



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

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

Summary

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

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- Attended the San Fernando City Council meeting, providing updates on the General Manager's recruitment process and the ongoing debate about Governor Newsom's trailer bills about Delta Conveyance. I also addressed advancements in the Pure Water Southern California project and progress on the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4Water) and how it addresses affordability within Metropolitan's evolving business model. I also provided a summary of Metropolitan's key activities, highlighting the signing of the agreement between Metropolitan and San Diego County Water Authority, settling 15 years of litigation and over 25 years of acrimony over water rates.
- Greeted Director Nisha Noroian, who was the top vote-getter in the recent board election for the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) that borders Arizona and shares the Colorado River. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California operates 30,000 acres of Agland in PVID. Together with PVID, we are applying water-saving innovations to maintain crop choice, keep and increase crop yields, allowing us to save water to save the Colorado River, and supplies to Southern California, while investing in the economy of the local Palo Verde Valley.



Thanks to PVID Trustees Debra Stroschien, Grant Chaffin, and MWD's AG & Tribal Relations leaders Cynthia Kurtz, David De Jesus, and Desi Alvarez for a wonderful and productive meeting. Congratulations to new PVID Trustee Tim Cox and my fellow California Agricultural Leadership Foundation grad & profiles in leadership award recipient Bart Fisher, who was re-elected to the PVID Board. In California, we are all interconnected and interdependent, and we're better together in meeting tough water challenges ahead.

- I participated in a *Water for LA* interview on water education and outreach in Los Angeles County. I discussed water priorities, public engagement needs, and highlighted Metropolitan's conservation programs, rebates, newly approved water exchange policy, and educational resources for residential and commercial users.



- Board Vice Chair Michael Camacho and I were invited to tour the Mesa Water Education Center in Costa Mesa, which offers an interactive experience featuring more than 20 exhibits. Visitors can explore concepts including Mesa Water's 100% local water supply, infrastructure that delivers water to homes and businesses, the Orange County Groundwater Basin, the California water system, and much more. The education curriculum meets Next Generation Science Standards and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) guidelines. It is located at the Mesa Water Reliability Facility, which features a simulation of the old redwood forest that existed in Costa Mesa, water-wise landscaping, and a state-of-the-art nanofiltration treatment plant.



- Joined the swearing-in of Director Dan Denham, General Manager of the San Diego County Water Authority, who was appointed to the Metropolitan Board to represent the San Diego County Water Authority. Dan Denham brings more than two decades of water industry expertise, as well as a deep knowledge of the relationship between Metropolitan and the Water Authority. He succeeds Gail Goldberg, who served on Metropolitan's 38-member board since 2019. We were joined by General Manager Deven Upadhyay, Auditor General Scott Sazuki, Eastern Municipal Water District's General Manager Joe Mouwad, Western Municipal Water District's General Manager Craig Miller, and Meena Westford, San Diego Water Authority.



- Served as a featured speaker at the BizFed Institute "BuildUp LA Series-4th Annual Water Resiliency Summit" in Whittier, where leaders from across sectors come together to explore solutions for the region's water future. I addressed the future of California's water infrastructure with the recent adoption of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4Water), sparking a robust discussion on climate change, the Delta Conveyance Project, Colorado River challenges, PureWater SoCal, equity of services, leadership, and opportunities for water exchanges.



Delegation of Activities:

- Board Vice Chair Camacho attended Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's 75th Anniversary celebration in Corona, where he presented a certificate of commendation on behalf of Metropolitan.
- Board Vice Chair Camacho also cast votes on behalf of Metropolitan in the election for three open seats on the Palo Verde irrigation Board of Trustees.



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:

PVID Community Enhancement Collaborative Representative Cynthia Kurtz

At the September 23, 2025, Metropolitan Joint One Water and Adaptation Committee and Subcommittee on Imported Water meeting, Director Cynthia Kurtz provided a brief background on the Palo Verde Valley Community Enhancement Collaborative (CEC) and reported on the meeting that was held on the previous day at Metropolitan Headquarters.

The CEC is still doing foundation and preparatory work. At that September 22, 2025, meeting, the grant policy was finalized and will be sent to the Advisory Committee, who will be doing the grant applications. They also completed bylaws for the Advisory Committee.

It was announced that the CEC website is live and that a memo was sent to the Metropolitan Board welcoming their comments.

Monthly CEC meetings are being scheduled. The next one is scheduled for October 31, 2025, via Zoom, and every third month, in-person meetings will be set up.

Metropolitan staff attends the CEC meetings, the Community Advisory Committee meetings, the Palo Verde Irrigation District Board meetings, Palo Verde Economic Alliance, Community Improvement Fund, and various service group meetings in the Palo Verde Valley. Positive comments were made about that level of involvement in the program.

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

At the September 23, 2025, Metropolitan Joint One Water and Adaptation Committee and Subcommittee on Imported Water meeting, Director Jacque McMillan reported on the meeting of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Director's meeting held on August 21, 2025.

The DCA Board welcomed James Morrison, the new Deputy Executive Director and Jessyca Sheehan, the new Communications Manager.

They approved several resolutions to secure executive support service agreements aimed at providing strategic, facilitation, and human resources support for the DCA's ongoing operations and strategic initiatives.

They also adopted a resolution approving an advocacy policy and delegated authority to the DCA executive director to take positions on legislative or regulatory proposals impacting the DCA and/or the Delta Conveyance Project.

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