RESOLUTION NO. 2021-R 039

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING A STATE AUDIT OF ALLEGED SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, BULLYING AND RETALIATION AT THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Water District (MWD) is a public corporation created for the purpose of developing, storing, and distributing water throughout the Southern California region; and

WHEREAS, MWD consists of 26 member agencies and provides drinking water to nearly 18 million people in its service area; and

WHEREAS, recent disturbing reports state that a number of current and former MWD employees have come forward exposing a pattern of sexual harassment, bullying and retaliation of women who participated in an apprentice program at MWD; and

WHEREAS, the women who participated in the apprentice program stated that their complaints of harassment were ignored by MWD officials, and some women were pressured to continue working around their abusers; one woman was transferred to work at a facility more than 100 miles from her home and family; and,

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2020 an independent investigation was initiated by MWD to review this matter, but there is concern that the investigation will be rushed and inadequate in addressing the problem; and,

WHEREAS, in order to create the institutional change necessary to ensure MWD’s workplace is free from harassment, discrimination, bullying and retaliation, the State needs to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the alleged abuses, and the related human resources practices; and,
WHEREAS, by conducting these activities a measure of workplace safety and justice may be ensured for the women and LGBTQ+ community working at MWD.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Culver City DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

The City Council of the City of Culver City supports any legislative effort by the California Assembly Joint Legislative Audit Committee to conduct a comprehensive investigation and audit of the personnel policies and practices of the MWD to increase transparency and provide oversight of workplace health and safety; and the prevention of workplace discrimination, harassment, bullying and retaliation in light of recent reports concerning the treatment of women at MWD.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 10th day of May 2021.

ALEX FISCH, Mayor
City of Culver City, California

ATTEST:

JEREMY GREEN, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CAROL A. SCHWAB, City Attorney
Certification of Resolution No. 2021-R039

I, Jeremy Green, City Clerk of the City of Culver City, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly passed, approved, and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council, which was held on the 10th day of May 2021, at the Mike Balkman Council Chambers by the following vote:

AYES: Eriksson, McMorrin, Vera, Lee, Fisch

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Certified on this 10th day of May 2021, at the City of Culver City.

Jeremy Green, CMC, City Clerk
Ex-Officio Clerk of the City Council
City of Culver City, State of California