



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Water Resource Management Group

• Water Resource Management November Activities

Summary

The Water Resource Management Group November 2024 Monthly Activities

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Ensure Access to Sufficient Water Supplies to Operate a Full Colorado River Aqueduct in Times of Drought

Staff attended a two-day meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) in Scottsdale, Arizona. Topics discussed included (1) progress toward federal legislation to reduce the state cost-share requirement from 30 percent to roughly 15 percent for salinity control funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which would reduce the existing Salinity Control Program (Program) funding deficit; (2) a report that seismic activity in the Paradox Valley related to the operation of the Paradox Valley Unit has returned to normal levels after increasing temporarily in March 2024; (3) preparations for the 2026 “Triennial Review,” in which the Forum communicates to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency an assessment of the sufficiency of existing water quality criteria for salinity on the Lower Colorado River; and (4) updates from key federal agencies involved in the Program, including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, NRCS, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Geological Survey. *Strategic Priority 3.2.1 “Advance multiple strategies toward sustainable Colorado River supplies and toward broad agreement in long-term compact negotiations.”*



The Paradox Valley Unit. Photo credit: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Date of Report: 12/9/2024

Board Report Water Resource Management November Activities

Staff attended the 30th Anniversary Celebration for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) George E. Brown Jr. Salinity Laboratory on the campus of the University of California at Riverside. The celebration included brief speeches by dignitaries and a tour of the laboratory’s research activities, including research on the salinity tolerance of alfalfa. *Strategic Priority 3.2.1 “Advance multiple strategies toward sustainable Colorado River supplies and toward broad agreement in long-term compact negotiations.”*



Entrance to the USDA George E. Brown, Jr., Salinity Laboratory. Photo credit: Justin Neal.

Complete the Urban Water Management Plan (UMWP)

Since April 2024, staff has been participating in the development of The Department of Water Resources (DWR) 2025 UWMP Guidebook through statewide urban water agency work group meetings and one-on-one meetings with DWR. Staff continues to provide input in developing guidance and reporting tables aimed at maintaining consistency with the UWMP Act as stated in the Water Code. The DWR is scheduled to host a public meeting in January 2025 to discuss the draft guidebook. The DWR anticipates that the Final 2025 UWMP Guidebook will be released in the June-July 2025 timeframe. *Strategy Priority 5.1: “Grow and deepen collaboration and relationships among member agencies, interested parties, and leaders on the issues most important to them and toward mutual and/or regional benefits.”*

Collaborate with Member Agencies, Water Agencies and Associations, and Provide Leadership for Policy Development, Advocacy, Outreach and Education

On November 14, staff gave a presentation on Southern California’s current water supply and demand at the Fall 2024 California Municipal Rates Group Conference in Riverside, CA. *Strategy Priority 5.1 “Grow and deepen collaboration and relationships among member agencies, interested parties, and leaders on the issues most important to them and toward mutual and/or regional benefits.”*

Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program (FSAFP)

On November 12, 2024, Metropolitan and the Long Beach Public Utilities Department entered into a Future Supply Actions Funding Program agreement for the Groundwater Augmentation, Groundwater Collection System, and New Wells Site Study. Under this agreement, Metropolitan will provide a not-to-exceed funding of \$499,802 to further develop a framework for future groundwater enhancement projects. This study will update existing groundwater and hydraulic models to evaluate potential well sites for future groundwater recharge and system improvement efforts. This agreement is the first of seven to be fully executed under the third round of the FSAFP. *Strategy Priority 5.1: “Grow and deepen collaboration and relationships among member agencies, interested parties, and leaders on the issues most important to them and toward mutual and/or regional benefits.”*