



## External Affairs

- External Affairs Monthly Activities Report for January 2025

## Summary

This report provides a summary of External Affairs’ group activities for January 2025.

## Purpose

Informational

## Detailed Report

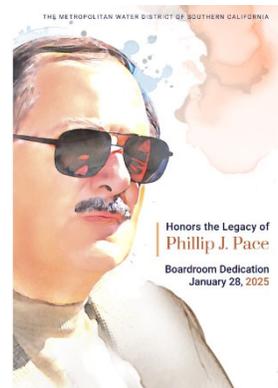
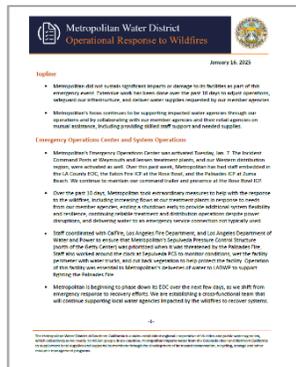
## Highlights

External Affairs staff in media services, community outreach, and legislative services supported Metropolitan’s response to wildfires by working with member agencies on operations and water quality issues, responding to news media, preparing communications to employees, and serving in Metropolitan and the LA County operations centers. Produced fact sheets on Metropolitan’s operational response for distribution to state, federal, and local officials. (January 8-20)

Directors DeJesus, Luna, and Dennstedt, AGM Chapman, DEI officer Thomas, and staff attended the quarterly meeting of the Southern California Water Coalition. (January 24)

Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Camacho, Directors Bryant, Crawford, Dennstedt, Dick, Erdman, Fellow, Garza, Goldberg, Lewitt, Seckel and Sutley, former MWD executives Gastelum and Ivey, GM Upadhyay, Metropolitan and member agency staff and more than 100 guests attended the dedication of the Philip J. Pace Board Room. (January 28)

Responded to media inquiries about water supply for Southern California following DWR’s first snow survey of the year, which measured 91 percent of average snow depth and water equivalent for this time of year.



Fact sheets and social media posts highlighted some of the work by Metropolitan staff to support member agencies with wildfire response activities. DWR conducts snow survey at Phillips Station; Program for the Phillip J. Pace board room dedication event

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## Federal

President Trump issued a series of Executive Orders including one directing Interior and Commerce agencies to “route more water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to other parts of the state” and provide a progress report on the implementation along with recommendations for future actions in the next 90 days.

## State

On January 10, Governor Newsom released the FY 2025-26 budget which proposes funding for a number of key Metropolitan priorities, including \$2.7 billion from the climate bond for projects including dam safety, water quality, and recycled water. The Governor also signed legislation directing \$2.5 billion in wildfire relief efforts.

## Local

This month, staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 56 webinars, meetings, and events with community organizations and trade associations on Metropolitan activities, issues, and other topics.

Arranged for Bay-Delta Resources’ Hawk to speak to the Torrance Water Commission about the Delta Conveyance Project. (January 22)

## **Media and Communications**

Arranged multiple interviews with GM Upadhyay, AGM Chapman, and other Metropolitan staff with media outlets, including AP, LA Times, Wall Street Journal, and LA Daily News, on water supply, operation of water facilities and infrastructure, and water quality conditions following wildfires.

Set up an interview with WRM’s Goshi and Southern California Daily News reporter Steve Scauzillo on a story about drought in Southern California.

## Press Releases and Statements

Award of \$186 million in federal funds for turf replacement/desert water bank program/leak detection/repair; Announced seating of Director Mel Katz representing San Diego County Water Agency; Issued statement supporting state’s actions to reduce State Water Project pumping in the Delta due to turbidity issues.

Debuted 2024 Year in Review video with highlights on Metropolitan leadership, milestones, and board activities.

Produced and distributed first in a series of Safety Matters videos showcasing employees who have introduced new safety measures at facilities.

Social media postings including MLK holiday in coordination with BEA, posting about fire response and water quality issues to support impacted member agencies, and Water Champions campaign.



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## Community Outreach

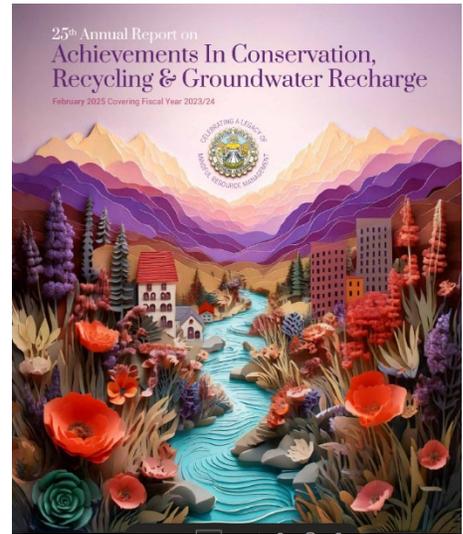
Distributed outreach materials for Rialto Feeder Pipeline project.

Coordinated and organized speakers for the public hearing on Metropolitan’s Annual Achievements in Conservation, Recycling, and Groundwater Recharge in the One Water and Stewardship Committee. The statutory-mandated report was submitted to the Legislature and issued to the public.

Hosted Coro Fellow for the month to assist with Metropolitan’s young adult engagement efforts and sustainability strategies.

Notifications were distributed to the community for the Santa Monica Feeder Cathodic project. (January 22)

Supported the following Member Agency meetings: Financial Policies (business model sub-working group); Water Resources (business model sub-working group); Member Agency Managers Meeting; and Business Model Workgroup.



*25th Anniversary of Conservation and Recycling Progress Report for Legislature*



*Directors and guests on CRA Inspection Trip*

Led inspection trips to Hoover Dam and the Colorado River Aqueduct for Chair Ortega and Director Camacho (January 10-11) – Directors Petersen/Goldberg (January 17-18); and Directors Fong-Sakai/Garza (January 30-February 1).

### Sponsored Events

Tarzana Community & Cultural Center – Native Plant Fair; Sustainable Claremont 2025 Earth Day Celebration; California Botanic Garden Native Plant Festival.

### Pure Water Southern California

Provided a program overview with the City of Downey (January 9); presentation to the Southeast Water Coalition Board (January 16); briefing with private property owners within Reach 2 (January 28).

Tours: Water Journey field trip for Lawndale High School (January 21); Directors Seckel and Erdman (January 24); Government Accountability Office (January 28); and Metropolitan Human Resources staff (January 29).

### Education

Interacted with 1,730 teachers, students, and adults through in-person and online field trips, community events, and meetings. Organized or participated in the following meetings: Water Energy Education Alliance, WeTAP, SEI, Pando Populus, DWR, and the WRD/Long Beach Community College Water Industry Advisory Council.

Launched the Student Art Roadshow, which showcases artwork featured in the 2025 “Being Waterwise Is ...” calendar. Artwork was displayed at Irvine Ranch Water District and Helix Water District.

Facilitated workshop for Water Engineering for Good, a STEAM program for middle and high school students.

