

Motion

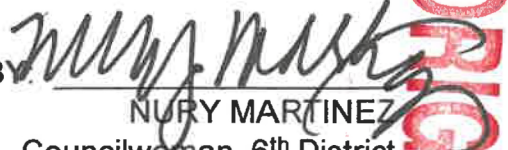
The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) is one of the largest suppliers of water, both to the City of Los Angeles and all of Southern California. In 2021, allegations were brought to light showing a pattern of systematic discrimination, abuse and harassment against female employees. These issues were largely dismissed and ignored by the agency's leadership. In response, the City Council approved a motion (CF: 21-0203) asking the Department of Water and Power and the Chief Legislative Analyst to report back on the City's relationship with MWD.

The State recently finished an audit looking into the allegations against MWD. This audit confirmed that the agency failed to effectively investigate abuse. It also highlights a troubling lack of transparency amongst senior leadership in the organization, including the General Counsel and Board, to disclose conflicts and waive privilege.

Southern California is in the throes of a severe water crisis requiring cities to implement unprecedented restrictions. It is critical to the residents of Los Angeles that MWD focus on improving water resilience and sustainability. However, with the results of the audit, it is difficult to see how the agency can address these issues without serious reforms.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power and the Chief Legislative Analyst report back in 10 days on the findings of the States audit of the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). This should include actions taken by the Board and General Counsel; what the agency is doing to improve oversight and accountability; and include an overview of MWD's structure and lines of authority between the General Manager, Ethics Officer, General Counsel, the Board of Directors, and the general MWD workforce.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Water and Power and the Chief Legislative Analyst report back in 10 days on what MWD is doing to implement the recommendations of the State Audit.

PRESENTED BY: 

NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District

SECONDED BY: 

MAY 25 2022 