



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## Water Resource Management Group

### • Water Resource Management December Activities

#### Summary

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The Water Resource Management Group December 2024 Monthly Activities

#### Purpose

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Informational

#### Detailed Report

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#### **Ensure Access to Sufficient Water Supplies to Operate a Full Colorado River Aqueduct in Times of Drought**

Staff attended a meeting of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP) Technical Work Group (TWG) in Las Vegas, Nevada. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce members of the TWG to the consultant team that will be producing the environmental documentation for the revisions to the LCR MSCP required by the new guidelines that will govern operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead after 2026. The LCR MSCP is critical to Metropolitan's interests since it provides federal and state endangered species coverage for water diversions, conservation activities, and power generation on the Colorado River. *Strategic Priority 3.2.1: "Advance multiple strategies toward sustainable Colorado River supplies and toward broad agreement in long-term compact negotiations."*

Following Board authorization on December 10, 2024, staff moved forward with executing both the Antelope Valley-East Kern (AVEK) High Desert Water Bank (HDWB) and Turf Replacement System Conservation Implementation Agreements. Under these agreements, Reclamation will provide up to \$95.81 million in funding for Metropolitan's Turf Replacement program for commercial, industrial, and institutional properties and up to \$82 million in funding for construction of Metropolitan's AVEK HDWB facilities. In exchange, Metropolitan will implement the turf program and construction of groundwater recharge facilities and provide a total of 265,296 acre-feet of system water to increase the elevation at Lake Mead. These agreements were signed on December 12, 2024. *Strategic Priority 3.2.1: "Advance multiple strategies toward sustainable Colorado River supplies and toward broad agreement in long-term compact negotiations."*

#### **Ensure reliable State Water Project (SWP)**

Staff facilitated and attended an annual SWP operations workshop with the State Water Contractors and the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The DWR staff presented on several topics, including water supply forecasting process and improvements, the 2024 Incidental Take Permit and Biological Opinions, as well as 2025 water supply outlook. The workshop also included a tour of key SWP facilities to help staff better understand the important components to the SWP operations. This year's tour included sites such as the Delta Cross Channel Gates, Banks Pumping Plant, and the Clifton Court Intake Structure. Staff's participation in these meetings helped ensure full access to Metropolitan's available SWP supplies. The DWR released the initial SWP allocation of 5 percent on December 1, 2024, as required under the SWP contract. This conservative allocation is expected to increase over the course of the water year as more precipitation and snowfall occur in the watershed. *Strategic*

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*Priority 5.1: “Grow and deepen collaboration and relationships among member agencies, interested parties, and leaders on the issues most important to them and toward mutual and/or regional benefits.”*



State Water Contractors–Water Operations Committee Fall Workshop Field Trip at Clifton Court Intake Structure

### **Implement Regional Conservation Program**

Staff attended the Colorado River Water Users Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, and were responsible for staffing a table in the exhibit hall where information was shared with the attendees regarding non-functional turf and the turf replacement program.

In addition, staff attended the California Water Efficiency Partnership winter plenary in Sacramento, California. Discussion items included the Conservation as a California Way of Life regulation and innovative technologies.

Water Efficiency staff attended a joint meeting with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Conservation staff and local Golf Facility staff on Friday, December 13, 2024, at Los Angeles’ Sepulveda Golf Complex. The meeting was held to discuss current and pending regulations with respect to water supplies, non-functional turf, and access to utility incentives to increase water use efficiency. Staff presented information about Metropolitan’s Water Savings Incentive Program and participated in discussions around the terms and conditions for current water use efficiency incentives and issues for golf course managers and superintendents. Some examples of conservation projects and technologies were also presented, including El Caballero Country Club, a recent One Water Awards recipient. *Strategic Priority 3.2.8: “Increase outdoor water use efficiency.”*

### **Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program**

On December 12, 2024, Metropolitan and the Foothill Municipal Water District entered into a Future Supply Actions (FSA) Funding Program agreement for the Data-Driven Resource Optimization and Planning System (DROPS). Under this agreement, Metropolitan will provide not-to-exceed funding of \$54,900 to use DROPS to integrate advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence to enhance water management. Potential sites will be evaluated on the basis of comprehensive geospatial data including aerial and satellite imagery classifications, slope angles, historical rainfall depth, parcel land use, urban planning records, stormwater infrastructure, neighborhood income, and disadvantaged communities. This agreement is the second of seven to be fully executed under the third round of FSA Funding Program.

On December 18, 2024, Metropolitan and the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) entered into an FSA agreement for the Lake Henshaw Oxygenation Pilot Study. Under this agreement, Metropolitan will provide not-to-exceed funding of \$500,000 to fund a pilot study that will explore the effectiveness of oxygenation as a method

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to prevent Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in Lake Henshaw by reducing key nutrients for cyanobacteria growth. This study seeks to provide insights to SDCWA and City of Escondido regarding the effectiveness of oxygenation in controlling HABs and cyanotoxin production, while also assessing the size and cost implications of a permanent system to enhance water quality for both local and downstream users. This agreement is the third of seven to be fully executed under the third round of FSA Funding Program. *Strategic Priority 5.1: “Grow and deepen collaboration and relationships among member agencies, interested parties, and leaders on the issues most important to them and toward mutual and/or regional benefits.”*