



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

● Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – May 2024

Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board during the month of May 2024 on matters relating to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's business.

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- I attended the Municipal Water District of Orange County Board meeting with General Manager Adel Hagekhalil. We addressed the interrelation between CAMP4Water, the Biennial Budget Process, Bay-Delta Issues, and the Colorado River, as well as our collective resiliency in addressing the State Water Project Exclusive Areas challenges. We also answered questions and comments from the member agency directors and, in some instances, members of the public, including local elected officials.
- The Second Annual One Water Awards luncheon recognized four Southern California projects for outstanding achievements in water-saving projects and facility upgrades. The projects feature significant improvements to water management operations and equipment, such as reusing condensation from air conditioning and heating systems, recycling irrigation runoff, switching to sustainable landscaping, and installing more efficient irrigation systems. I addressed how extreme drought and climate change require us to think differently about how we use water and how the water-saving projects developed by these four organizations are great examples of the actions that must be taken to adapt to our changing climate and store water for use when we need it.



- Led Metropolitan in hosting the first ALL SPANISH Sacramento Bay-Delta two-day inspection trip. Participants included 30 engaged grassroots leaders from Compton, Central Basin, Los Angeles, and San Fernando who were learning about water and making this pilot trip successful. There was great brainstorming for the future of engaging the Latino community through learning, cultural celebrations, and new friendships. Thanks to the great Metropolitan Water District Experts, Department of Water Resources & Delta Conveyance Project Guides.



- Participated in the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) 2024 Spring Conference, where I met with several water industry leaders and served as a panelist along with Delta County Supervisor Pat Hume and Farmer Randy Fiorini from Merced County in discussing how climate change is impacting long-standing issues affecting water supplies, flood control, and farming in the Bay-Delta. General Manager of State Water Contractors Jennifer Pierre was the moderator.



- Vice Chair Michael Camacho and I joined Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District board President Chance Edmondson, directors Darcy Burke, Harvey Ryan, Jack Ferguson, Andy Morris & General Manager Greg Thomas for an extensive tour of Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District facilities. The tour highlighted the district's ongoing projects and achievements and was followed by an engaging and informative question-and-answer session. We were later joined by the Board and Staff leadership of the Eastern Municipal Water District and Western Municipal Water District for a wide-ranging discussion about CAMP4Water and key water issues such as Delta Conveyance and the Colorado River.



- General Manager Adel Hagekhalil and I jointly received Heal The Bay's "Walk the Talk Awards" at the annual Bring Back the Beach Gala. The award was a recognition of Metropolitan's dedication to conservation and our planning for regional resiliency. We were presented with the awards by Director Tracy Quinn and joined by Board Vice Chair Judy Abdo, as well as Directors Miguel Luna, Dennis Erdman, Desi Alvarez, Jacque McMillan, and Matt Petersen. Former Directors Mark Gold and Heather Repenning were also in attendance.



- Attended a tour and meeting with Metropolitan staff and board members, spending the day learning and connecting with the Colorado River Indian Tribe. Directors Gloria Cordero and Linda Ackerman were in attendance, and we also visited with CRIT Chairwoman Amelia Flores in a candid lunch conversation on the need for collaboration and partnerships.



- During a ceremony held at the Grace F. Napolitano Center for Innovation in Carson, The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced a \$99.2 million funding boost for Metropolitan's initiative to create a new water supply through the proposed Southern California PURE Water SoCAL project. Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton made the announcement and was joined by U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, U.S. Representative Grace Napolitano, California State Water Resources Control Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel, and representatives from Metropolitan, the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, and other water agencies that received federal funds.



- As part of a statewide coalition, I joined General Manager Adel Hagekhalil and Metropolitan representatives in Sacramento to advocate for key water infrastructure and climate resilience priorities in the proposed climate resilience bond. We met with over a dozen legislative offices, including Assemblymembers Jacqui Irwin, Lisa Calderon, Anna Caballero, Gregg Hart, and Tina McKinnor.



- Attended and delivered closing remarks at the Water Infrastructure Networking Summit, where keynote speaker Senator Alex Padilla addressed topics such as large-scale water recycling, Colorado River negotiations, and water assistance programs for families. In attendance were also Directors Garza, McCoy, Goldberg, Dick, Dennstedt, McMillan, Seckel, and Camacho.



Delegation of Activities

- On the board's behalf, I would like to thank Board Vice Chair Michael Camacho, who represented us and provided remarks at the 2024 Spring Service Awards Luncheon, paying tribute to employees for their years of service and dedication to the organization.

Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

I continue to meet regularly to review the Board's organizational issues and coordinate activities with the Board Vice Chairs and Department Heads.