One Water and Adaptation Committee

Provide an update on current groundwater storage programs in the central valley and efforts to identify and evaluate potential new groundwater storage partnerships

Item 6a

March 9, 2026

Presented by: Tracy Abundez

Item 6a

Update on current groundwater storage programs and potential new partnerships

Subject

Provide an update on the current groundwater storage programs in the central valley and efforts to identify and evaluate potential new groundwater storage partnerships

Purpose

Inform on Metropolitan's current groundwater storage programs and efforts in new partnerships

Metropolitan's Groundwater Banking Programs

California State Water Project (SWP) Aqueduct

Semitropic Water Storage District

Kern Delta Water District

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District

Mojave Water Agency

Antelope Valley- East Kern Water Agency (AVEK)

Program Development Timeline

Semitropic Groundwater Banking & Exchange Program (Semitropic)

Arvin-Edison Water Management Program (Arvin-Edison)

Mojave Water Management Program (Mojave)

Kern Delta Water Management Program (Kern Delta)

AVEK Storage & Exchange Programs (AVEK Storage)

AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program (AVEK HDWB)

Central Valley Groundwater Storage Programs: Summary

	Semitropic	Arvin Edison	Kern Delta
			
Max Storage (AF)	350,000	350,000	250,000
Max Put/ Take (AFY)	90,500/ 38,200*	45,000/ 75,000	50,000/ 50,000
Storage Balance (AF)	237,000	100,000	142,000
Return	Exchange & direct pump back	Exchange & direct pump back	Mainly exchange; limited direct pump back
Constituent of Concern	Arsenic	1,2,3-TCP	Arsenic
Full Cycle Cost ($/AF)	$566	$451	$486
Term	2035	2035	2029

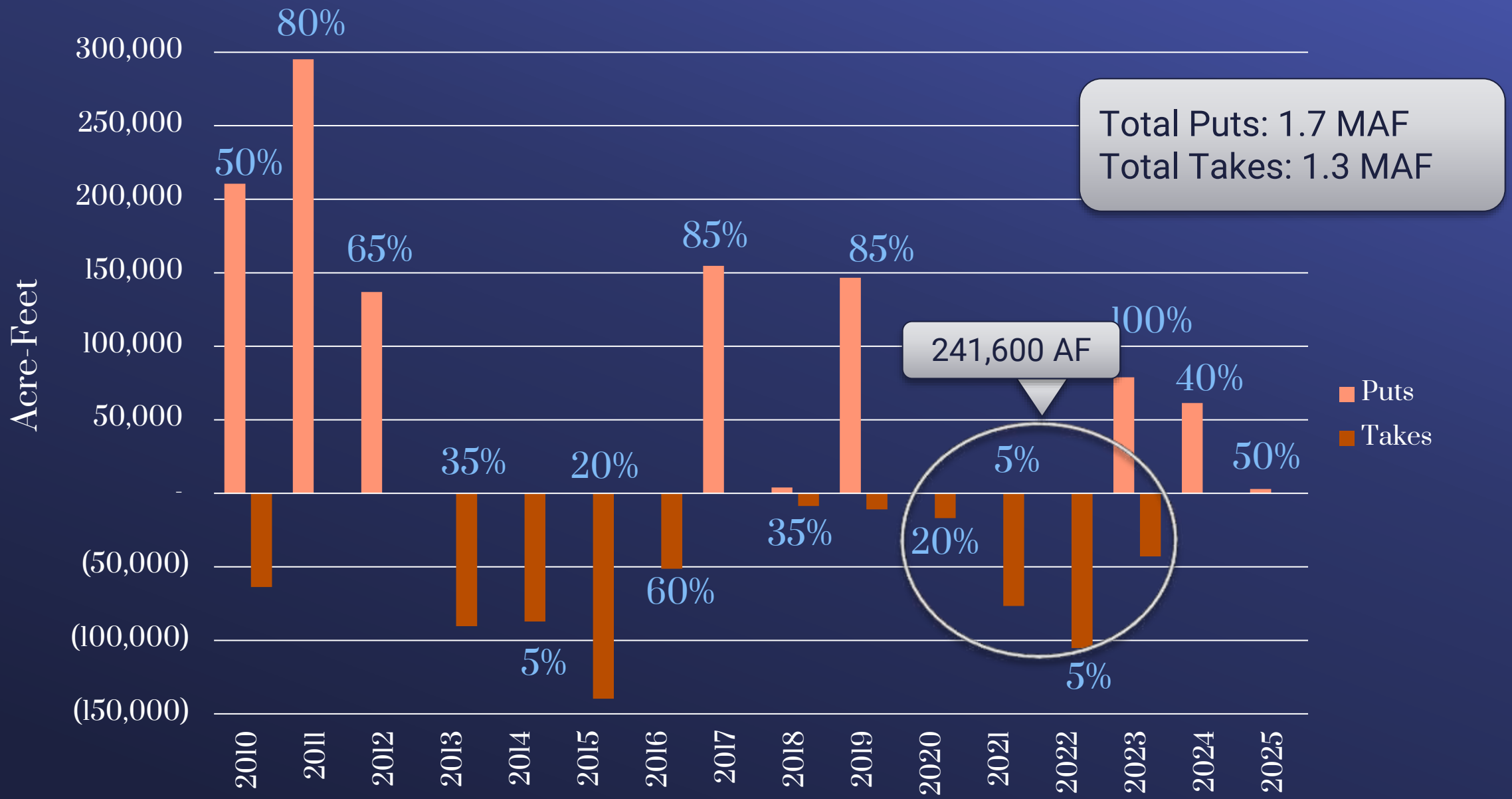
*During low allocations

High Desert Groundwater Storage Programs: Summary

	Mojave	AVEK Storage	AVEK HDWB
			
Max Storage (AF)	390,000	30,000	280,000
Max Put/ Take (AFY)	Mutual agreement/72,000	30,000/ 30,000	70,000/70,000
Storage Balance (AF)	19,000	30,000	45,000
Return	Exchange (>20% SWP allocation)	Exchange (>20% SWP allocation)	Direct pump back
Constituent of Concern	N/A	N/A	Arsenic & Nitrate
Full Cycle Cost ($/AF)	$0	$300	$125
Term	2035	2025*	2057

*Extended until HDWB operational

Groundwater Storage Programs: Puts & Takes vs. SWP Allocation



Groundwater Storage Programs

Groundwater Storage Program Benefits

Manage wet supplies and provide dry-year reliability

Provide emergency supplies

- South of Delta
- Direct pump-back

Cost-competitive to alternatives

- Dry-year transfers
- In-region conjunctive use programs
- Capital cost for surface reservoirs

Partnerships with State Water Contractors and water districts

Executed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

Partnering Agencies

- Friant Water Authority (Friant) & Westlands Water District (Westlands)
- Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley Education Fund (Blueprint)
- Kern County Water Agency (KCWA)
- San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA)

Additional Opportunities for Partnership

Purpose of MOUs

- Evaluate opportunities to collaborate on new water management efforts
  - Surface storage
  - Groundwater storage
  - Transfers and exchanges
  - Policy support
- Broad and non-binding to provide flexibility to engage with agency signatories

Blueprint

Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley

Groundwater Storage Investigation Study

- Executed funding agreement with Blueprint – February 2026
- Purpose: Identify potential areas suitable for groundwater banking in the San Joaquin Valley
  - Location/Size
  - Subsurface characteristics
  - GSPs
  - Existing infrastructure/ conveyance
- Timeline: 9 months
- Cost: $238,820

Summary & Next Steps

- Groundwater storage programs improve our regional water supply reliability
- Several program agreements approaching termination dates
- Continue to explore, evaluate, and develop new programs through MOU partnerships


THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1928