION**

- 10.1. **Consider establishing a new Board of Directors standing committee – The East Bay Municipal Utility District/City of Oakland Liaison Committee.**

General Manager Clifford C. Chan introduced the item. The City of Oakland is the largest city in the EBMUD service area and is represented by the Directors in Wards 3, 4, 5, and 6. The Board is being asked to consider establishing a liaison committee similar to the EBMUD/EBRPD Liaison Committee to assist with collaboration and relationship building between Oakland and the District. Mr. Chan said he met with the Oakland City Administrator who also expressed support for establishing a committee.

- Motion by Director Chan, seconded by Director Oddie, to approve the recommended actions for Item 10.1. carried (7-0) by the following voice vote: AYES (Chan, Gómez, Katz, Lewis, Oddie, Smith, and Young); NOES (None); ABSTAIN (None); ABSENT (None).

**Motion No. 022-25** – Voted to establish a new Board of Directors standing committee – the East Bay Municipal Utility District/City of Oakland Liaison Committee.

- 10.2. **Consider appointing two primary representatives and two alternates from the Directors that represent the City of Oakland in Wards 3, 4, 5, and 6 to the East Bay Municipal Utility District/City of Oakland Liaison Committee.**

There was considerable Board discussion regarding the number of representatives to appoint from the District and Brown Act considerations if a quorum of the EBMUD Board participates in a liaison committee meeting. There was additional discussion and Board consensus to appoint Director Lewis to the liaison committee and to decide on the remaining representatives after the General Manager meets with the Oakland City Administrator. The Board deferred taking action on this item to a future meeting.

11. **Consider and approve an increase to the Board of Directors' salary by an amount not to exceed 5 percent effective February 1, 2025.**

General Manager Clifford C. Chan announced this item was carried over from the January 14, 2025 Board meeting. The Municipal Utility District Act authorizes an increase in Director salary, of not more than 5 percent for each calendar year following the effective date of the last adjustment. The Board last voted to increase its compensation by 5 percent in January 2024. There was Board discussion about previous increases and the Board's prior practice of deferring an increase to its compensation until labor negotiations have concluded. General Counsel Derek T. McDonald clarified that although the Board could consider increasing its compensation at a later date, under the California Constitution, it could not award itself retroactive pay.

- Motion by Director Oddie, seconded by Director Smith, to postpone taking action on Item 11 until labor negotiations have concluded carried (7-0) by the following voice vote: AYES (Chan, Gómez, Katz, Lewis, Oddie, Smith, and Young); NOES (None); ABSTAIN (None); ABSENT (None)

**Motion No. 023-25** – Considered and deferred approving an increase to the Board of Directors' salary by an amount not to exceed 5 percent to a future meeting.

12. **General Manager's Report.**

Water Supply Update

Manager of Maintenance and Construction/Water Operations Roberto C. Cortez presented the update on Water Year 2024 which ended September 30, 2024 and the following data as of January 22: gross water production; precipitation in the East Bay (8.9 inches) and in the Mokelumne (14.9 inches); Mokelumne watershed rivers, reservoirs, and weather stations; the snow depth (40 inches) and snow water content (10.25 inches) at Caples Lake; and the District's total system storage (602,980 thousand acre-feet). He reviewed snowpack levels and snow water equivalent in the Sierras as of January 23 and seasonal precipitation forecasts across the states for February through April 2025. Mr. Cortez and General Manager Clifford C. Chan responded to Board questions regarding the potential for drought in the next two years and District messaging around drought and water supply conditions. Staff was asked to add a line showing the threshold for Drought Stage 1 on slide 16 - End of Season Storage and to track the State's messaging around drought and water supply conditions.

General Manager Clifford C. Chan read the 2025 Board committees, joint powers authorities and associations assignments and announced the Speakers' Bureau and Outreach Record CY25 had been provided at Board places.

## **REPORTS AND DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

### **13. Committee Reports.**

- Filed with the Board were the Minutes for the January 14, 2024 Planning Committee.
- President Young announced the Board met for the first budget workshop this morning where staff reviewed the District's budget including major investments in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY 2025, the approach to developing the FY 2026 and FY 2027 Biennial Budget, preliminary budget proposals, operating and capital priorities, and staffing.

### **14. Other Items for Future Consideration.**

None.

### **15. Director Comments.**


- Director Chan reported attending the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce's New Year Bazaar on January 18 and announced the Asian Pacific Employee Association Affinity Group will host its Lunar luncheon at the end of February.
- Director Gómez reported attending the East Bay Leadership Council Water, Energy and Environment Task Force meeting on January 21 where she met former employee Eileen White and the UMRWA Board meeting on January 24 in Pardee. She provided a verbal report on attending the first session of the Well UnTapped Fellowship Program, a water education fellowship for Latino leaders on January 8-10 in Coachella.
- Director Lewis reported visiting the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery during the weekend of January 17.
- Director Oddie reported attending the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce's New Year Bazaar on January 18 along with Director Chan and the General Manager. Director Oddie acknowledged Community Affairs Representative II Sun Kwong Sze for translating during the event.
- President Young reported participating in the Retirement Board meeting on January 23.
- Directors Katz and Smith had no reports.

**ADJOURNMENT**

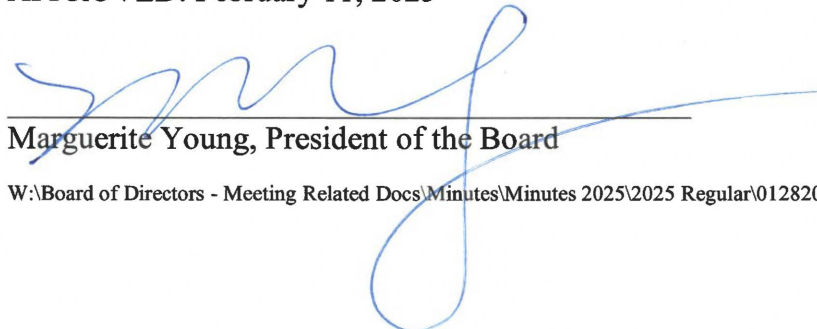
President Young announced the meeting would be adjourned in honor of Lunar New Year, the Year of the Snake. She also announced the Board would hold a special meeting to conduct a retreat on Thursday, February 13, 2025 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Joaquin Miller Community Center in Oakland.

President Young adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

  
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Rischa S. Cole, Secretary of the District

APPROVED: February 11, 2025

  
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Marguerite Young, President of the Board