



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of the Board of Directors

May 17, 2018

Mark Muir, Chairman
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Chairman Muir:

I am writing on behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to bring to your attention an incident that occurred on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at two receptions held during, and as a part of, the Association of California Water Agencies' (ACWA) semiannual convention. The events were attended by water professionals, including members of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) staff and board. During these public events, Maureen Stapleton, General Manager of the SDCWA, made comments to a Director on the SDCWA board to the effect that this Director is too close to Metropolitan employee Meena Westford and that he shouldn't agree with her and undermine presentations by SDCWA staff. The comments concluded with Ms. Stapleton stating in a public setting that the Director and Ms. Westford are having an affair. Ms. Stapleton went on to use her cell phone to display to the Director and others at the event, an anonymous website post asserting that Ms. Westford "sleeps with married men" as justification for her accusation.

Ms. Westford is a former employee of the SDCWA. She has worked for Metropolitan since June 2012. Metropolitan maintains an office in San Diego as a resource to the communities and agencies within the San Diego County region of Metropolitan's service area and to facilitate Metropolitan's engagement with Mexico on Colorado River matters. Ms. Westford staffs the San Diego office and, as part of her duties, she attends SDCWA and SDCWA member agency board meetings to respond to questions, provide Metropolitan's perspective on policy issues impacting Metropolitan and SDCWA, and to comment when, in Metropolitan's view, information provided by SDCWA is not factual. Her work has been a matter of contention with members of the staff and board of the SDCWA for some time. SDCWA has consistently objected to the existence of Metropolitan's office in San Diego since it was established. Recently, as part of an attempt at a more collaborative relationship between the two agencies and a discussion of proposed guidelines for outreach activities between SDCWA and Metropolitan, SDCWA proposed that Metropolitan close its office in San Diego and reassign the staff (proposal attached).

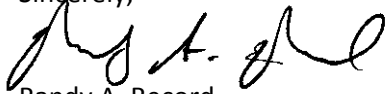
Ms. Stapleton's conduct at the ACWA convention was beyond improper and unprofessional. Ms. Stapleton's display of anonymously posted negative information on a questionable website to Ms. Westford's professional peers, while asserting it constitutes proof that Ms. Westford is having an affair with a SDCWA board member, is extremely hostile and constitutes harassment of a Metropolitan staff member. It is an attempt to undermine, intimidate and negatively impact Ms. Westford's

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credibility and ability to perform her job. Ms. Stapleton's action was a knowing, willful and significant breach of professional ethics intended to harm Ms. Westford and her professional reputation for no legitimate purpose. Because SDCWA does not have an Ethics Office to investigate this matter, we are compelled to bring it to the attention of the SDCWA board for review and appropriate action, including immediate cessation of any action by any SDCWA staff or representative to harass or attempt to intimidate Ms. Westford or any Metropolitan staff member.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy A. Record". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "A".

Randy A. Record
Chairman of the Board

Attachment

cc: SDCWA Board (w/Attachment)

Subject:

FW: Guiding Principles

Attachments:

02122018 Revised guiding principles with alternatives.docx; ATT00001.htm

From: Mark Muir <chiefmarkmuir@gmail.com>**Date:** February 12, 2018 at 2:16:14 PM PST**To:** Randy Record <rrecord@att.net>**Subject:** Guiding Principles

Hi Randy,

The attached document is the updated (based on our meeting notes) draft of the Guiding Principles. Please review and let me know if you have any suggestions or modifications to this document. We understand that MWD is not interested in Alternative B, so we'll only focus on Alternative A. Please get your feedback to me ASAP, so that we can move forward.

Best,
Mark

Alternative A: Outreach Guiding Principles

Recognizing the Water Authority Board's Autonomy and Role in the San Diego Region and Metropolitan's Role as a Regional Wholesale Water Agency in Southern California.

The fundamental guiding principle the parties agree upon is to return to the same professional protocol and courtesy that existed for many years, with Metropolitan, acknowledging and respecting the Water Authority Board's autonomy within the San Diego region to determine its own destiny and the Water Authority acknowledging and respecting Metropolitan's role as a wholesale water agency serving six counties, including San Diego County. With this fundamental premise in mind, the following guiding principles would accomplish it.

Guiding Principles

1. Metropolitan and the Water Authority will work together cooperatively in all areas including the Bay Delta and Colorado River programs to maximize benefit to both agencies. Specific issues where such opportunities exist have been outlined in a separate document for discussion of non-litigation issues.
2. Metropolitan's outreach activities in the Water Authority's service area will be consistent with its historical practice and informational and educational in nature only, solely focused on presentation of its own conservation programs, tips and practices and informing the region about upcoming regulations and potential impacts to MWD's water system and operations. Metropolitan's activities will be focused on policy, not political issues and outreach, and be fully consistent with Water Authority messaging in the San Diego region to avoid confusing the public. The Water Authority's outreach activities in Metropolitan's service area will similarly be focused on policy issues and factual analyses.
3. Metropolitan will coordinate in advance all of its outreach activities in San Diego with Water Authority management, in order to schedule and manage education and outreach activities within the Water Authority's service area, with the public and with the Water Authority's member agencies. A Water Authority representative will be invited to attend each of these meetings/events. The Water Authority will similarly coordinate in advance all of its outreach activities in Metropolitan's service area outside of San Diego County and an MWD representative will be invited to attend each of these meetings/events. If there are differences of opinion on issues, Metropolitan and Water Authority management will work diligently to try to resolve the differences and/or develop a plan that both agencies can agree upon to communicate those differences respectfully and on the basis of the merits at issue.
4. Metropolitan will not use political or outreach consultants to influence the Water Authority, its member agencies, or San Diego elected officials' water policy decisions. The Water Authority will not use political consultants to influence the political decisions of Metropolitan's other member agencies. This guideline is not intended to preclude either Metropolitan or the Water Authority from political representation for state and federal lobbying purposes.

Nothing in these Guidelines is intended to restrict the full and open debate of issues before the public, at Metropolitan or among member agencies, or, to limit state or federal lobbying. The parties also agree to be respectful and acknowledge that litigation, while never the first choice, is sometimes necessary in order to resolve disputes of important issues that have a great impact on the public interest.

Alternative B: Cessation of Outreach Activities of Concern

The Water Authority agrees to:

- Cease all outreach activities within the jurisdiction of other MWD member agencies and terminate the work of outreach consultants with respect to outreach activities in other MWD member agencies' service areas;
- Close and vacate the Water Authority's leased office space within MWD's Union Station Headquarters (upon notice, per the lease), and relocate the Water Authority's MWD Program Policy Staff (Amy Chen and Liz Mendelson-Goossens) to off-site office space; MWD Program Policy Staff will continue to provide support to the Water Authority's MWD Delegates, and will continue to attend MWD Board of Directors and committee meetings; and,
- The Water Authority will continue to advocate its positions at MWD and to its staff, Board of Directors and committees, and otherwise as all MWD member agencies are free to do.

MWD agrees to:

- Cease all outreach activities within the jurisdiction of the San Diego County Water Authority and terminate the work of outreach consultants with respect to outreach activities within the Water Authority's service area; and,
- Close MWD's office in San Diego County, and reassign MWD staff to other MWD programs or policy areas unrelated to the Water Authority and its Board of Directors; cease all meetings with, and appearances before San Diego civic associations, public agencies, public officials and other entities within the Water Authority's service area.