



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Water Resource Management Group

• Water Resource Management May Activities

Summary

The Water Resource Management Group May 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 an annual two-day meeting of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Technical Work Group in San Diego. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Draft Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2025 Work Plan and Budget, and Fiscal Year 2023 Accomplishment Report issued by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the agency that implements the MSCP. The MSCP provides environmental coverage under federal and state law for endangered species impacts caused by all water and hydropower activities along the lower Colorado River (LCR). These activities include the operation of the major dams, reservoirs, and diversion structures on the LCR. The environmental coverage provided by the MSCP is critical to maintaining Metropolitan's Colorado River imports. (*Strategic Priority 3—Goal 3.2—Outcome 3.2.1*)

Manage Existing and Develop New Regional Water Management Programs to Maintain Water Supply Reliability in the Face of Increasing Water Supply Volatility.

Staff drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among Metropolitan, Friant Water Authority, and Westlands Water District (Parties) for the development of water supply storage and exchange programs. The MOU was executed in person on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at the Spring Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference. The purpose of the MOU is to establish the intent of collaboration between the Parties for the potential development of water supply management programs and policy activities that would provide mutual benefits to the Parties. Specifically for Metropolitan, the potential programs could help store surplus State Water Project supplies to maintain water supply reliability. In the future, the Parties intend to develop a Funding Agreement that would outline a cost-sharing approach for program development activities. (*Strategic Priority 3*)

On May 8, 2024, staff and directors attended the signing ceremony of an MOU between Metropolitan and Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley (Blueprint). The intent of the MOU is to collaboratively identify, develop, and potentially implement projects in the Central Valley that have mutual benefits for managing water supplies including storage and recovery. Metropolitan seeks to increase its supply reliability through projects and programs that support storing water during wetter periods for use during droughts. This MOU is a framework for Metropolitan and Blueprint to work together to explore future opportunities. The next step is for the parties to develop a Funding Agreement to outline the scope of work and cost sharing for future work.

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Strategic Priority #3: Adapt to changing climate and water resources.

Staff reviewed the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Extension of the Yuba Accord Long-Term Water Transfer Program and submitted a letter of support to Yuba Water Agency. Since implementation in 2008, Metropolitan has purchased over 250,000 acre-feet of transfer supplies via the Yuba Accord, an important source of supplemental supplies to help manage through dry years. Metropolitan supports Yuba Water Agency's efforts to extend the program beyond 2025 for another 25 years.

Implement Regional Conservation Program

Held a Water Efficient Landscaper Dual Certification class series in partnership with Chino Basin Water Conservation District for 30 landscape professionals.

Held a firescaping class in partnership with SoCalGas for 90 virtual participants.

On May 2, 2024, Metropolitan held its second annual One Water Awards ceremony at the California Endowment in downtown Los Angeles. The event recognized four Southern California projects in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Diego counties that showcase leadership, community responsibility, innovation, and positive environmental impact. Together the projects should save more than 200 million gallons of water annually. The projects received funding through Metropolitan's Water Savings Incentive Program and Turf Replacement Program, and include:

- California State University, Dominguez Hills (West Basin Municipal Water District) for its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system condensate recovery project
- Altman Specialty Plants (Western Municipal Water District) for an innovative system at their nursery site that recycles 80 percent of their irrigation runoff
- The Jamacha Park Homeowners Association (San Diego County Water Authority) for replacing 58,000 square feet of turf with more climate-appropriate plants, efficient irrigation, and stormwater retention elements
- El Caballero Country Club (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power) for redesigning its golf course to improve environmental sustainability by switching to warm-season turf and improving irrigation efficiency

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

Staff participated in the Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA)'s annual spring meeting held on May 13 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Members gave updates on current projects including a joint climate equity project with the U.S. Water Alliance and discussed potential 2025 projects. WUCA also staff discussed the planning for the fall GM meeting in Coral Gables, Florida. Metropolitan serves as the fiscal agent for WUCA.

On May 20 & 22, 2024, staff provided water supply updates to the City of Fullerton's Infrastructure and Natural Resources Advisory Committee and Western Water's Drought Task Force, respectively. These updates included a summary of current hydrologic conditions for Water Year 2024 and Metropolitan's water supply and drought