



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

● Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – October 2025

Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board, as well as Board Member highlights during the month of October 2025 on matters relating to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's business.

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- General Manager Deven Upadhyay, staff leadership, and I had the honor of meeting with His Excellency Abdullah bin Ibrahim Al-Abdulkarim, President of the Saudi Water Authority, along with a delegation of senior executives and technical experts from the Saudi Water Authority, at Metropolitan's Robert B. Diemer Water Treatment Plant. Our discussions focused on shared challenges and opportunities in water supply reliability, resource management, and innovation, including Metropolitan's Pure Water Southern California program—one of the region's most advanced water recycling initiatives. Thank you to the MWD staff who facilitated the visit.



- I attended Metropolitan's Inlet/Outlet Tower Naming Dedication at Diamond Valley Lake event in honor of former Metropolitan General Counsel N. Gregory Taylor, who passed away in 2023. Taylor was instrumental in securing the key approvals that enabled Diamond Valley Lake to move forward, helping to ensure reliable water supplies for Southern California during droughts, emergencies, and other challenges. In my closing remarks, I highlighted that the dedication is a reminder of the legacy of service, foresight, and leadership that Greg Taylor brought to Metropolitan, and that naming the facility in his honor helps to tell this critical part of Metropolitan's history – a lasting



tribute to his impact. I joined other members of the Metropolitan leadership, along with Greg Taylor's wife and his family, as well as community members who celebrated his achievements and accomplishments.



- I had the pleasure of helping our General Manager, Deven Updahyay, in welcoming a group from the Colorado River Board of California to our F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant for their monthly meeting. During their visit, the CRB Board also toured the treatment plant and the Michael McGuire Laboratory. During his remarks, General Manager Deven Updahyay highlighted the importance of collaboration across the seven states that rely on the Colorado River to reach a unified agreement on its future management, and the need to act together in California.



- I attended Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD) 75th anniversary celebration, honoring 75 years of service to the community and region. I was proud to present a commendation recognizing EMWD's long-standing commitment to collaboration, innovation, and public service. The event brought together Metropolitan Board Members, incoming leadership, regional and local elected officials, and community partners to celebrate EMWD's achievements and the partnerships that continue to support water reliability and quality for our region. In attendance were EMWD General Manager Joe Mouawad; EMWD Board Members Joe Grindstaff and David Slawson; EMWD Board President Stephen Corona; EMWD and Metropolitan Director Jeff Armstrong; Metropolitan General Manager-Designate Shivaji Deshmukh; and Metropolitan Vice Chair Michael Camacho and Director Brenda Dennstedt.



- I joined the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts in welcoming City of Long Beach leaders, including Mayor Rex Richardson, Councilmember Suely Saro, and Long Beach Utilities officials, to the Grace Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center in Carson. Together, we explored how our demonstration facility produces 500,000 gallons of purified water daily, advancing the regulatory efforts critical to the success of the Pure Water Southern California program.



- I provided opening remarks at Metropolitan's MetWorks event in the City of Industry, which highlights our commitment to engaging local businesses and supporting Southern California's economy. More than 500 contractors and industry professionals attended to network and learn about upcoming infrastructure contracting opportunities with Metropolitan. I also announced the launch of the new Business Outreach customer service app, which enables users to connect directly with our Business Outreach Team for timely responses to questions and feedback.



- Attended the West Basin Municipal Water District’s 30th Anniversary celebration of the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Plant in El Segundo, where it all began for me in California’s water industry. During the event, I presented Metropolitan’s Commendation in recognition of West Basin’s national contributions to water recycling innovation. The anniversary celebration brought together Metropolitan and West Basin Board Members, elected officials, and community stakeholders to honor the agency’s achievements. Metropolitan Directors Gloria Gray and Desi Alvarez, who also represent West Basin, were in attendance to join in the celebration.



- I attended the Southern California Water Coalition’s (SCWC) annual meeting and dinner, which brings together water leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders from across the region for an evening of connection, insight, and celebration. I was asked to present our retiring colleague from the Metropolitan Water District Board, Miguel Luna, with the distinguished Harriet Weider Award. I was joined by former General Manager Ronald Gastelum in presenting the award to Director Luna, reflecting on his contributions to state water policy and at Metropolitan. SCWC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public education partnership dedicated to informing Southern Californians about our water needs and our state’s water resources.

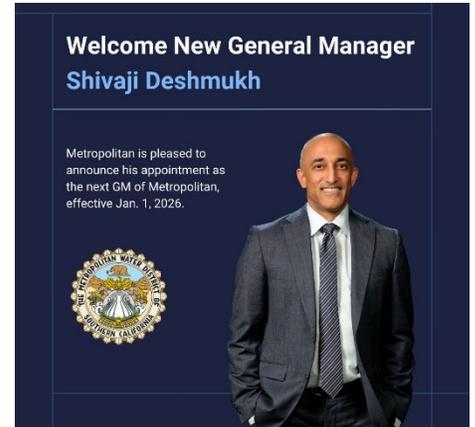


- Participated in the 30th Anniversary celebration of Three Valleys Municipal Water District's service to the community. During the event, I had the honor of presenting a Metropolitan Commendation to recognize the agency's achievements. The celebration brought together members of both the Metropolitan and Three Valleys Boards, elected officials, and community stakeholders. Metropolitan Board Member David De Jesus, who also represents Three Valleys, joined fellow directors Brenda Dennstedt, Anthony Fellow, and Metropolitan's Designate General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh in celebrating the district's milestones.



Special Note to the Board

At our October Executive Committee Meeting, our Board voted unanimously to appoint Shivaji Deshmukh as our next General Manager, effective January 1, 2026. This decision marks the culmination of a four-month, district-wide selection process that involved all 38 Board members, with no special committee or task force. It was an inclusive and thoughtful process that included everyone's perspectives, even if it slowed the process at times. Our discussions were filled with viewpoints about our agency's future and broader role in the region. We should be proud as a board of not only finishing the selection process ahead of our stated schedule, but doing so with complete unity as an assurance to Metropolitan's staff, stakeholders, and the public about the continuity of our mission. Our ultimate decision ultimately reflected our shared commitment to the 19 million people we serve across Southern California.

**Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings**

I continue to meet regularly to review the Board's organizational issues and coordinate activities with the Board Vice Chairs, the General Manager, and his executive team.

Activities and Reports by Board Representatives Appointed by the Chair:***Colorado River Resources Representative Gloria Cordero***

At the October 28, 2025, Metropolitan Subcommittee on Imported Water meeting, Director Gloria Cordero reported on the meeting of the Colorado River Board (CRB) that was held on October 15, hosted by Metropolitan in the McGuire Water Quality Laboratory at the Weymouth Treatment Plant.

Deven Upadhyay, Metropolitan's General Manager, welcomed the CRB and delivered a presentation highlighting the challenges facing Metropolitan and the state of California regarding Colorado River supplies.

Mr. Upadhyay laid out Metropolitan's priorities to achieve certainty regarding Colorado River supplies in the current negotiations.

He warned that agencies should not use the priority system to avoid efficiency improvements and emphasized that every water user should strive to achieve the most efficient water use.

Finally, Deven announced the selection of Shivaji Deshmukh as Metropolitan's new general manager and expressed his commitment to a smooth transition and continued efforts to reach a successful conclusion of the Colorado River negotiations.

Chair Adan Ortega added to Deven's presentation by noting that Metropolitan has faced Colorado River cuts over the last two decades. Through cooperative efforts with California's other water users, Metropolitan has maintained reliable supplies for its customers. Adan expressed his belief that the same spirit of cooperation would lead to success in the current negotiations.

CRB Chair JB Hamby thanked Mr. Upadhyay for his years of service to Metropolitan and his leadership on California water issues.

The CRB went into closed session to discuss the negotiations among the Basin States and the Department of the Interior regarding operating guidelines for the river for the post-2026 period. At the conclusion of the closed session, it was announced that no action had been taken.

Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Alternate Representative Jacque McMillan

At the October 28, 2025, Metropolitan Subcommittee on Imported Water meeting, Director Jacque McMillan reported on the meeting of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors' meeting held on October 16, 2025.

The DCA Board was introduced to Clint Rehermann, the DCA Program Support Manager, highlighting an overview of his extensive professional background.

The DCA Board adopted a resolution recognizing and expressing appreciation to Director Miguel Luna for his dedicated service to the DCA. Director Luna was commended for his contributions as the DCA Board's Legislative Liaison, where he led multiple legislative education initiatives and participated in numerous speaking engagements in support of the Delta Conveyance Project. The DCA Board also acknowledged Director Luna's strong commitment to community engagement and equitable representation on essential issues such as the right to water, which has helped the DCA maintain focus on key priorities, including affordability and meaningful community involvement.

Standard manager reporting items were provided by the DCA executive director, treasurer, communications manager, environmental manager, and the general counsel.