



Resolution #21-05-1

**STATE AUDIT OF METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ABUSE**

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has repeatedly shown to be an unsafe workplace with rampant sexual harassment, bullying, and retaliation. 20 current and former employees came forward and reviews of hundreds of pages of district records, court documents and audio recordings came to light exposing a pattern of complaints alleging harassment and bullying of women, LGBTQ+ and other employees who enrolled in the apprentice program at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

WHEREAS, 2005 and 2019, 18 women worked in trades positions for the district, and six of those filed formal equal employment opportunity complaints. After their complaints, women said they were ignored by agency officials and three said they were pressured to continue working around their abusers. One woman was transferred to a facility more than 100 miles from her home.

WHEREAS, On October 27, 2020 an independent investigation was initiated by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Board's OP&T Committee, but there is fear that the investigation will be rushed, inadequate, and swept under the rug.

WHEREAS, In order to create the institutional change to ensure a workplace free from bullying, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and other abuses on the job for all Metropolitan Water District of Southern California workers, the State of California needs a comprehensive investigation into the alleged abuses, no matter how long it takes. Only then can we truly hold the abusers and their enablers accountable, to ensure it ends.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Democratic Party of Orange County calls upon the Joint Legislative Audit Committee approve an audit of all personnel policies and practices of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California including all Human Resources and Safety procedures and policies in an effort to increase transparency and provide state oversight of workplace safety, harassment, bullying, and retaliation.

Author:

Meghan Carvalho

Sponsored By: Ada Briceno, Eugene Fields, Misha Houser,
Samila Amanyraoufpoor, Lauren Johnson-Norris

Contact Information: meghan@jacobsonzilber.com; 408.607.4809

**Adopted by the Democratic Party of Orange County
Central Committee Meeting on May 24, 2021**