



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

● Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – March 2024

Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board during the month of March 2024 on matters relating to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's business.

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- Attended Three Valleys Municipal Water District Member Agency Board meeting with Executive Officer Deven Upadhyay. We addressed the interrelation between CAMP4Water, the Biennial Budget Process, Bay-Delta Issues, and the Colorado River, as well as our collective resiliency in addressing the State Water Project Exclusive Areas challenges. We also answered questions and comments from the member agency directors and, in some instances, members of the public, including municipal and local elected officials.



- Attended Metropolitan's Tree Rebate Press Event, launching a new rebate offering residents and businesses \$100 for each eligible tree they plant in their yards as they replace their thirsty grass for more sustainable landscaping. The launch of the new rebate was in honor of Cindy Montañez, who most recently served as a San Fernando City Council member and the Chief Executive Officer of TreePeople before her passing in October 2023. In attendance was TreePeople Director of Operations Daniel Berger; City of San Fernando Mayor Celeste Rodriguez; City of San Fernando Vice Mayor Mary Mendoza; Commissioner Sylvia Ballin; City of San Fernando Planning and Preservation Commission Cindy's Mother Margarita Montañez; General Manager Adel Hagekhalil; and Metropolitan Resource Specialist Krista Guerrero.



- Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Chair Tana McCoy and I joined our Chief Engineer John Bednarski alongside other Metropolitan staff on a comprehensive tour of the newly established Plumbing and Pipe Fitters Union \$100 million Apprentice and Journeymen Training Center in El Monte. The state-of-the-art facility is led by subject matter experts who will provide educational and training programs designed to equip their members with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver and maintain industry excellence and competitiveness.



- Attended the Water Education for Latino Leaders 12th Annual Statewide Conference, where I served as a panelist and emphasized the need for continued efforts to develop solutions for the future to address climate change impacts and vulnerabilities facing the region's water system and the communities' Metropolitan serves. The group honored me with the presentation of their first "El Pozo" (the Well) for the role I played in the foundation of WELL. I also participated in a robust question-and-answer session addressing climate change impacts, service costs, water quality, and Delta conveyance.



- The Delta Counties Coalition and Metropolitan's Ad Hoc Committee on Bay-Delta convened via Zoom to advance our ongoing dialogue on pivotal topics concerning the Bay-Delta region. The discussion encompassed critical matters including but not limited to the Bay-Delta, Through Delta Conveyance, Freshwater Pathway, In-Delta Investments, and Delta Conveyance Project.

- I was invited as a keynote speaker at the American Society of Civil Engineers California Infrastructure Symposium. I used the opportunity to address Metropolitan's Climate Adaptation Master Planning process and the challenges facing the development of water infrastructure in California. I was joined by Director Dennis Erdman, Colorado River Program Executive Bill Hasencamp, and former Metropolitan Water District Director Yazdan Emrani, who represented San Fernando.



Interviews & Correspondence

- Was interviewed by the Spanish-language television network Vision Latina LA to discuss the Metropolitan's new tree rebate and the importance of protecting the region's urban tree canopy.

Delegation of Activities

- I asked Director Erdman to represent the Board at the MetWorks Event in Carson, where groups of contractors and professionals gather to network and learn more about future contract opportunities with Metropolitan.

Other Activities

- During Women's History Month, the association Women at Metropolitan and I captured a group photo commemorating the women at Metropolitan.



Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

I continue to meet regularly to review the Board's organizational issues and coordinate activities with the Board Vice Chairs and Department Heads.