

# The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

# Agenda

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

## **OW&S Committee**

T. Quinn, Chair  
S. Faessel, Vice Chair  
L. Ackerman  
D. Alvarez  
J. Armstrong  
A. Chacon  
G. Cordero  
D. De Jesus  
D. Erdman  
L. Fong-Sakai  
S. Goldberg  
C. Kurtz  
R. Lefevre  
C. Miller  
G. Peterson  
B. Pressman  
N. Sutley

## **One Water and Stewardship Committee - Final - Revised 1**

Meeting with Board of Directors \*

**November 13, 2023**

**2:30 p.m.**

Agendas, live streaming, meeting schedules, and other board materials are available here: <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. A listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 873 4767 0235. Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda via in-person or teleconference. To participate via teleconference 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 876 9484 9772 or click <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87694849772?pwd=V3dGZGRYUjJ3allqdUxXTIJRM044Zz09>

**Monday, November 13, 2023  
Meeting Schedule**

**09:00 a.m. EOT  
11:00 a.m. EOP  
12:00 p.m. EIA  
02:00 p.m. Break  
02:30 p.m. OWS**

**MWD Headquarters Building • 700 N. Alameda Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**Teleconference Locations:**

**525 Via La Selva • Redondo Beach, CA 90277**

**Cedars Sinai Medical Center • 8700 Beverly Blvd • Los Angeles, CA 90048**

**3008 W. 82nd Place • Inglewood, CA 90305**

**Alandale Insurance Agency • 337 W. Foothill Blvd • Glendora, CA 91740**

\* The Metropolitan Water District's meeting of this Committee is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee may participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee will not vote on matters before this Committee.

- 1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))**

**\*\* CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION \*\***

- 2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION**

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee for October 9, 2023 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) [21-2790](#)

**Attachments:** [11142023 OWS 2A \(10092023\) Minutes](#)

### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

- 7-5 Authorize the General Manager to extend the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing for up to \$864,000.00 in 2024 and escalated annually through 2026; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-2739](#)

**Attachments:** [11142023 OWS 7-5 B-L](#)  
[11142023 OWS 7-5 Presentation Revised](#)

- 7-6 Express support for the 2023 California Resilience Challenge and approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000 to continue as a Resilience Leader; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-2769](#)

**Attachments:** [11142023 OWS 7-6 B-L](#)  
[11142023 OWS 7-6 Presentation](#)

- 7-7 Authorize a \$200,000/year increase to the existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc., currently set at \$200,000/year, for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program, for a total agreement not to exceed \$400,000/year; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-2740](#)

**Attachments:** [11142023 OWS 7-7 B-L](#)  
[11142023 OWS 7-7 and 7-8 Presentation](#)

- 7-8 Authorize a \$350,000/year increase to the existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc., currently set at \$500,000/year, to provide inspection services for turf removal, regional device rebates, and water savings incentive program projects for Metropolitan’s conservation rebate programs, for a total agreement not to exceed \$850,000/year; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [21-2741](#)

**Attachments:** [11142023 OWS 7-8 B-L](#)  
[11142023 OWS 7-7 and 7-8 Presentation](#)

**\*\* END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS \*\***

**4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION**

- 8-3 Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and San Diego County Water Authority to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program in 2023; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA. [REVISED SUBJECT 11/8/2023] [21-2768](#)

**Attachments:** [11142023 OWS 8-3 B-L](#)  
[11142023 OWS 8-3 Presentation](#)

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

NONE

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes [21-2791](#)  
**Attachments:** [11132023 OWS 6a Presentation](#)
- b. Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Changing the 2007 Colorado River Guidelines. [REVISED SUBJECT 11/8/2023] [21-2792](#)

**Attachments:** [11132023 OWS 6b Presentation](#)

- c. Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management [21-2793](#)

**Attachments:** [11142023 OWS 6c Report](#)  
[11132023 OWS 6c Presentation](#)

- d. Update on Conservation [21-2794](#)

**Attachments:** [11132023 OWS 6d Presentation](#)

## 7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Bay-Delta Resources, Colorado River Resources, Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation, and Water Resource Management activities [21-2795](#)

**Attachments:** [11142023 OWS 7a Colorado River Mgmt Report](#)  
[11142023 OWS 7a Bay-Delta Mgmt Report](#)

## 8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- a. Report from Subcommittee on Bay-Delta [21-2798](#)
- b. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Bay-Delta [21-2796](#)
- c. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities [21-2797](#)

## 9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

## 10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

**NOTE:** This committee reviews items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors. Final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Committee agendas may be obtained on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. This committee will not take any final action that is binding on the Board, even when a quorum of the Board is present.

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Requests for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**October 9, 2023**

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Chacon, De Jesus (teleconference posted location), Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai (AB 2449), Goldberg, Kurtz (AB 2449), Lefevre, Miller, Peterson, Quinn, and Sutley.

Members Absent: Directors Armstrong, Cordero, Petersen, and Pressman.

Other Board Members present: Abdo, Bryant, Dennstedt, Dick, Fellow, Garza, McCoy, Morris, Ortega, Seckel, and Smith.

Directors Fong-Sakai indicated she was participating under AB 2449 “just cause” due to illness. Directors Fong-Sakai appeared by audio and on camera.

Directors Kurtz indicated she was participating under AB 2449 “just cause” due to illness. Directors Kurtz appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee staff present: Coffey, Crosson, Hasencamp, Munguia, Neudeck, Hughes, Upadhyay, and Wheeler.

**1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S JURISDICTION (As Required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(A))**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION**

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION**

A. Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee for September 11, 2023.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

**7-4** Subject: Authorize up to \$6 million in additional funding for member agency studies and research under the Future Supply Actions Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: None

Motion: Authorize up to \$6 million in additional funding for member agency studies and research under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

No presentation was given, Director Sutley made a motion, seconded by Director Peterson to approve consent calendar consisting of items 2a and 7-4.

Director Fong-Sakai announced during the vote that no one was in the room with her 18 years of age or older.

Director Kurtz announced during the vote that no one was in the room with her 18 years of age or older.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Chacon, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Peterson, Quinn and Sutley.

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Armstrong, Cordero, Petersen, and Pressman.

The motion for item 2A and 7-4 passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

**\*\*END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS\*\***

#### 4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

**8-4** Subject: Express support for the goals of the Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group and, by two-thirds vote, approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA.

Presented by: Liz Crosson, Chief Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Officer

Motion: Express support for the goals of the Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group and, by a two-thirds vote, approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000

Ms. Crosson gave a presentation on the proposed financial sponsorship of \$50,000 that would establish Metropolitan as a partner to support projects that will reduce demands on the Colorado River and further demonstrate Metropolitan's climate change leadership.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| 1. Dick       | 4. Ortega |
| 2. Fong-Sakai | 5. Sutley |
| 3. Miller     | 6. Garza  |

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

After completion of the presentation, Director Peterson made a motion, seconded by Director Sutley, to approve option 1 of the board letter.

Director Fong-Sakai announced during the vote that no one was in the room with her 18 years of age or older.

Director Kurtz announced during the vote that no one was in the room with her 18 years of age or older.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Chacon, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Lefevre, Miller, Peterson, Quinn and Sutley

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Armstrong, Cordero, Petersen, and Pressman

The motion for item 8-4 passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstention, and 4 absent.

**5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**6. COMMITTEE ITEMS**

- a. Subject: The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Quantification Settlement Agreement

Presented by: Meena Westford, Special Projects Manager  
Laura Lamdin, Engineer, Water Resource Management

Mr. Hasencamp provided brief background and introductory comments and announced that this presentation would be provided jointly by Ms. Westford and Ms. Lamdin.

Ms. Westford and Ms. Lamdin gave a presentation on the 20th Anniversary of the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). The presentation covered the history leading up to the QSA, what the QSA is and why it is important to California, as well as a 20-year lookback of the implementation of the QSA and all of the transfer programs developed in parallel and since to reliably provide water to southern California in absence of surplus Colorado river supplies.

- b. Subject: Update on Conservation

Presented by: Karina Sandique, Associate Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Ms. Sandique gave a presentation on Conservation Program activity and reviewed expenditures. She also reported on an award by the Environmental Protection Agency to Metropolitan for its achievement of the Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ortega



## **7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

- a. Subject: Bay-Delta Resources, Colorado River Resources, Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation, and Water Resource Management activities
- Presented by: Deven N. Upadhyay, Executive Officer and Assistant General Manager

Mr. Upadhyay's report included updates on:

- Water Surplus and Drought Management reporting that will resume in November and will report on storage levels
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is releasing new potable reuse guidelines by the end of 2023 and an amended version of the guidelines will include an extended public comment period
- Making Conservation a Way of Life Legislation rule-making process and public comments
- SWRCB staff report on Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Ms. Crosson also reported on Sustainability Resilience and Innovation office activity.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Lefevre
2. Ortega

## **8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

- a. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Bay-Delta

Chair Quinn announced that the subcommittee would meet the following day.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Fong-Sakai

- b. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities

None

**9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

None

**10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Quinn requested a staff presentation on how the Delta Tunnel and Sites might affect Metropolitan.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be held on November 13, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Tracy Quinn  
Chair



● **Board of Directors**  
***One Water and Stewardship Committee***

11/14/2023 Board Meeting

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**7-5**

**Subject**

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Authorize the General Manager to extend the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing for up to \$864,000 in 2024 and escalated annually through 2026; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

**Executive Summary**

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Extending the Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program (Pilot) will provide Metropolitan and the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation (Quechan Tribe) with additional time needed to collect more information and better evaluate the estimated water savings of the Program. Although participation increased in the second year of the Pilot, it comprised about 9 percent of the program size and is not a sufficient sample size to provide a representative water savings estimation. The Pilot is anticipated to reduce water consumption in the Quechan tribal land and augment Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies. The Pilot will continue to incentivize farmers to fallow land irrigated with Colorado River water for the spring and summer months at \$530.61 per irrigable acre in 2024, escalated annually. Metropolitan estimates a water savings of approximately 2 acre-feet (AF) per irrigable acre. Farmers typically grow high-value crops in the winter (vegetable crops), followed by a lower-value, water-intensive field crop (such as Sudan grass) in the spring and summer. Participating farmers will reduce their water consumption through land fallowing of collectively up to 1,600 acres annually between the months of April and July of each fallowing season. Metropolitan will enter into agreements with the Quechan Tribe and qualifying farmers within the Quechan tribal land. Since the Quechan Tribe's water supplies have a higher priority than Metropolitan's, the saved water will remain in the Colorado River and be made available for diversion, benefitting Metropolitan. Extending the Pilot will allow Metropolitan and the Quechan Tribe the opportunity to grow participation rates above what was seen in the Pilot's first two years.

**Details**

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**Background**

The Quechan tribal lands of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation reside along the Colorado River in southeast California and southwest Arizona. The Quechan tribal lands receive water from either the All-American Canal and Yuma Main Canal, groundwater wells, or directly from the Colorado River. **Attachment 1** contains a map of the Quechan tribal land in California that will be eligible to participate in the Program. Colorado River supplies for the Quechan tribal lands are accounted for under the unquantified priorities within California. As such, any savings from fallowing will move through California's priority system to benefit Metropolitan. Metropolitan will pursue any needed forbearance.

**Quechan Water Rights Settlement Agreement**

In 2005, Metropolitan reached a settlement with the Quechan Tribe, the Quechan Settlement Agreement, which incentivizes the Quechan Tribe to neither develop nor divert an additional 13,000 AF each year from the Colorado River from 2006-2034 and an additional 20,000 AF each year beginning 2035. As part of the Quechan Settlement Agreement, Metropolitan provides annual incentive payments to the Quechan Tribe to limit water use, resulting in stable supplies to Metropolitan. Since 2006, the Quechan Tribe has forborne diversion of nearly all of the

13,000 AF each year. Water savings from the Pilot were not included in the Quechan Settlement Agreement payments made in years 2022 and 2023. If extended, water savings from the Pilot will continue to be excluded from Quechan Settlement Agreement payments made in years 2024 to 2026.

### **Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program**

In December 2021, Metropolitan's Board authorized a two-year Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program. Metropolitan incentivized farmers to fallow lands in the spring and summer months. The purpose of the Pilot was to evaluate farmer interest in fallowing and the amount of water saved from fallowing in the Quechan tribal land. Metropolitan entered into an agreement with the Quechan Tribe for fallowing of up to 1,600 acres within Quechan tribal land per season in years 2022 and 2023. Participation and interest in the Pilot varied between the two years. Farmers fallowed about 118 acres with a water savings of 225 AF in 2022 and about 148 acres with a water savings of 281 AF in 2023. Metropolitan provided about \$160,000 to the Quechan Tribe and the farmers for participation in the Pilot. Participation was low in 2022, likely due to global wheat prices increasing at a higher-than-expected rate due to Ukraine's inability to export wheat.

### **Three-Year Extension of the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program**

Metropolitan staff proposes to extend the Pilot term by an additional three years to allow extra time to increase the sample size from the results in the first two years. Fallowing participation ramped up slowly, but participation increased as more farmers became familiar with the Bard program. Metropolitan staff anticipates a similar pattern of behavior for this Pilot. The extension will also provide the Quechan Tribe additional time to consider opening the Pilot to parcels in the Indian Unit, which are allotments owned by individual allottees. Allotments, or allotted lands, are reservation lands allocated to individual owners or allottees.

Under the proposed extension, Metropolitan will continue to provide incentives to fallow land from April 1 through July 31 from 2024 to 2026. Based on the savings seen during the Pilot thus far, Metropolitan estimates a water savings of approximately two AF per irrigable acre. However, increasing the sample size will improve the water savings estimates. Metropolitan will amend the existing agreement with the Quechan Tribe to extend the Pilot term, hold the water delivery to the fallowed acres in years 2024 to 2026, and enter into agreements with each participating farmer.

To qualify for the Pilot, irrigable land submitted for consideration must have been actively farmed or enrolled in a previous fallowing program during three of the past five years and must exclude areas used for roads, ditches, canals, and buildings. The eligible lands will also need access to a canal, direct-from-river pumping, or a groundwater well (the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation considers wells within the Pilot as diversions of Colorado River water). The agreement will also require the farmers to take appropriate actions to ensure the fallowed lands do not degrade or cause dust. Additionally, farmers must allow representatives from Metropolitan to inspect the fallowed lands.

In 2024, Metropolitan will provide an annual incentive of approximately \$531 per acre of irrigable land fallowed. The incentive will escalate yearly using the Consumer Price Index for Southern California. Of the total fallowing payments made each year per acre, Metropolitan will pay 75 percent of the incentive rate to the participating farmers and 25 percent to the Quechan Tribe. The Quechan Tribe will receive an additional payment of \$15,000 each fallowing season. Payments made to the Quechan Tribe will cover direct and indirect costs related to its administration of the Program and community investments. Upon verification of fallowing, Metropolitan will make payments to the farmers in two installments, the first half at the beginning of the fallowing period and the second half at the end of the fallowing period. Metropolitan will make a payment to the Quechan Tribe in one installment at the end of the fallowing period.

## **Policy**

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Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

By Minute Item 42820, dated February 10, 1998, the Board approved the Colorado River Resources policy principle supporting Metropolitan's interests in increasing its dependable entitlements to Colorado River water, while collaborating with other California Colorado River agencies.

By Minute Item 51833, dated December 10, 2019, the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a Program agreement with Bard Water District and seasonal fallowing agreements with farmers within the Bard Unit, and approve payment of up to \$1.4 million per year, escalated annually through 2026.

By Minute Item 52585, dated November 9, 2021, the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into agreements with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land to provide incentives for land fallowing related to the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program, for up to \$1.6 million in 2022 and 2023.

## **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

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### **CEQA determination for Option #1:**

The proposed action is categorically exempt under the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed project involves minor modifications in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation, which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. These activities would result in negligible or no expansion of use of public or private facilities or features and no possibility of significantly impacting the physical environment. In addition, the proposed project will consist of basic data collection and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Accordingly, the proposed action qualifies for Class 1, Class 4 and Class 6 Categorical Exemptions (Sections 15301, 15304, and 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines).

### **CEQA determination for Option #2:**

None required

## **Board Options**

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### **Option #1**

Authorize the General Manager to extend the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing for up to \$864,000 in 2024 and escalated annually through 2026.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$864,000 of budgeted funds for Fiscal Year 2023/24 and escalated annually and included in the Supply Program budget for Fiscal Years 2024/25 and 2025/26.

**Business Analysis:** The Program increases Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies in a cost-effective manner.

### **Option #2**

Do not authorize the General Manager to extend the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program with the Quechan Tribe and farmers within the Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Business Analysis:** No increase in Colorado River supplies from seasonal land fallowing in the Quechan tribal land.

**Staff Recommendation**

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Option #1

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Brad Coffey*  
Manager, Water Resource Management

11/6/2023  
*Date*

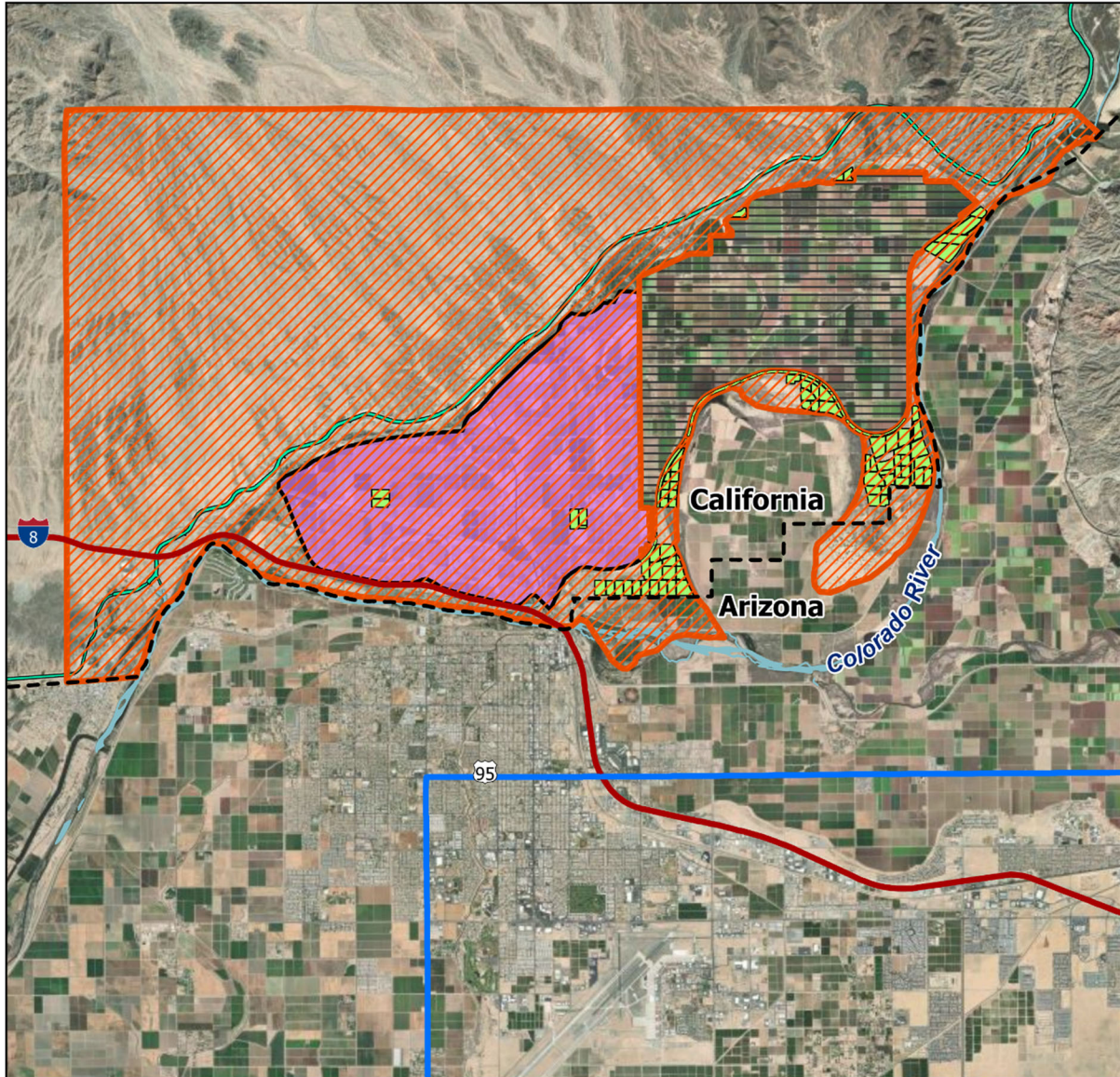
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Adel Hagekhalil*  
General Manager

11/7/2023  
*Date*

**Attachment 1 – Map of Proposed Tribal Land for the Metropolitan/Quechan Seasonal Following Pilot Program**

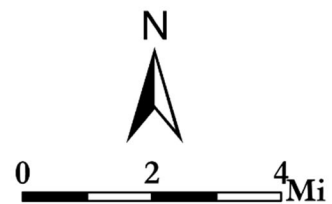
Ref# wrm12692882

# MAP OF PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT/QUECHAN TRIBE SEASONAL FALLOWING PILOT PROGRAM



Legend

- Fort Yuma-Quechan Reservation
- Land for Pilot (Quechan Tribal Land)
- Indian Unit
- Bard Unit
- State Boundary



Map Disclaimer: Boundaries shown are for illustrative purposes.



## One Water and Stewardship Committee

Authorize Three-Year Extension of the  
Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Following  
Pilot Program for Years 2024 to 2026

Item 7-5

November 13, 2023



# Item #7-5 Metropolitan/ Quechan Tribe Seasonal Following Pilot Program

## Subject

Authorize the General Manager to extend the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Following Pilot Program with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land following for up to \$864,000 in 2024 and escalated annually through 2026.

## Purpose

Reduce water consumption in the Quechan tribal land and augment Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies.

## Recommendation & Fiscal Impact

Authorize the General Manager to extend the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Following Pilot Program with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land following for up to \$864,000 in 2024 and escalated annually through 2026.

\$864,000 of budgeted funds for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 and escalated annually and included in the Supply Program budget for Fiscal Years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026.

## Budgeted

# Background

## Quechan (Kwatsáan) Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

- Located along the Colorado River and within the Reservation
- Parcels irrigated through the All-American Canal, Yuma Main Canal, groundwater wells, or directly from the Colorado River
- Crops grown:
  - Winter: high-value vegetables
  - Spring/Summer: lower-value, water-intensive grasses



# Forbearance Background

## Quechan Water Rights Settlement Agreement

- Settlement reached between Metropolitan and Quechan in 2005
- Metropolitan provides incentives to the Tribe to limit water use from the Colorado River
  - Provides stable supplies to Metropolitan
- Incentivizes Tribe to not develop and divert an additional:
  - 13,000 AF each year from 2006-2034
    - Since inception, Tribe has forborne diversion of nearly all 13,000 AF each year
  - 20,000 AF each year beginning 2035

# Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot

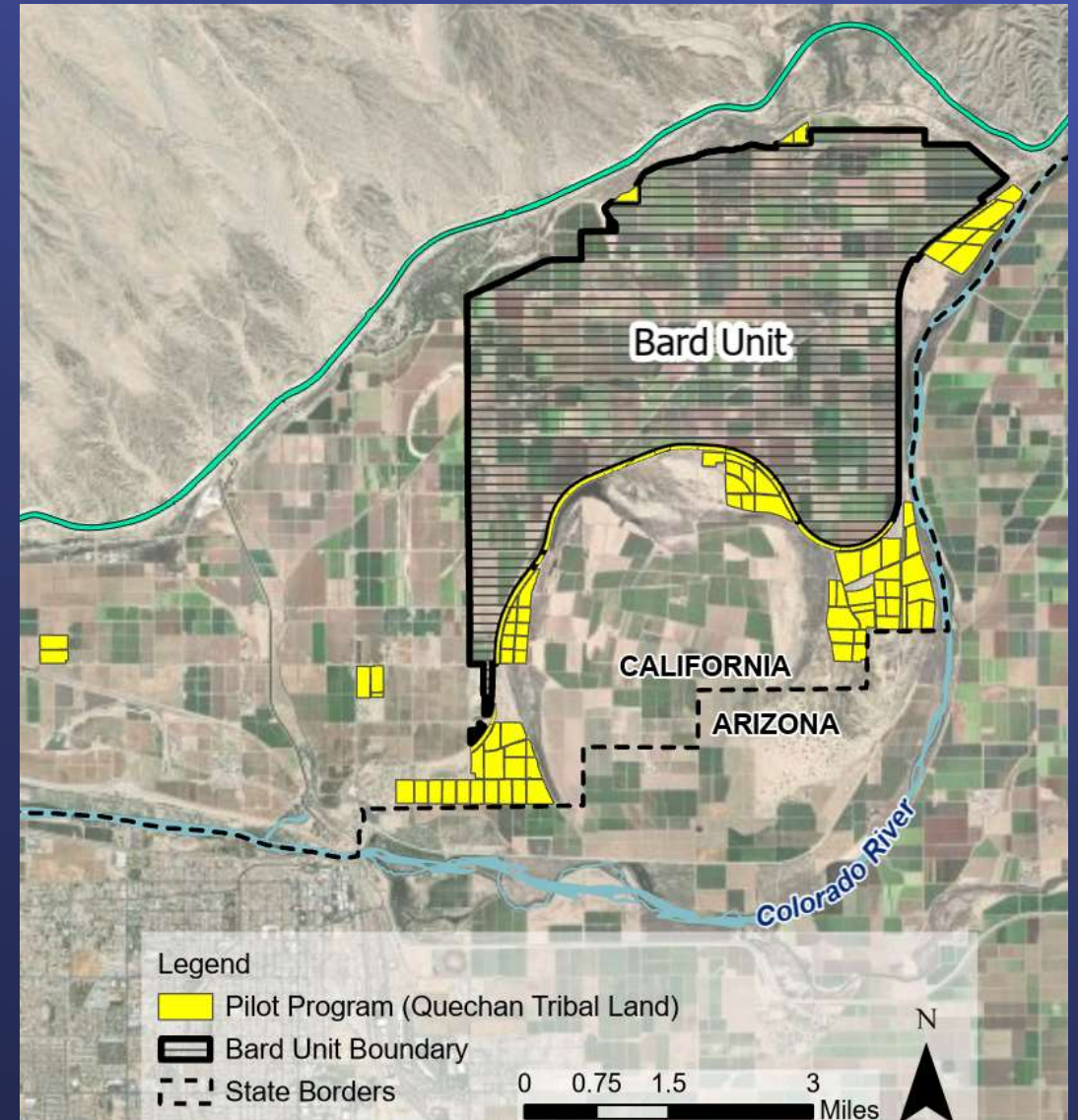
# Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Following Pilot

- Authorized by Board in November 2021
- Program agreement with Tribe executed December 2021
  - Individual following agreements with farmers executed prior to start of each season



# Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot

- Fallowing occurred 2 seasons
  - April to July, 2022-2023
- Eligible enrollment up to 1,600 irrigable acres each year
  - Participation on first-come, first-served basis
- Eligible parcels must have:
  - Recent history of farming or participation in fallowing program
  - Access to a canal, direct-from-river pumping, or groundwater well
- Similar to the Metropolitan/Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program



# Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot

## First Two Years

Expanded partnership between Metropolitan and Tribe



- Completed fallowing seasons:
  - **2022: 118 acres**
    - Estimated water savings: 225 AF
    - Payment of \$472.40 per acre
  - **2023: 148 acres**
    - Estimated water savings: 281 AF
    - Payment of \$503.29 per acre
- Metropolitan payments
  - **\$160,200 total**
- Average water savings of 1.9 AF/acre
  - **Water savings from fallowing were excluded from forborne diversions**

## Three-Year Extension



# Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot

- \$530.29 per acre per year of fallowed irrigable land, escalated annually
  - 75% paid to farmer
  - 25% paid to Tribe
- Tribe payment of \$15,000 per year fallowed
- Payments to Tribe are for direct and indirect costs related to its administration of the Program and community investments
- Payments to farmers made in two installments following verification of fallowing
- Maximum annual payment costs for proposed program: \$864,000 escalated annually



## Program Benefits

# Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Following Pilot

- Continues partnership between Metropolitan and Tribe
- Allows time for participation to increase, resulting in a larger sample size
- Metropolitan Water District:
  - Greater sample size will allow for better water savings estimates
- Quechan Tribe
  - Payments to farmers
  - Payment to Tribe for administrative costs and community investments

# Metropolitan/ Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program

## Board Options

- Option #1  
Authorize the General Manager to extend the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation and farmers within Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing for up to \$864,000 in 2024 and escalated annually through 2026.
- Option #2  
Do not authorize the General Manager to extend the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program with the Quechan Tribe and farmers within the Quechan tribal land, to provide incentives for land fallowing.

Metropolitan/  
Quechan  
Tribe  
Seasonal  
Following  
Pilot Program

## Staff Recommendation

- Option #1





● **Board of Directors**  
***One Water and Stewardship Committee***

11/14/2023 Board Meeting

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7-6

**Subject**

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Express support for the 2023 California Resilience Challenge and approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000 to continue as a Resilience Leader; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

**Executive Summary**

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The California Resilience Challenge (Challenge) builds resilience against increasing climate change threats through state-wide collaboration. Metropolitan helped launch the Challenge in 2019 with a \$200,000 sponsorship, and supported the Challenge in 2021 with a second \$200,000 sponsorship. The 2021 sponsorship co-funded 13 climate resiliency projects and gave Metropolitan a position on the Challenge’s Steering Committee. Metropolitan has another opportunity to support the Challenge with a third sponsorship this year for \$50,000. The sponsorship would co-fund another round of climate resiliency projects targeting under-resourced communities and give Metropolitan a position on the Challenge’s Advisory Committee. These actions all support the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water.

**Timing and Urgency**

Staff requests approval now to enable Metropolitan to co-fund the Challenge’s current Request for Proposals (RFP) for new projects and to participate in the project advisory process.

**Details**

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**Background**

Climate change is intensifying California’s already volatile climate to greater extremes—with increasingly severe droughts, floods, heat waves, and wildfires. The extremes witnessed over just the past few years show California is experiencing climate change in real time. Many under-resourced communities in California do not have the technical, managerial, or financial resources to adapt. While California leads the country in climate change mitigation, it lacks consistent funding for climate change adaptation.

The Bay Area Council Foundation founded the Challenge with diverse stakeholders in 2019 to address climate adaptation funding gaps. The Challenge aims to accelerate adaptation by funding projects for other communities as case studies. Metropolitan’s \$200,000 sponsorship helped launch the organization, co-funded 12 projects, and gave Metropolitan a leadership position with a seat on the Challenge’s Steering Committee.

The Challenge initiated a second RFP for climate resiliency projects in 2021 (2021 RFP) and requested Metropolitan’s participation. Projects funded under the 2021 RFP were required to benefit underrepresented communities while also addressing one or more of the following climate change risks:

- Drought
- Flood
- Fire
- Extreme heat

The 2022 RFP was open to public agencies, non-governmental/community-based organizations, and tribal entities. Project awards ranged from \$100,000 up to a maximum of \$200,000, with \$5 million awarded since 2020. The seven 2022 winners were selected from a group of 30 proposals, and all represent innovative climate change adaptation projects. **Attachment 1** contains a list of 2022 projects funded by the Challenge.

Staff seeks Board authorization to sponsor the Challenge with a \$50,000 contribution. If approved, the sponsorship would co-fund the 2023 RFP and Metropolitan's position on the Advisory Committee. Metropolitan's sponsorship would include speaking opportunities at Challenge events along with visibility on communication materials.

If approved, the sponsorship would support Metropolitan's role as a leader in climate resiliency. Metropolitan co-founded the Water Utility Climate Alliance, an organization of 12 of the largest water utilities in the nation collaborating on climate change adaptation challenges. As an innovator in planning under uncertainty, Metropolitan has been considering climate change in its Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) since the early 2000s. The 2020 IRP confronts climate change resiliency directly, as does Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water. Participation in the Challenge gives Metropolitan a seat at the table with other climate resiliency leaders, creating opportunities for staff to collaborate with peer organizations. **Attachment 1** lists the Challenge sponsors along with descriptions of the 2022 climate resiliency projects.

Projects funded by the Challenge benefit Southern California by serving as road maps for communities contending with similar challenges. By strengthening individual communities, these projects increase the overall climate resiliency of California's interconnected water and power infrastructure.

### ***Project Milestone***

If approved, Metropolitan would provide the Challenge a \$50,000 sponsorship and participate in the Challenges Advisory Committee, which reviews proposals and makes funding recommendations.

## **Policy**

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Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

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#### **CEQA determination for Option #1:**

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves organizational, maintenance, or administrative activities; personnel-related actions; and/or general policy and procedure making that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. Public Resources Code Section 21065; State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(2) and (5).

#### **CEQA determination for Option #2:**

None required



**Challenge Sponsors and 2022 Climate Resiliency Projects**

Table 1. List of Sponsors:

2022 Sponsors	2023 Sponsors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JPMorgan Chase</li> <li>• PG&amp;E</li> <li>• Southern California Edison</li> <li>• Valley Water</li> <li>• Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP</li> <li>• AECOM</li> <li>• Greenlining Institute</li> <li>• Environmental Defense Fund</li> <li>• San José/Silicon Valley National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)</li> <li>• Climate Resolve</li> <li>• The Nature Conservancy</li> <li>• The Solutions Project</li> <li>• Urban Habitat</li> <li>• CSAA Insurance Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edison International</li> <li>• PG&amp;E</li> <li>• Valley Water</li> <li>• JPMorgan Chase</li> <li>• Wareham Development</li> <li>• Bank of America</li> </ul>



Table 2. 2022 Climate Resiliency Funded Projects

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Stressor</b>	<b>Area</b>
Alliance for a Better Community	Alliance for a Better Community is mitigating the effects of extreme heat by identifying opportunities and resources needed to increase green spaces and climate resilience projects on school campuses	Heat	LA County
CA Interfaith Power & Light	California Interfaith Power & Light, Watts Clean Air and Energy Committee, and Wattskanda, will create a community resiliency hub at Watts Willowbrook Church of Christ in Compton.	Heat	LA County
Student Conservation Association	The Student Conservation Association (SCA) proposes recruiting and hiring a Bay Area Climate Resilience Corps to conduct a climate vulnerability assessment to support the Greater East Bay Area's historically disadvantaged communities adapt to climate challenges of extreme drought, flooding, heat, and wildfire.	Drought, Heat, Urban Flooding	SF Bay Area - Greater East Bay
Mycelium Youth Network	Mycelium Youth Network is creating scalable conditions for what youth-led resilience can look like at a school site across several areas of climate resilience.	Drought, Heat, Urban Flooding	SF Bay Area - San Francisco
Greenbelt Alliance	Greenbelt Alliance is leading the development of an equitable wildfire resilience planning pilot to identify a priority greenbelt buffer to provide long-lasting wildfire risk reduction to vulnerable Sonoma County communities.	Wildfire	SF Bay Area - Sonoma County
City of San Leandro	The City of San Leandro is developing a Shoreline Master Plan to identify vulnerabilities and needed infrastructure improvements along its shoreline.	Coastal Resilience	SF Bay Area - San Leandro
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians	The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians is leading a collaborative planning effort to conduct a comprehensive assessment of vulnerabilities from the threats posed by sea level rise.	Coastal Resilience	Central Coast



## One Water and Stewardship Committee

2023 California Resilience Challenge and approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000 to continue as a Resilience Leader

Item 7-6

November 13, 2023

Item #7-6  
Approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000 for the 2023 California Resilience Challenge

Subject

Express support for the 2023 California Resilience Challenge and approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000 to continue as a Resilience Leader

Purpose

Approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000 to continue as a Resilience Leader

Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Recommendation - Authorize the General Manager to sponsor the California Resiliency Challenge with a \$50,000 contribution and renew Metropolitan's seat on the Challenges Advisory Committee.

Fiscal Impact - \$50,000. This item was budgeted in FY23/24

Budgeted

# Climate Change Threatens Our Communities

Flooding



Drought



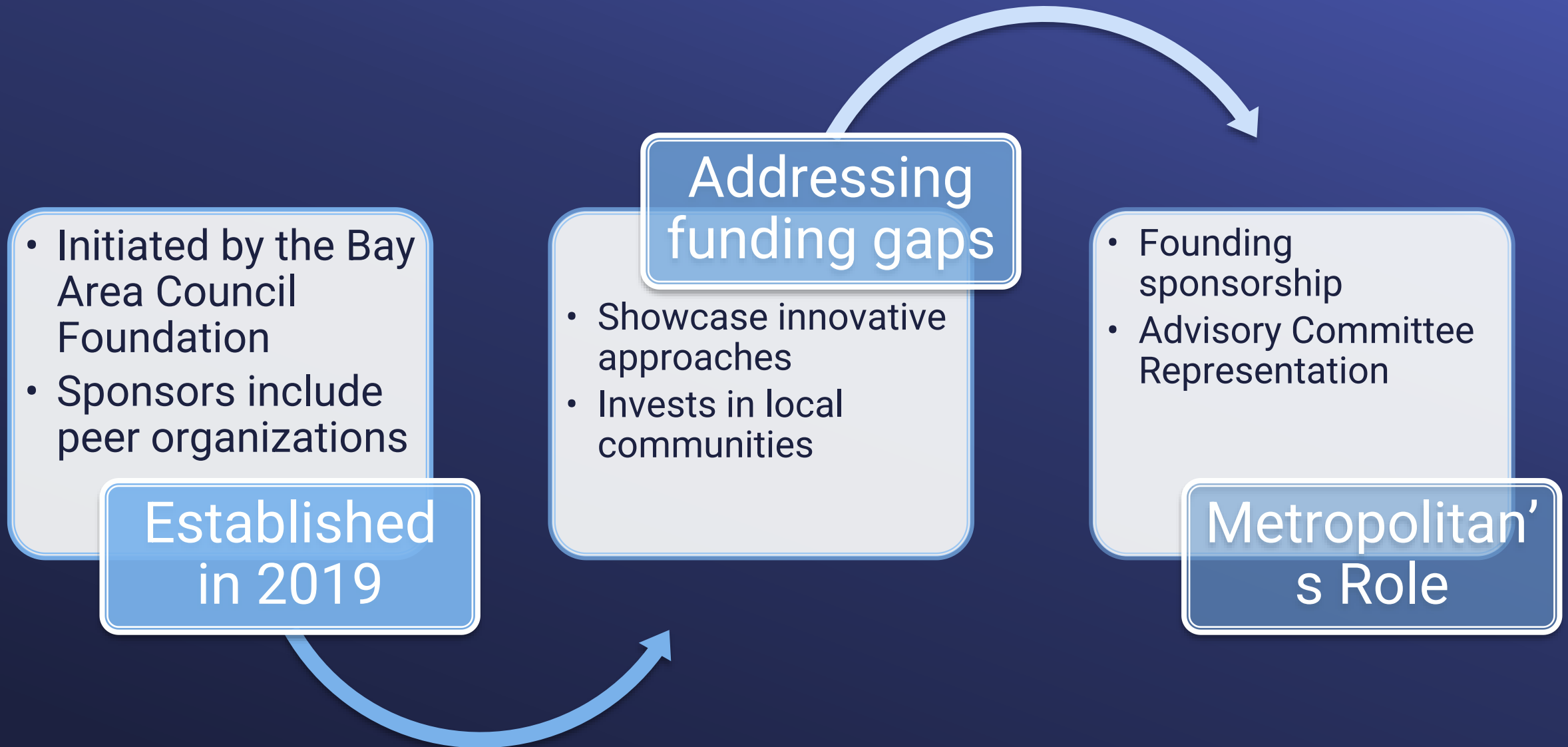
Fire



Heat



# California Resilience Challenge



# Current 2023 Sponsors

**Bank of America**



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**EDISON**

Energy for What's Ahead

Santa Clara Valley  
Water District



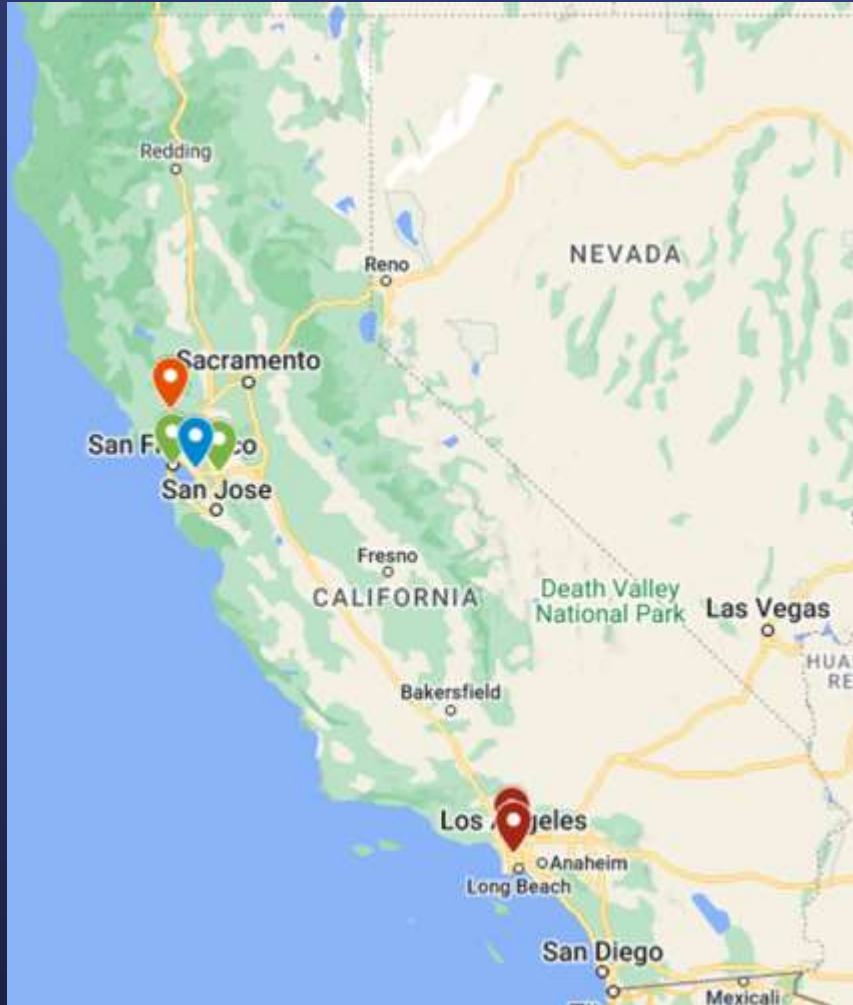
**NAACP**  
*California Hawaii*  
STATE CONFERENCE



**pillsbury**



# 2022 California Resiliency Projects



## Multi-benefit (drought, heat, urban flooding)

- Mycelium Youth Network
- Student Conservation Association

## Wildfire

- Greenbelt Alliance

## Coastal Resilience

- City of San Leandro
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

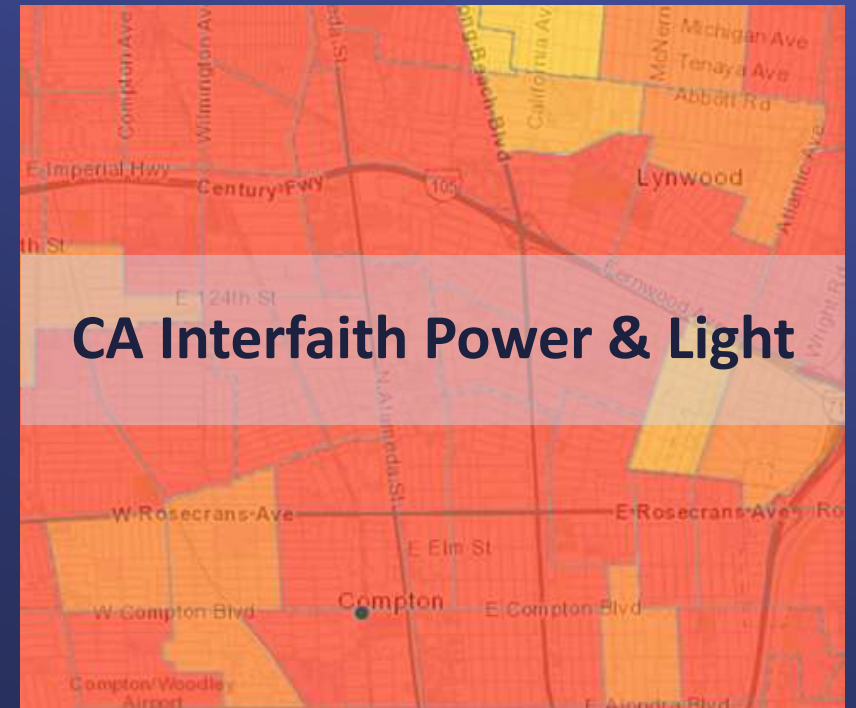
## Heat

- Alliance for a Better Community
- California Interfaith Power and Light

# Southern California Projects



## Alliance for a Better Community





# Supports CAMP4W

Increase climate resiliency  
through no-regrets projects



Increases resiliency of  
water and power grids



Opportunities to  
collaborate with peer  
organizations



The California  
Resilience Challenge is  
leading the way

# 2023 Request for Proposals

## Funding

- \$2.0 million
- Awards up to \$200,000
- MWD \$50,000 sponsorship for Advisory Committee participation

## Eligibility

- Public entities and NGOs
- Address one or more risks
- Benefit under-resourced communities

# Sponsorship

## Summary

- One-time sponsorship of \$50,000
- Participate in the 2023 RFP
- Seat on the Advisory Committee
- Visibility of outreach materials
- Event speaking opportunities

## Board Options

- Option #1
  - Express support for the 2023 California Resilience Challenge and approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000 to continue as a Resilience Leader
- Option #2
  - Take no action

# Staff Recommendation

- Option #1





● **Board of Directors**  
***One Water and Stewardship Committee***

11/14/2023 Board Meeting

7-7

**Subject**

Authorize a \$200,000/year increase to the existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc., currently set at \$200,000/year, for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program, for a total agreement not to exceed \$400,000/year; the General Manager has determined that the proposed actions are exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

**Executive Summary**

The large-landscape survey program has provided in-person outdoor efficiency audits to commercial and residential landscapes over one acre since 2013. In 2022, Metropolitan added an indoor/outdoor residential survey option, providing leak detection and efficiency recommendations to all residents throughout the service area. Since adding the residential surveys, program activity increased, necessitating an increase in the yearly annual expenditures for this agreement. This change will not increase the overall Conservation Program budget.

**Details**

**Background**

In 2013, Metropolitan launched a large-landscape survey program for commercial and residential properties with over an acre of irrigated landscape. These in-person surveys include an irrigation audit and recommendations for water use efficiency improvements. Metropolitan provides these surveys free of charge to property owners to improve irrigation efficiency on large landscapes with high water usage. The report provided to the customer includes an overview of any leaks or needed repairs of the irrigation system as well as recommendations for changes to improve efficiency. These recommendations include turf replacement, irrigation changes, controller upgrades, and landscaping best management practices. The report also includes a cost-benefit analysis, rebate availability, and a payback timeline for the recommendations.

In 2021, WaterWise Consulting Inc. was competitively selected as the survey program contractor through a Request for Proposal process. In 2022, Metropolitan added a residential survey option to the program, which can be performed virtually or in person. The residential survey does not have a minimum size and includes indoor and outdoor home audits. Survey consultants provide a leak detection review inside and outside the home and prepare a report of recommendations to improve water use efficiency. These recommendations include turf replacement, irrigation repair and upgrades, appliance upgrades, and conservation tips for indoor water use. The report also provides rebate and other program information available to the customer.

The costs associated with this work are listed in the following table. The average size of a large-landscape survey is 16 acres.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Pre-inspection	\$475.00
All work necessary for Indoor/Outdoor Virtual Survey	\$225.00
All work necessary for Commercial Large Landscape Survey (> 1 acre)	\$2,000.00
Customer Follow-up Services	\$225.00

## Proposed Action

The current program is in year two of a three-year agreement and limits expenditures to \$200,000/year. Since adding the residential survey option, activity in this program has increased by 30 percent. Residential survey activity alone has increased by 210 percent between 2022 and 2023. In addition, the large-landscape survey activity has also increased by 40 percent over the last three years. Though the recent severe drought undoubtedly increased interest in these surveys, accelerated activity may continue at these levels, and additional funds may be required. Based on current activity, staff estimates that an additional \$200,000/agreement year will be needed to fund this program through February 28, 2025.

## Policy

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Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

By Minute Item 48772, dated August 16, 2011, the Board adopted the Long-Term Conservation Plan and revisions to the water conservation policy principles.

## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

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### CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it will not result in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378). In addition, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA because it involves other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

### CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

## Board Options

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### Option #1

Authorize an increase of \$200,000/year to a new amount not to exceed \$400,000/year for an existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc. for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program.

**Fiscal Impact:** The proposed \$400,000 program increase will be funded from the Conservation Program budget. This request will not increase the Conservation Program budget.

**Business Analysis:** The proposed changes will allow the program to continue uninterrupted through 2025.

### Option #2

Do not authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under this agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc. If not authorized, the program will be suspended until the next agreement year.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Business Analysis:** Large landscape and residential surveys would be interrupted if the authorized contract limit is met.



**Staff Recommendation**

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Option #1

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Coffey  
Manager, Water Resource Management

11/1/2023

Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Adel Hagekhalil  
General Manager

11/3/2023

Date

Ref# wrm12694318



One Water & Stewardship Committee

# Increase to WaterWise Consulting, Inc. Contracts

Items 7-7 and 7-8

November 13, 2023

**Item #7-7 and 7-8**  
Authorization  
Requests to Increase  
Contract Values for  
Two Metropolitan  
Conservation  
Programs

## Subject

Authorize an increase to two Metropolitan contracts with WaterWise Consulting, Inc., \$350,000/year for inspection and verifications services and \$200,000/year for large landscape and residential surveys

## Purpose

An increase to the existing agreement will provide Metropolitan the ability to continue performing pre- and post-inspections on current and future conservation activities and will allow the large landscape and residential surveys to continue uninterrupted through 2025

## Recommendation & Fiscal Impact

Staff recommends Option #1 for both requests. Expenditures will remain within the board-authorized budget

Budgeted

Item #7-7  
Metropolitan's  
Inspection  
and Survey  
Vendor

WaterWise Consulting, Inc. was competitively selected as Metropolitan's inspection in 2021

- Can support Metropolitan's entire service area
- Meet the demand of Metropolitan's high volume of inspections and surveys across our various programs
- Experience performing conservation program activities for other agencies



# Metropolitan's Survey Program



Item #7-7  
Overview of  
Metropolitan's  
Survey  
Program

## Large Landscape Survey Program

- Irrigation audit
- Review of historical use and comparison to recommended irrigation schedule
- Recommendations on efficiency improvements with cost/benefit analysis

## Residential Indoor/Outdoor Survey Program

- Irrigation audit
- Indoor leak detection
- Recommendations on efficiency improvements

# Surveys In Action



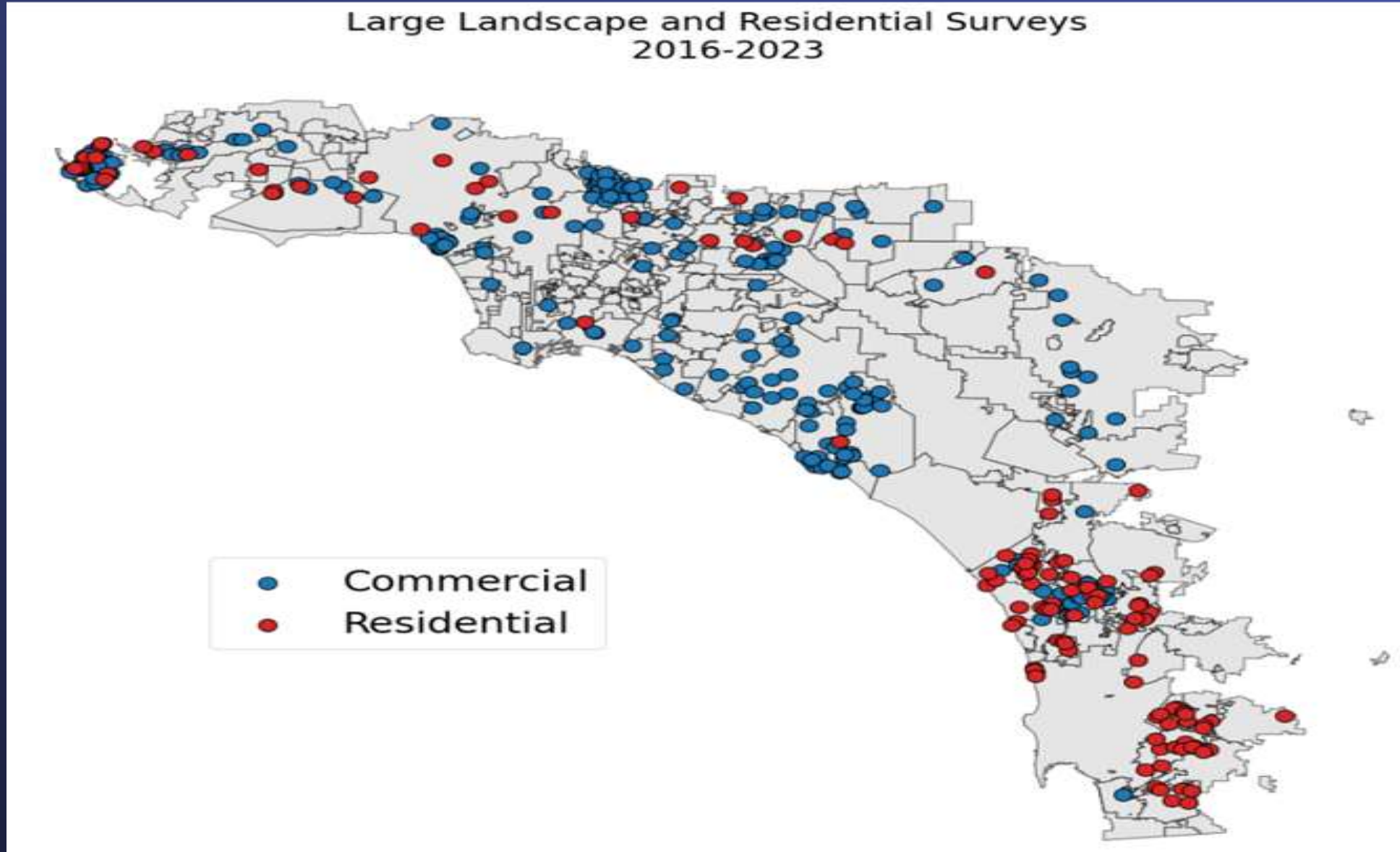
 VALLECITOS  
WATER DISTRICT  
Water and Wastewater Specialists since 1955

## FREE Water-Efficiency Survey Program



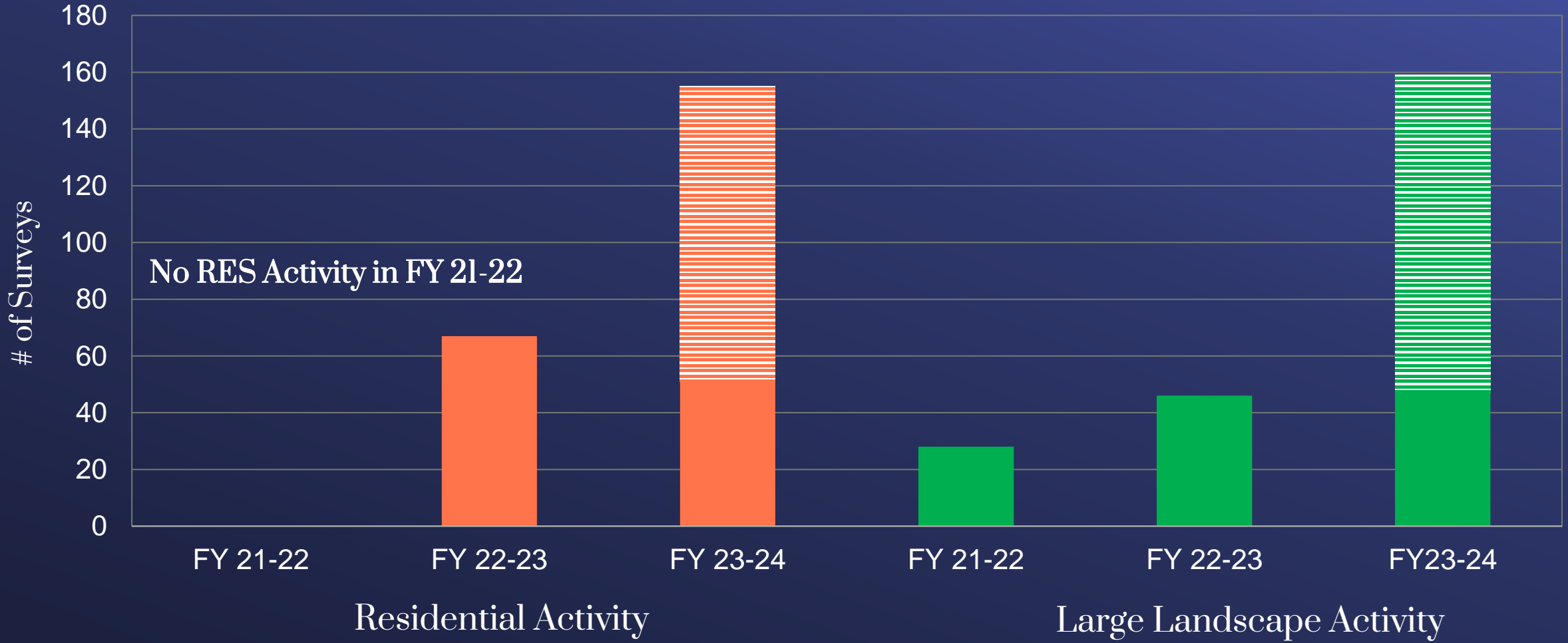
<https://www.waterefficiencysurvey.com/>

# Map of Survey Sites





# WaterWise Consulting Residential and Large Landscape Surveys FY21-22, FY22-23, FY23-24



■ Residential Completed    
 ▨ Residential Projected    
 ■ Large Landscape Completed    
 ▨ Large Landscape Projected

## Why is an increase to contract value necessary?

### Item #7-7 Value to Metropolitan

An increase to the existing agreement will provide Metropolitan the ability to continue performing surveys that support and promote water savings through turf and device rebate program participation



## Item #7-7 Summary

- Current program in year two of a three-year agreement limited to \$200,000 per year
- Large-landscape survey activity has increased by 40 percent
- Residential survey activity has increased by 210 percent between 2022 and 2023
- The recent severe drought increased interest in these surveys and accelerated activity may continue
- Staff estimates additional funding will be needed to fund the program through February 2025

# Metropolitan's Inspection Program

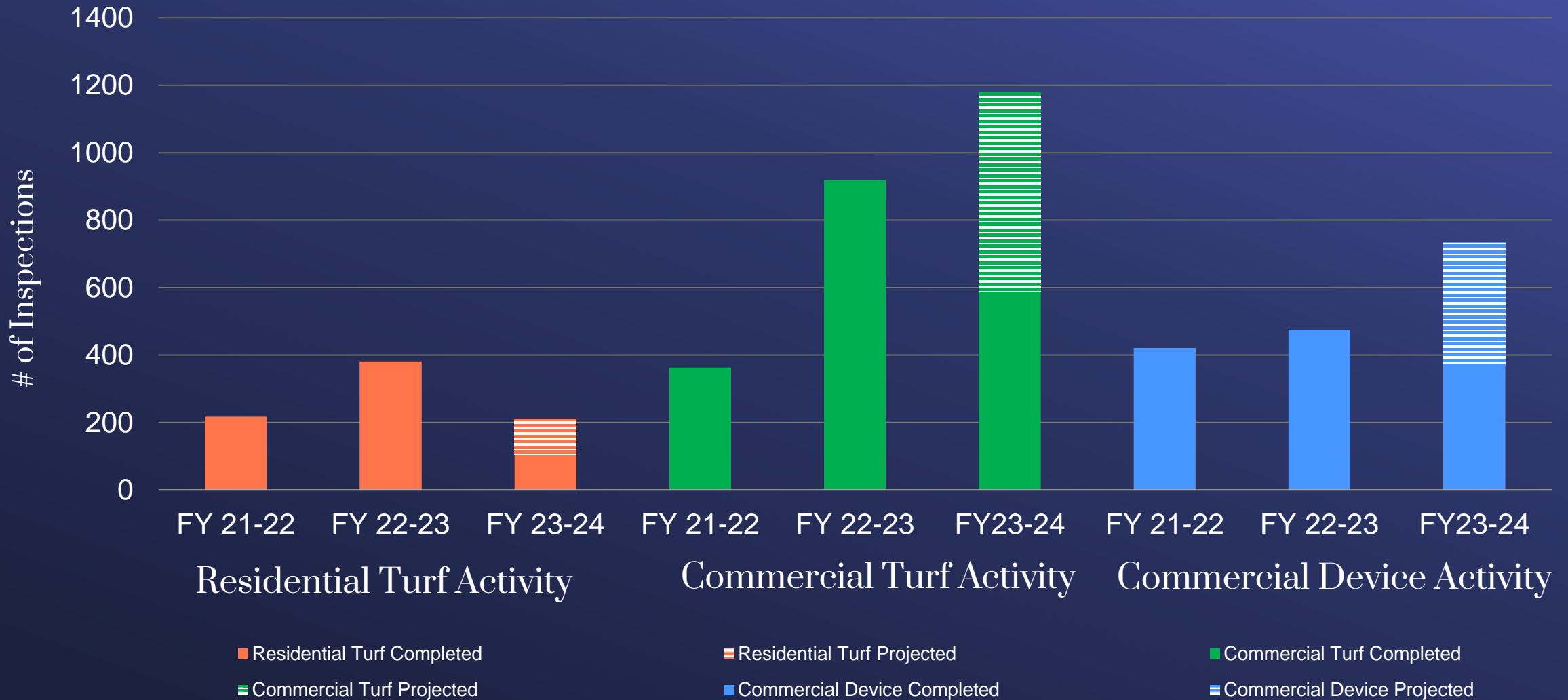


Item #7-8  
Overview of  
Metropolitan's  
Inspection  
Program

WaterWise Consulting, Inc. currently supports the following Metropolitan Conservation Programs:

- The “SoCal Water\$mart” regional rebate programs,
- The Water Savings Incentive Program,
- The Member Agency Administered Program,
- The Regional Pre-1994 Toilet Replacement Program, and
- Pre- and post-inspections for member agency-administered commercial turf replacement programs.

# Inspection Program Activity



Item #7-8  
Changes to  
Inspection  
Activity

Metropolitan is providing more inspection services than originally anticipated during the procurement process due to new efforts, such as:

- Increased incentives on residential, commercial, and public agency turf replacement
- Member agencies and their retail agencies providing additional co-funding on Metropolitan's turf replacement rebate
- Increased partnerships with member agencies on drought-related projects and programs

Item #7-8  
Value to  
Metropolitan

## Why is an increase to contract value necessary?

An increase to the existing agreement will provide Metropolitan the ability to continue performing pre- and post-inspections on current and future conservation activities





## Item #7-8 Summary

- Second year of 3-year contract through April 2025
- Activity in Metropolitan's Turf Replacement Program has nearly doubled from the previous fiscal year
- In preparing for \$38 million in recently awarded grants from USBR and DWR, staff anticipates an increasing need for inspections
- Additional funding for this agreement will ensure Metropolitan's inspection program will seamlessly continue to provide inspection and verification services as activity increases.

Item #7-7  
Board Options for  
Metropolitan's  
Survey Program

### Option #1

Authorize an increase of \$200,000/year to a new amount not to exceed \$400,000/year for an existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program

### Option #2

Do not authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under this agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. If not authorized, the program will be suspended until the next agreement year

Item #7-7  
Staff  
Recommends

Option #1

**Item #7-8**  
Board Options for  
Metropolitan's  
Inspections  
Program

**Option #1**

Authorize an increase of \$350,000/year, to a new amount not to exceed \$850,000/year, for an existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. to provide inspection services for turf removal, regional device rebates, and water savings incentive program projects for Metropolitan's conservation rebate programs.

**Option #2**

Do not authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under this agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. If not authorized, the amount of inspection services will be limited.

Item #7-8  
Staff  
Recommends

Option #1





● **Board of Directors**  
***One Water and Stewardship Committee***

11/14/2023 Board Meeting

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**7-8**

**Subject**

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Authorize a \$350,000/year increase to the existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting Inc., currently set at \$500,000/year, to provide inspection services for turf removal, regional device rebates, and water savings incentive program projects for Metropolitan’s conservation rebate programs, for a total agreement not to exceed \$850,000/year; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

**Executive Summary**

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This action requests authorization to increase the existing professional services agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. by \$350,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$850,000. The agreement, which was awarded to WaterWise Consulting, Inc. following a competitive bid process, provides inspection and verification services for Metropolitan’s conservation rebate programs. As activity in Metropolitan’s conservation programs increases, the demand for inspection and verification services likewise increases. Inspection service needs are greater than originally anticipated due to increased rebates from funding provided by the state, co-funding of programs by member agencies, and increased partnerships with member agencies on drought-related programs. Activity in Metropolitan’s Turf Replacement Program has significantly increased and is expected to continue to increase as newly awarded grant monies are implemented. Staff anticipates an increase in demands for inspections to support the Residential, Commercial, and Public Agency Turf Replacement Programs and the Water Savings Incentive Program.

**Timing and Urgency**

An increase to the existing agreement will provide Metropolitan the ability to continue performing pre- and post-inspections on current and future conservation activities.

**Details**

---

**Background**

Metropolitan administers various incentive programs to help commercial and residential consumers conserve water. Metropolitan uses vendors to perform on-site inspections, substantiate the accuracy of rebates, and perform other related services as required.

In 2021, Metropolitan issued a competitive request for proposals seeking consultant services to perform inspection and verification services for turf removal and device installations for Metropolitan’s conservation programs. An evaluation committee reviewed and scored each respondent’s respective proposal relative to the evaluation criteria and recommended WaterWise Consulting Inc. Metropolitan entered into an agreement with terms in effect from April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, with the option to exercise two additional one-year extensions. We are currently in the second year of the contract, which is in effect until March 31, 2024, with plans to extend the contract until March 31, 2025. The maximum amount payable per agreement year is \$500,000.

WaterWise Consulting Inc. currently supports the following Metropolitan conservation programs:

- The “SoCal Water\$mart” regional rebate program which provides turf replacement and device-based rebates for residential and commercial consumers.

- The Water Savings Incentive Program which provides financial incentives for customized water efficiency projects.
- The Member Agency Administered Program which funds member agency-tailored indoor and outdoor conservation incentives.
- The Regional Pre-1994 Toilet Replacement Program which provides enhanced incentives for toilet replacement in older, multi-family residential properties.
- Pre- and post-inspections for member agency-administered commercial turf replacement programs.

Metropolitan is providing more inspection services than originally anticipated during the procurement process due to new efforts, such as:

- Increased incentives on residential, commercial, and public agency turf replacement. Metropolitan was awarded \$6.5 million in state funding that became available in November 2022, increasing Metropolitan's base rebate from \$2 to \$3 per square foot.
- Member agencies and their retail agencies providing additional co-funding on Metropolitan's turf replacement rebate to leverage available grant funding to drive more participation.
- Increased partnerships with member agencies on drought-related projects and programs.

Activity in Metropolitan's Turf Replacement Program has nearly doubled from the previous fiscal year. In preparing for \$38 million in recently awarded grants from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and the Department of Water Resources, staff anticipates an increasing need for inspections to support our Residential, Commercial, and Public Agency Turf Replacement Programs and the Water Savings Incentive Program. The additional \$350,000 for this agreement will ensure Metropolitan's inspection program will seamlessly continue to provide inspection and verification services as activity increases with additional grant funding.

Staff is requesting authorization to increase the maximum amount payable under this contract from \$500,000 to an amount not to exceed \$850,000 per agreement year. This increase is anticipated to be sufficient to continue pre- and post-inspections for Metropolitan's ongoing conservation programs.

### **Funding of Inspection Services for Grants**

Over the past two years, Metropolitan successfully pursued external funding for conservation programs. Both state and federal grants have been awarded. For these recent grants, staff did not request reimbursement for inspection services and considered the expenses as in-kind services. On average, turf inspection services (one element of the services provided) costs about \$0.04 per square foot. In a more recent grant proposal to USBR, staff requested a 20 percent administrative fee for these types of internal costs. Moving forward staff will continue to request reimbursement of administrative fees where practicable.

### **Policy**

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Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

Metropolitan Administrative Code Section 3107: Water Use Efficiency Guidelines

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

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#### **CEQA determination for Option #1:**

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it will not result in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378). In addition, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA because it involves other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines).



**CEQA determination for Option #2:**

None required

**Board Options**

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**Option #1**

Authorize an increase of \$350,000/year, to a new amount not to exceed \$850,000/year, for an existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. to provide inspection services for turf removal, regional device rebates, and water savings incentive program projects for Metropolitan’s conservation rebate programs.

**Fiscal Impact:** Payments are anticipated to increase up to \$350,000 under this agreement. Expenditures will remain within the board-authorized budget.

**Business Analysis:** An increase to the existing agreement will provide Metropolitan the ability to continue performing pre- and post- inspections on current and future conservation activities.

**Option #2**

Do not authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under this agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. If not authorized, the amount of inspection services will be limited.

**Fiscal Impact:** No known fiscal impact.

**Business Analysis:** Metropolitan would issue a new request for proposal with a higher contract value, which may cause an interruption in inspections.

**Staff Recommendation**

---

Option #1

	10/24/2023
Brad Coffey Manager, Water Resource Management	Date

	10/30/2023
Adel Hagekhalil General Manager	Date

Ref# wrm12694080



One Water & Stewardship Committee

# Increase to WaterWise Consulting, Inc. Contracts

Items 7-7 and 7-8

November 13, 2023

**Item #7-7 and 7-8**  
Authorization  
Requests to Increase  
Contract Values for  
Two Metropolitan  
Conservation  
Programs

## Subject

Authorize an increase to two Metropolitan contracts with WaterWise Consulting, Inc., \$350,000/year for inspection and verifications services and \$200,000/year for large landscape and residential surveys

## Purpose

An increase to the existing agreement will provide Metropolitan the ability to continue performing pre- and post-inspections on current and future conservation activities and will allow the large landscape and residential surveys to continue uninterrupted through 2025

## Recommendation & Fiscal Impact

Staff recommends Option #1 for both requests. Expenditures will remain within the board-authorized budget

Budgeted

Item #7-7  
Metropolitan's  
Inspection  
and Survey  
Vendor

WaterWise Consulting, Inc. was competitively selected as Metropolitan's inspection in 2021

- Can support Metropolitan's entire service area
- Meet the demand of Metropolitan's high volume of inspections and surveys across our various programs
- Experience performing conservation program activities for other agencies



# Metropolitan's Survey Program



Item #7-7  
Overview of  
Metropolitan's  
Survey  
Program

## Large Landscape Survey Program

- Irrigation audit
- Review of historical use and comparison to recommended irrigation schedule
- Recommendations on efficiency improvements with cost/benefit analysis

## Residential Indoor/Outdoor Survey Program

- Irrigation audit
- Indoor leak detection
- Recommendations on efficiency improvements

# Surveys In Action



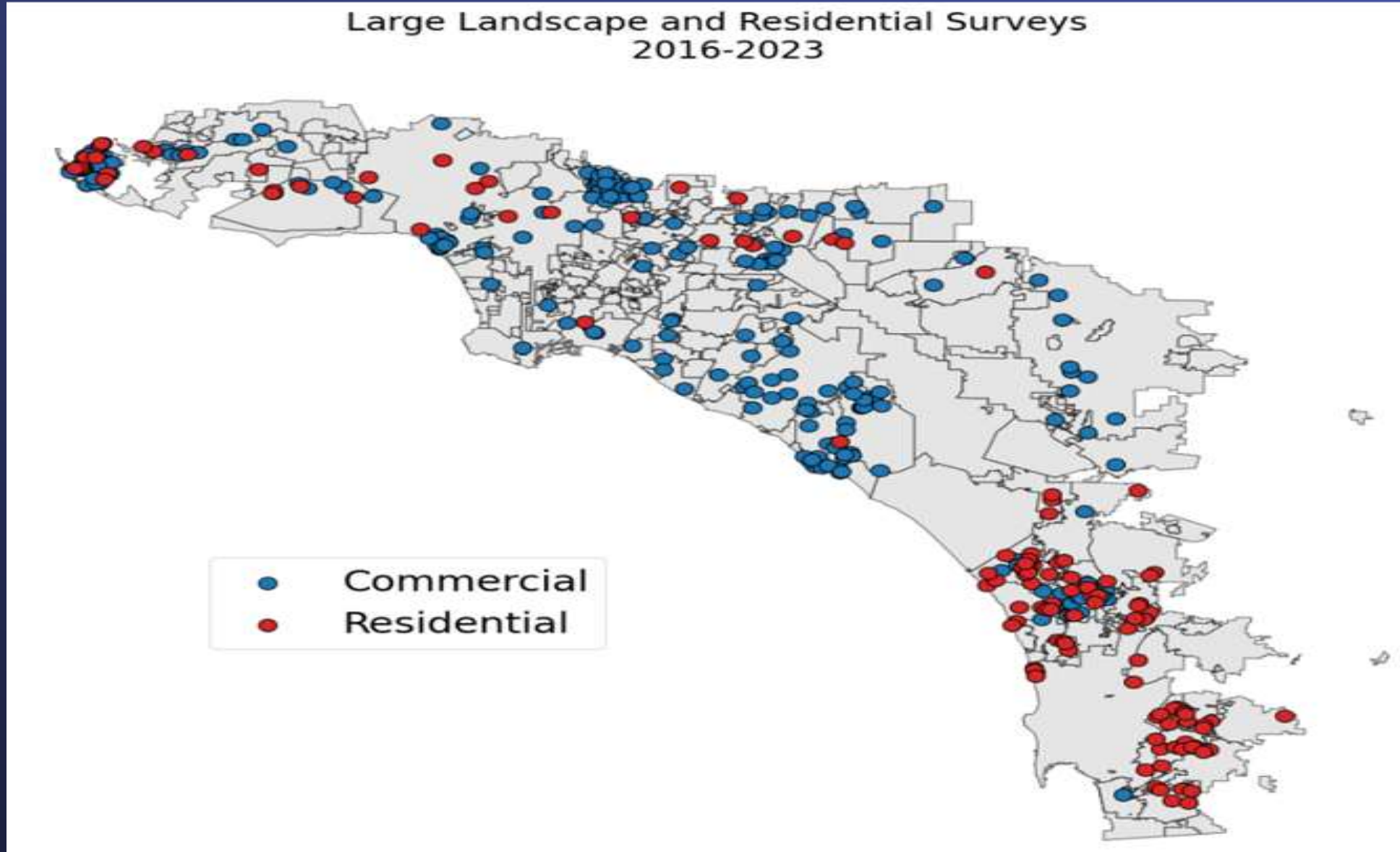
 VALLECITOS  
WATER DISTRICT  
Water and Wastewater Specialists since 1955

## FREE Water-Efficiency Survey Program



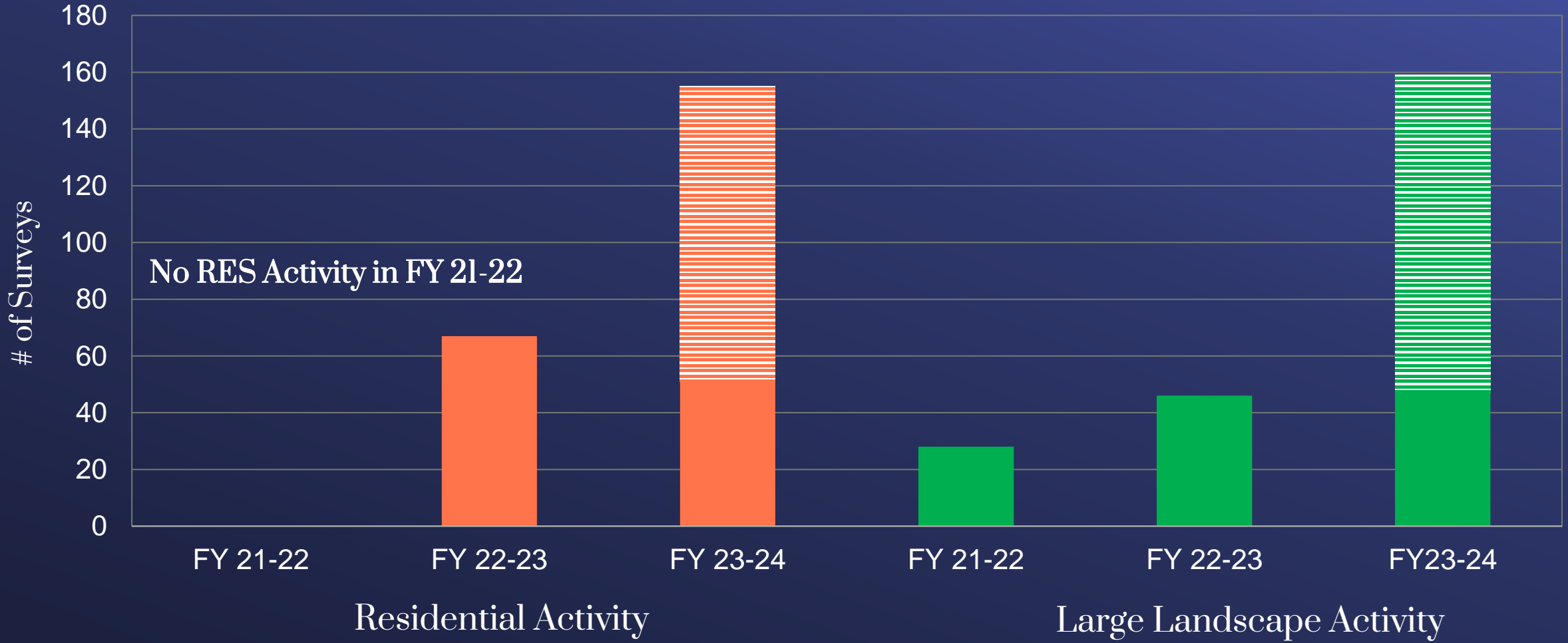
<https://www.waterefficiencysurvey.com/>

# Map of Survey Sites





# WaterWise Consulting Residential and Large Landscape Surveys FY21-22, FY22-23, FY23-24



■ Residential Completed    
 ▨ Residential Projected    
 ■ Large Landscape Completed    
 ▨ Large Landscape Projected

## Why is an increase to contract value necessary?

### Item #7-7 Value to Metropolitan

An increase to the existing agreement will provide Metropolitan the ability to continue performing surveys that support and promote water savings through turf and device rebate program participation



## Item #7-7 Summary

- Current program in year two of a three-year agreement limited to \$200,000 per year
- Large-landscape survey activity has increased by 40 percent
- Residential survey activity has increased by 210 percent between 2022 and 2023
- The recent severe drought increased interest in these surveys and accelerated activity may continue
- Staff estimates additional funding will be needed to fund the program through February 2025

# Metropolitan's Inspection Program

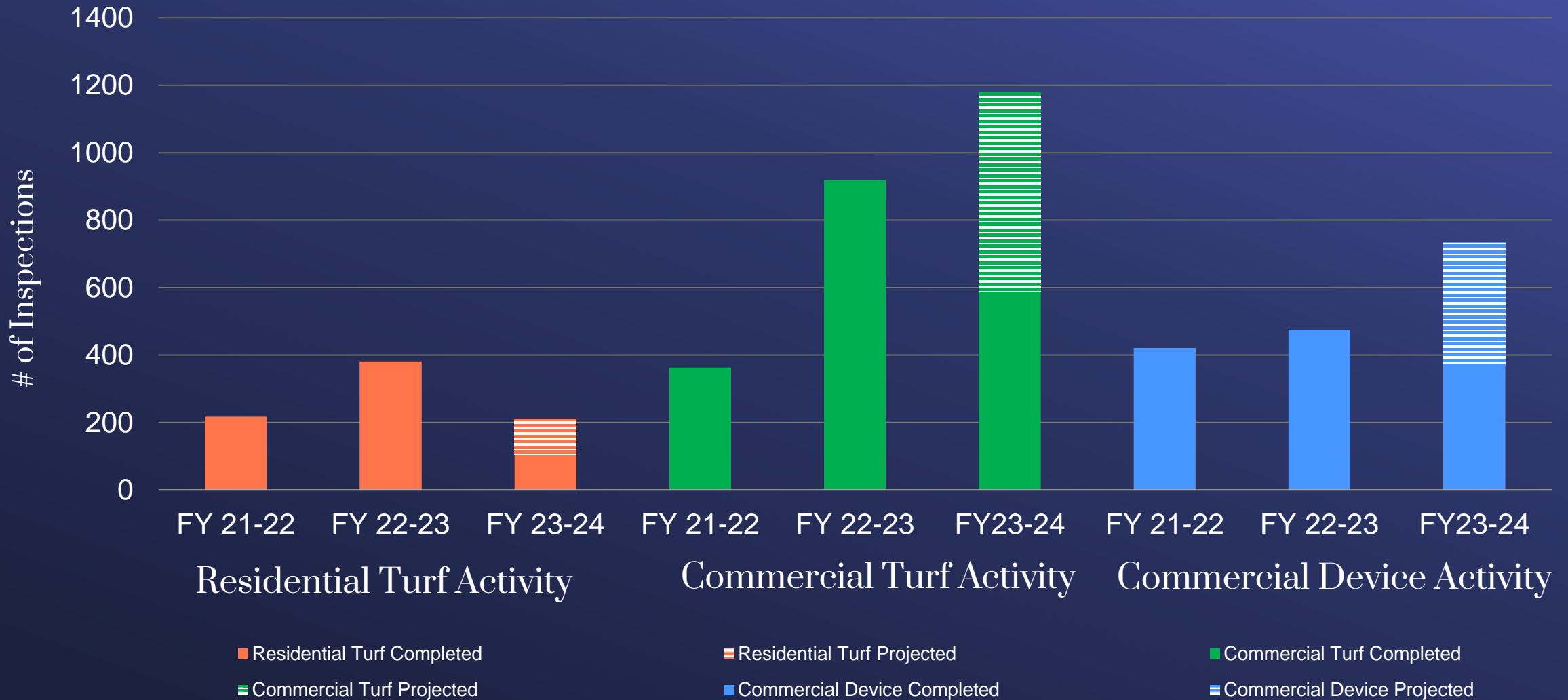


Item #7-8  
Overview of  
Metropolitan's  
Inspection  
Program

WaterWise Consulting, Inc. currently supports the following Metropolitan Conservation Programs:

- The “SoCal Water\$mart” regional rebate programs,
- The Water Savings Incentive Program,
- The Member Agency Administered Program,
- The Regional Pre-1994 Toilet Replacement Program, and
- Pre- and post-inspections for member agency-administered commercial turf replacement programs.

# Inspection Program Activity



Item #7-8  
Changes to  
Inspection  
Activity

Metropolitan is providing more inspection services than originally anticipated during the procurement process due to new efforts, such as:

- Increased incentives on residential, commercial, and public agency turf replacement
- Member agencies and their retail agencies providing additional co-funding on Metropolitan's turf replacement rebate
- Increased partnerships with member agencies on drought-related projects and programs

Item #7-8  
Value to  
Metropolitan

## Why is an increase to contract value necessary?

An increase to the existing agreement will provide Metropolitan the ability to continue performing pre- and post-inspections on current and future conservation activities





## Item #7-8 Summary

- Second year of 3-year contract through April 2025
- Activity in Metropolitan's Turf Replacement Program has nearly doubled from the previous fiscal year
- In preparing for \$38 million in recently awarded grants from USBR and DWR, staff anticipates an increasing need for inspections
- Additional funding for this agreement will ensure Metropolitan's inspection program will seamlessly continue to provide inspection and verification services as activity increases.

Item #7-7  
Board Options for  
Metropolitan's  
Survey Program

### Option #1

Authorize an increase of \$200,000/year to a new amount not to exceed \$400,000/year for an existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. for the Large Landscape and Residential Survey Program

### Option #2

Do not authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under this agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. If not authorized, the program will be suspended until the next agreement year

Item #7-7  
Staff  
Recommends

Option #1

**Item #7-8**  
Board Options for  
Metropolitan's  
Inspections  
Program

**Option #1**

Authorize an increase of \$350,000/year, to a new amount not to exceed \$850,000/year, for an existing agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. to provide inspection services for turf removal, regional device rebates, and water savings incentive program projects for Metropolitan's conservation rebate programs.

**Option #2**

Do not authorize an increase in the maximum amount payable under this agreement with WaterWise Consulting, Inc. If not authorized, the amount of inspection services will be limited.

Item #7-8  
Staff  
Recommends

Option #1





● **Board of Directors**  
***One Water and Stewardship Committee***

11/14/2023 Board Meeting

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**8-3**

**Subject**

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Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and San Diego County Water Authority to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program in 2023; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

**Executive Summary**

---

Staff seeks authorization for the General Manager to enter into agreements to allow water to be added to Lake Mead pursuant to funding provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) LC Conservation Program (LC Conservation Program). These agreements help California achieve the goals set out in the Colorado River Board of California's October 5, 2022, letter proposing a goal that California agencies conserve 400,000 acre-feet (AF) per year of water in Lake Mead between 2023 and 2026. Additionally, these agreements provide financial benefit to Metropolitan and the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), and demonstrate how multi-agency partnerships can benefit the Colorado River. Staff specifically seeks authorization to enter into agreements for:

1. Forbearance regarding Coachella Valley Water District's (CVWD) temporary reduction in groundwater replenishment by up to 35,000 AF/year in 2023. Reclamation will provide funding to CVWD, and the conserved water will stay in Lake Mead.
2. Forbearance regarding Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) temporary reduction in irrigation in 2023 by up to 115,000 AF. This is water that IID conserves through existing programs and is comprised of up to 65,000 AF of additional conservation and up to 50,000 AF of water that would otherwise be transferred to SDCWA. Reclamation will provide funding to IID, and the conserved water will stay in Lake Mead. For the 50,000 AF of water that otherwise would be transferred to SDCWA, SDCWA proposes to agree to reduce the amount of water it is scheduled to make available to Metropolitan under the 2003 Exchange Agreement and will increase its projected full-service water purchases from Metropolitan by 50,000 AF in 2023.

Reclamation is currently developing additional proposed agreements under the LC Conservation Program, including agreements that involve Metropolitan's transfer and supply programs. Staff will seek board authorization of such agreements and any necessary forbearance when they are developed.

**Timing and Urgency**

These agreements would help California achieve the goals set out in the Colorado River Board of California's October 5, 2022 letter, which proposed a goal that California agencies conserve 400,000 AF per year of water in Lake Mead between 2023 and 2026.

## Details

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### Background

Metropolitan often collaborates with other agencies to provide system water to Lake Mead. In 2006, Metropolitan entered into an agreement with Reclamation to provide up to 10,000 AF of conserved Colorado River water during 2006 and 2007 to increase Colorado River system storage. The water was conserved through voluntary fallowing under the Palo Verde Irrigation District Program. Metropolitan and other Colorado River users benefitted from the resultant increase in system storage. Reclamation provided about \$1.7 million to cover Metropolitan's expenditures associated with the supplemental fallowing.

In 2014, Reclamation initiated the Pilot System Conservation Program, which was a collective effort of the federal government and major urban water agencies to fund water-saving actions to create conserved system water to protect the elevation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead and thus benefit all Colorado River water users. The Pilot System Conservation Program funded projects that created at least 175,000 AF of conserved system water. Metropolitan provided \$5 million, which represented 15 percent of the total funding.

In 2021, Metropolitan entered into a funding agreement with Reclamation, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and Southern Nevada Water Authority to fund additional land fallowing to conserve Colorado River system water to improve Lake Mead storage. The funding agreement was terminated during the third year to shift participation to the LC Conservation Program starting August 1, 2023.

### The LC Conservation Program

The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act fund water management and conservation efforts to address the Colorado River drought. The Department of the Interior, through Reclamation, created the LC Conservation Program to increase system conservation and efficiency opportunities to address the drought in the Lower Colorado River Basin. Similar conservation programs are being developed in the Upper Colorado River Basin. The LC Conservation Program provides funding opportunities for voluntary participation to increase system conservation.

There are currently two items under the LC Conservation Program for which staff is seeking board authorization. First, forbearance is needed for an agreement Reclamation has entered into with CVWD to fund a reduction in groundwater replenishment by up to 35,000 AF/year in 2023.

Second, Reclamation is developing an agreement with IID to fund agricultural conservation in 2023. Under the proposed agreement with IID, up to 115,000 AF of conserved water from IID's existing conservation programs will be left in Lake Mead as system water. Reclamation will pay IID for this conserved water, Reclamation will reduce its deliveries of Colorado River water to IID, and IID will reduce its demand for Colorado River water by the same amount. This volume includes up to 50,000 AF of water that IID would have otherwise transferred to SDCWA. During November and December 2023, SDCWA would reduce the amount of water it is scheduled to make available to Metropolitan under the 2003 Exchange Agreement by up to 50,000 AF, and SDCWA would increase its projected full-service water purchases from Metropolitan by an equivalent amount at the full-service rate in November and December 2023. The 115,000 AF of conserved water will be subject to the same verification process that Metropolitan conducts annually regarding IID conservation. Staff seeks board authorization for this arrangement for 2023 only.

Forbearance is necessary for these actions because, under the California priority system, Colorado River water conserved by a higher-priority user is available to the next lower-priority user. Thus, as part of a program to fund the conservation of Colorado River water, contractors need to agree to forbear exercising their rights to ensure that the conserved water remains in the Colorado River system rather than become available to the next lower-priority user. Before entering into any forbearance agreement, Metropolitan staff will review the underlying agreements between Reclamation and the contractors to ensure that Metropolitan's rights as the junior priority in California are protected.

Additional agreements under the LC Conservation Program involving Metropolitan's transfer and supply programs and any necessary forbearance will be brought to the Board when those agreements are ready.



### **Benefits of this Partnership**

The proposal to include in the LC Conservation Program 50,000 AF of water that IID would otherwise have transferred to SDCWA shows how innovative agreements can provide a “win-win” for all parties. Benefits accrue in this way:

- Reclamation benefits from the California parties working together to meet the goals set forth in California’s October 5, 2022, letter to conserve water from 2023 through 2026.
- IID benefits by conserving a portion of the water that the California parties proposed to conserve from 2023 through 2026.
- SDCWA benefits financially by reducing its purchase of conserved water from IID and instead purchasing an equivalent amount of water from Metropolitan at the full-service water rate in 2023.
- Metropolitan benefits from increased revenues through full-service sales to SDCWA rather than exchange deliveries under the Exchange Agreement. This arrangement also helps Metropolitan to manage surplus supplies in a wet year that otherwise may not have been captured in a Metropolitan storage account.

### **Summary**

Metropolitan continues to expand and support opportunities to conserve Colorado River system water. This action reduces the risk of Lake Mead falling to elevations that trigger shortages and Drought Contingency Plan contributions. It also helps implement the proposed goals in the Colorado River Board of California’s October 5, 2022, letter. All Lower Basin water users benefit from delaying the timing and depth of shortages, DCP contributions, and preserving hydroelectric capacity at Hoover Dam.

### **Policy**

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Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

By Minute Item 53051 in December 2022, Metropolitan's Board adopted legislative priorities and principles to support the funding of conservation projects to enhance the resiliency of the Colorado River System to reduce the risk of Lake Mead and Lake Powell falling below critical elevations.

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

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#### **CEQA determination for Option #1:**

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves continuing administrative activities (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, the proposed action is not subject to CEQA because it involves other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

#### **CEQA determination for Option #2:**

None required

**Board Options**

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**Option #1**

Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and San Diego County Water Authority to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under Reclamation’s LC Conservation Program in 2023.

**Fiscal Impact:** To the extent that IID leaves 50,000 AF of conserved water in Lake Mead that was planned for transfer to SDCWA, and SDCWA instead purchases a like amount of additional water from Metropolitan, Metropolitan will increase revenues by approximately \$16 million. This reflects the difference in revenues generated by selling water at Metropolitan’s full-service water rate instead of deliveries under the Exchange Agreement.

**Business Analysis:** The agreements would forbear additional system conservation to augment Colorado River supplies at no additional cost to Metropolitan and would increase revenue from the sale to SDCWA.

**Option #2**

Direct the General Manager not to enter into the agreements under the proposed terms.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Business Analysis:** Metropolitan would forego an opportunity to augment Colorado River water supplies to reduce the risk of future curtailment.

**Staff Recommendation**

---

Option #1

	11/8/2023
Brad Coffey Manager, Water Resource Management	Date

	11/8/2023
Adel Hagekhalil General Manager	Date

Ref# wrm12695610



One Water and Stewardship Committee

# Authorize Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Item 8-3

November 13, 2023

## Item 8-3

# Authorize Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

### Subject

Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program in 2023

### Purpose

To obtain Board approval for agreements allowing water conserved by CVWD and IID to be added to Lake Mead under Reclamation's LC Conservation Program in 2023.

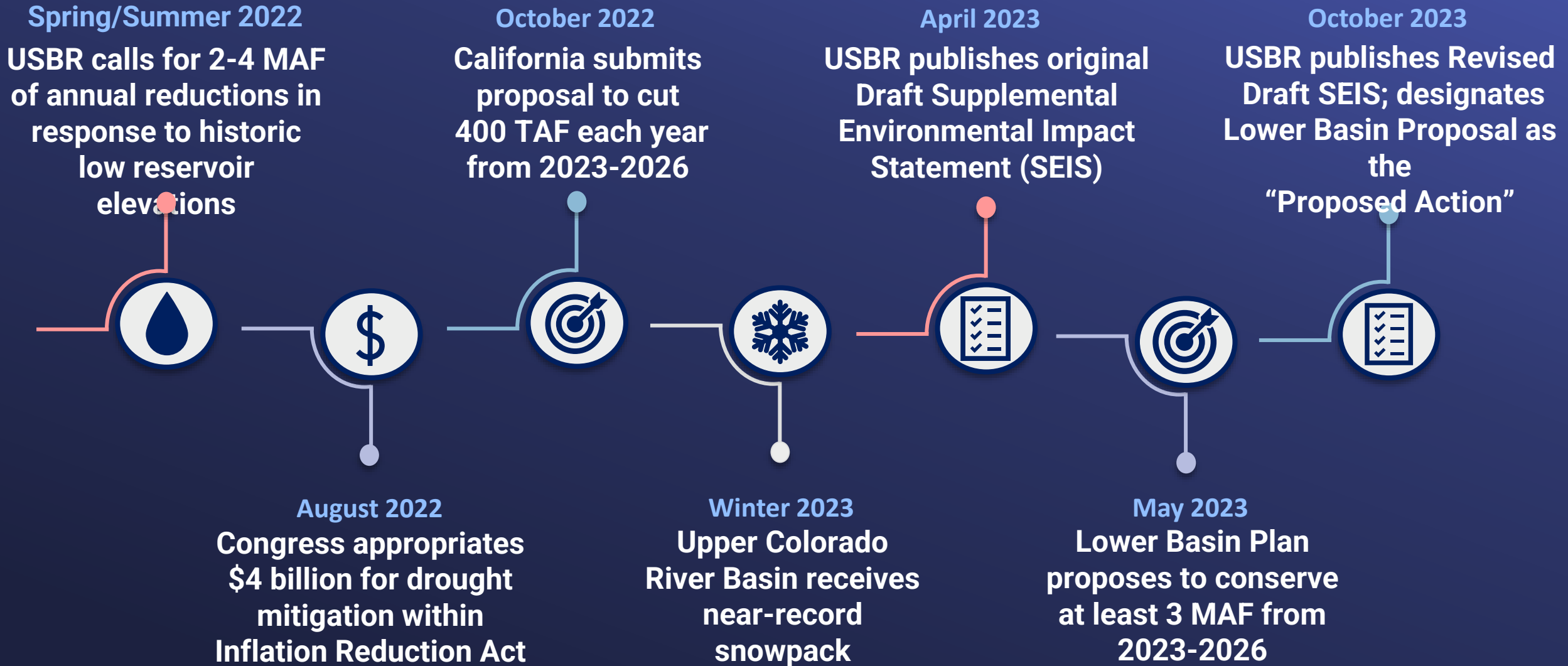
### Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Authorize entering into agreements with CVWD, IID, and SDCWA to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under Reclamation's LC Conservation Program in 2023;  
Increased CY 2023 sales by 50,000 AF

### Budget

Not budgeted. Metropolitan would benefit from increased revenues through full-service sales to SDCWA

# Background



## 2 California System Conservation Projects

1

CVWD's Groundwater Replenishment System  
Conservation Project

2

IID Irrigation Reduction System Conservation  
Project

- Concept developed in partnership with IID, SDCWA, and MWD

# Metropolitan's Forbearance is Necessary

Forbearance agreements are the mechanism for ensuring conserved water stays in Lake Mead under the priority system

# Groundwater Replenishment Reduction in CVWD



## CVWD System Conservation Project

- USBR to fund up to 35,000 acre-feet in 2023
- Reduction in groundwater replenishment deliveries
- Verification through measured limited deliveries to Tom Levy Groundwater Recharge facility
  - ✓ No impact to MWD's Advanced Delivery Account

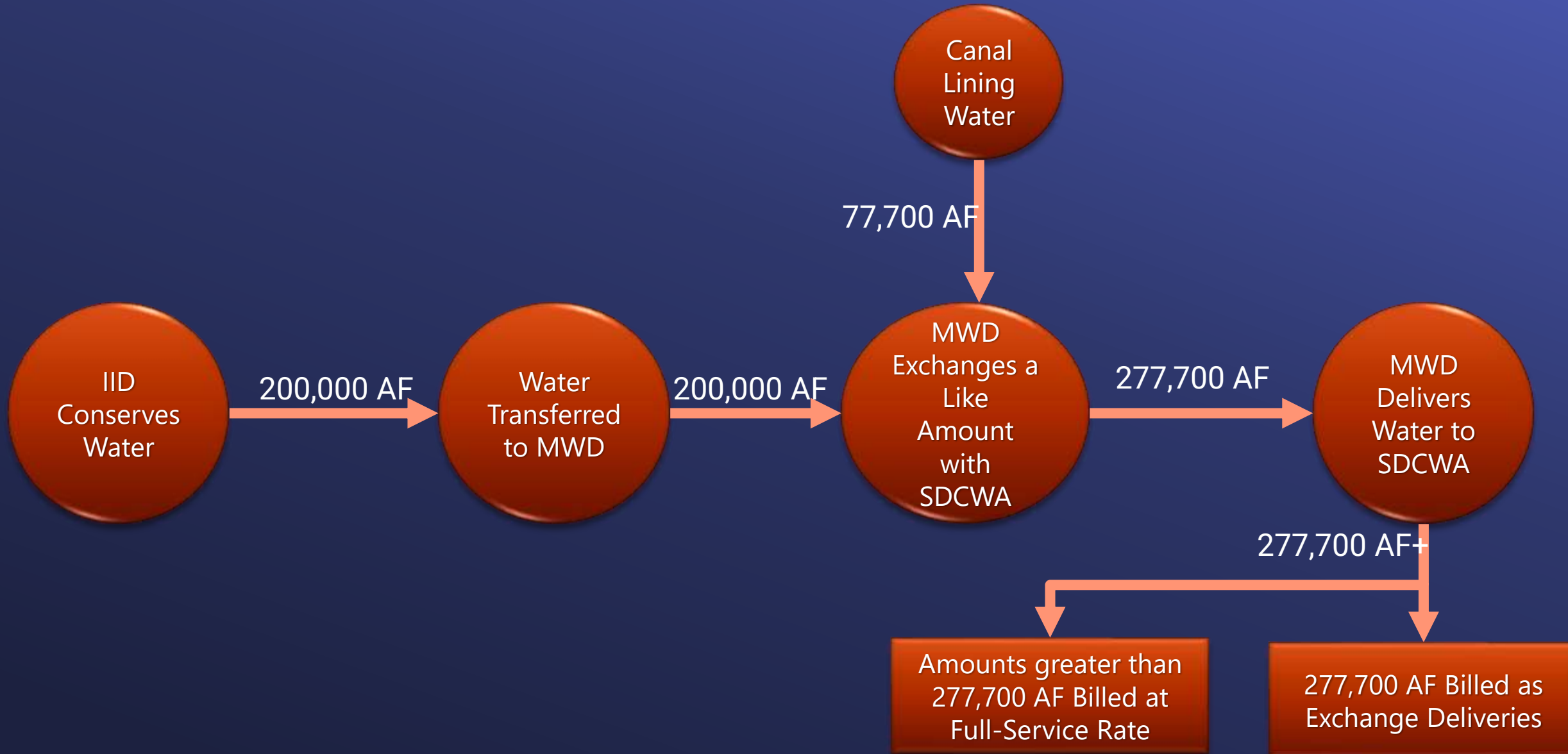


# Irrigation Reduction in Imperial Irrigation District

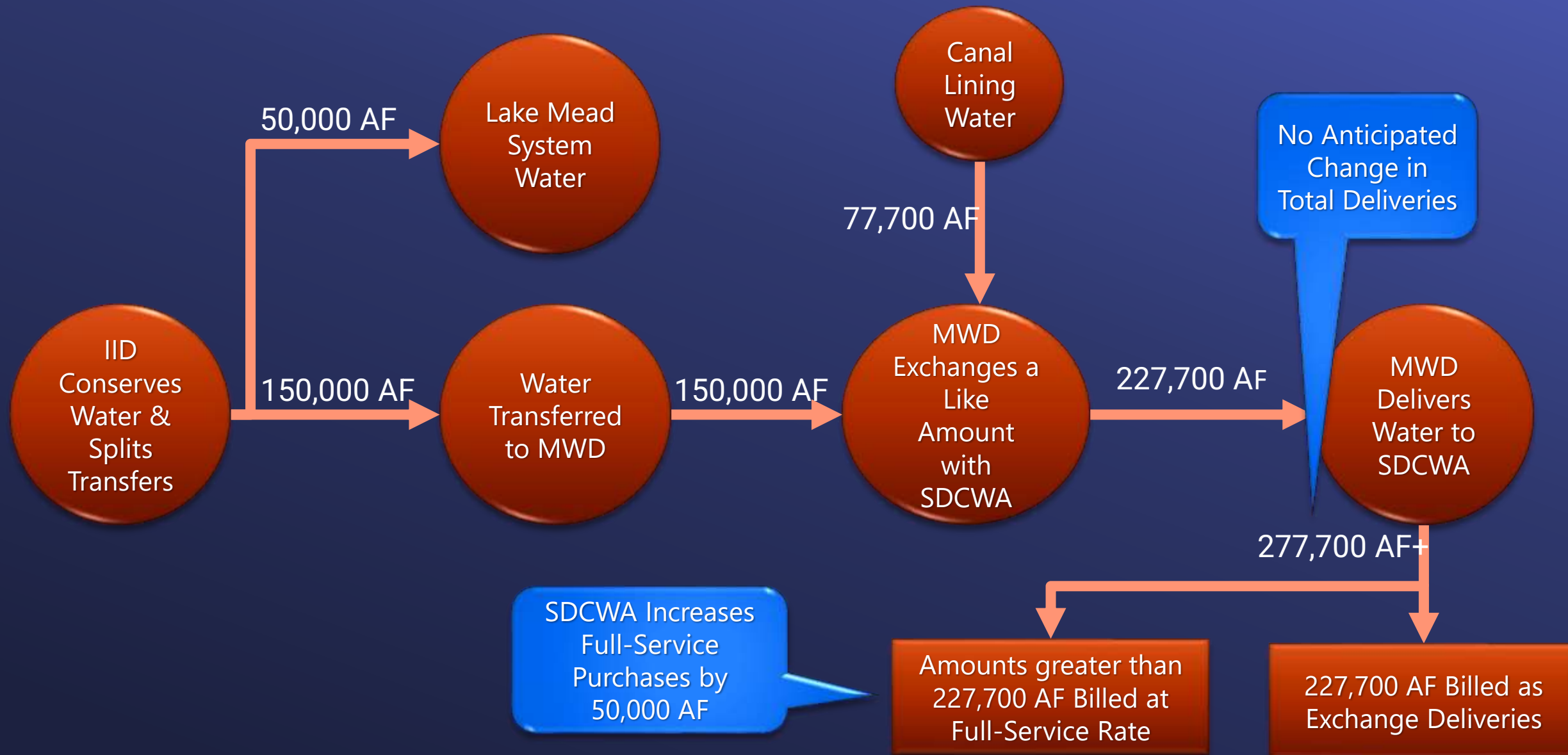
## IID System Conservation Project

- USBR to fund up to 115,000 AF in 2023
- Reduced irrigation water due to:
  - ✓ IID's Existing Conservation Programs
    - Up to 65,000 AF
  - ✓ Water planned for transfer to SDCWA
    - 50,000 AF
- SDCWA would pay IID for 150,000 AF of Transfer Water instead of 200,000 AF of Transfer Water

# Existing Annual Scheduled SDCWA Deliveries for 2023

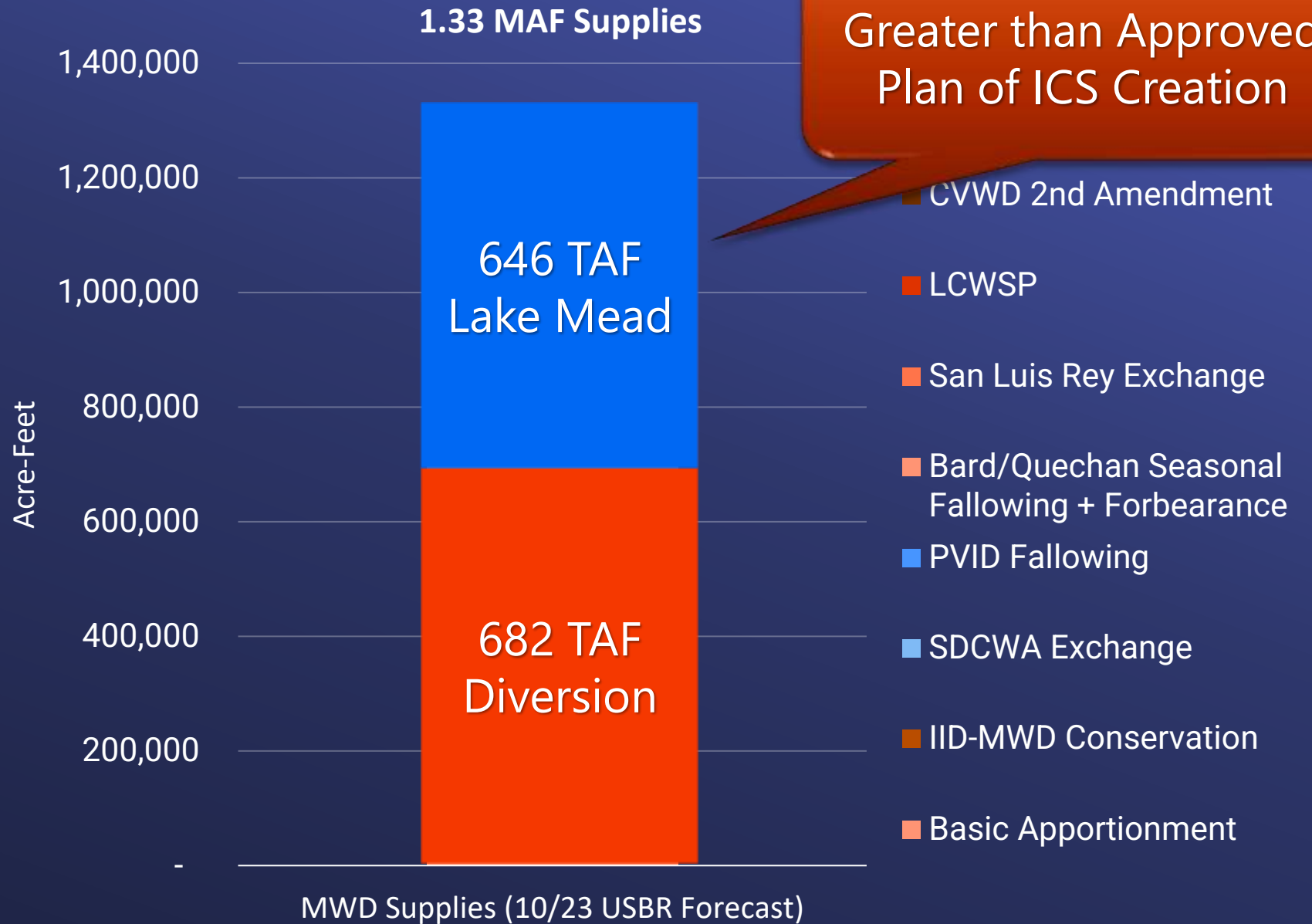


# Proposed Annual Scheduled SDCWA Deliveries for 2023



# Metropolitan Supplies in Absence of LC Conservation Program\*

\* Includes all MWD LC Conservation Program concepts that have been proposed to USBR in Bucket 1, including IID/SDCWA/MWD concept



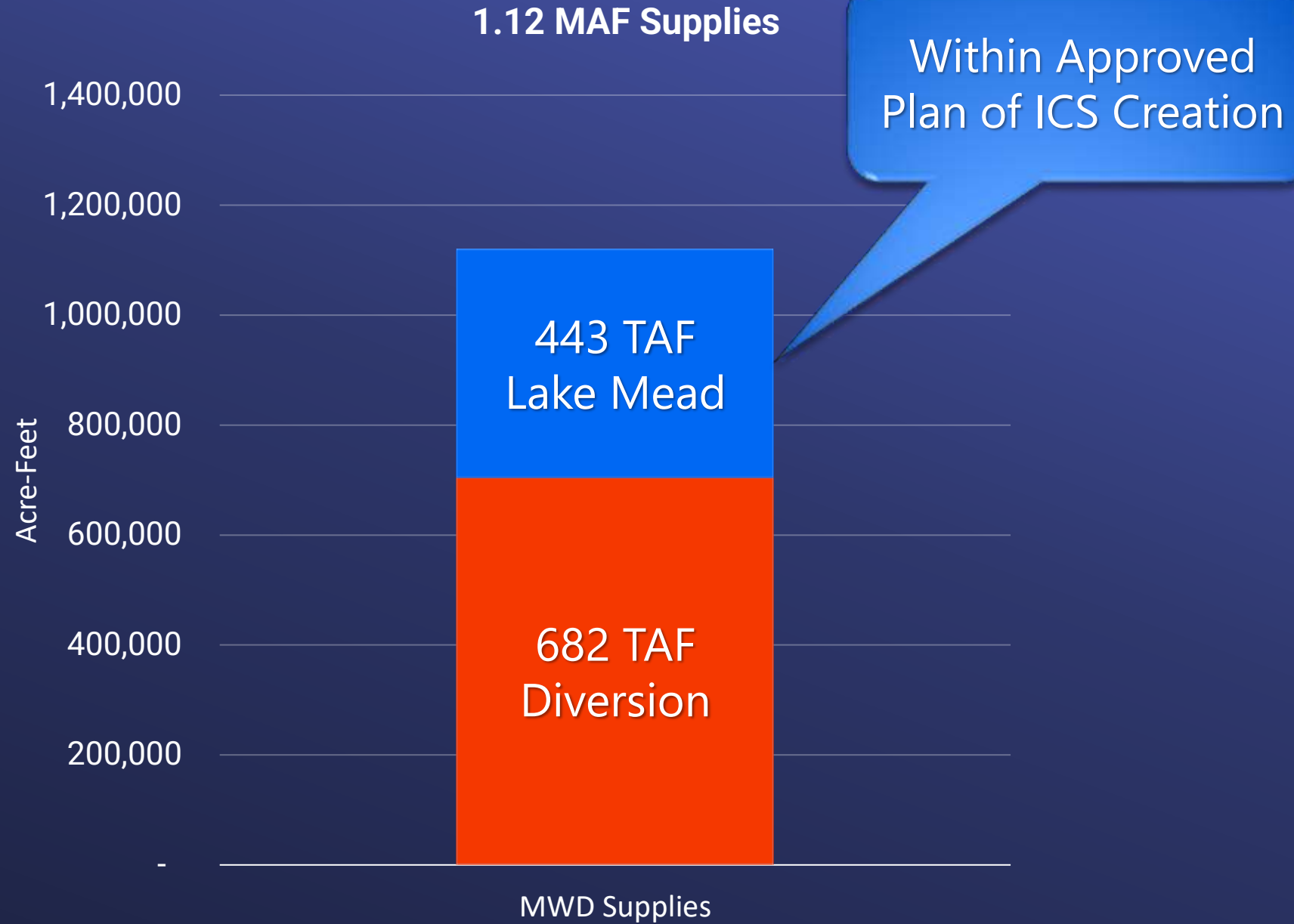
# 2023 MWD Supplies to Decrease for System Conservation Projects\*

\* Includes all MWD LC Conservation Program concepts that have been proposed to USBR in Bucket 1, including IID/SDCWA/MWD concept



# 2023 Expected Colorado River Supply with LC Conservation Program Projects\*

\* Includes all MWD LC Conservation Program concepts that have been proposed to USBR in Bucket 1, including IID/SDCWA/MWD concept



# Benefits Summary

## USBR

- California parties are working together to meet the goals set forth in California's October 2022 letter to conserve water through 2026

## IID

- Conserves a portion of the water that the California parties proposed to conserve through 2026

## SDCWA

- Reduces its purchases of conserved water from IID and purchases an equivalent amount from Metropolitan at the full-service rate

## Metropolitan

- Increases ability of Metropolitan to manage surplus supplies in a wet year that otherwise may not have been captured in a Metropolitan storage account
- Increases revenue by ~\$16 M

# Board Options

- Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and San Diego County Water Authority to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program in 2023.

- Option #2

Direct the General Manager not to enter into agreements under the proposed terms.



# Staff Recommendation

- Option #1





## One Water & Stewardship Committee

Update of the Water Quality Control Plan Including:

# Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Item 6a

November 13, 2023

# Item 6a

## Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

### Subject

Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

### Purpose

The State Water Resources Control Board recently released its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance document for update of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Multiple alternatives including the “Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes” (also known as Voluntary Agreements) are analyzed for environmental and related effects.

### Next Steps

Additional follow-up updates on the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

# Policy Considerations

The inclusion of the "Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes" as an alternative analyzed in the Draft State Water Board staff report is an important milestone in the effort by the State Water Board to consider updates to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan:

- Given the best available science and the risks associated with climate change, what is the best way to promote a sustainable Bay-Delta within Metropolitan's One Water approach?
- How will an updated Bay-Delta Plan affect the development of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W)?

# Agenda

- Water Quality Control Plan Background
- Overview of Alternatives
- Public review and comment periods
- Next Steps



Photo Credit: CalMatters

# Background Water Quality Control Plan (WQCP)

# Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

Shasta Reservoir  
Temperature Management

Export/Inflow Ratio

Cross Channel Gates

Winter/Spring X2

Agriculture/Urban Salinity

Fish and Wildlife Flows

San Joaquin River  
Inflow/Export  
Ratio

State  
Water Quality Control Plan  
(Water Code - SWRCB)



# Background Bay-Delta WQCP



## Why

- Required under the Porter-Cologne and Clean Water Acts

## What

- Identifies beneficial uses of water including municipal, agricultural and environmental uses
- Adopts water quality objectives for the reasonable protection of beneficial uses
- Standards impact SWP and CVP operations
  - Water Right Decision 1641 (D-1641)

## When

- Periodic review required under Clean Water Act and Porter Cologne

State Board update to the

# Water Quality Control Plan



# Metropolitan Board

## Recent Action and Info Items

Phase 2:  
Sacramento  
River &  
Delta  
In-Progress



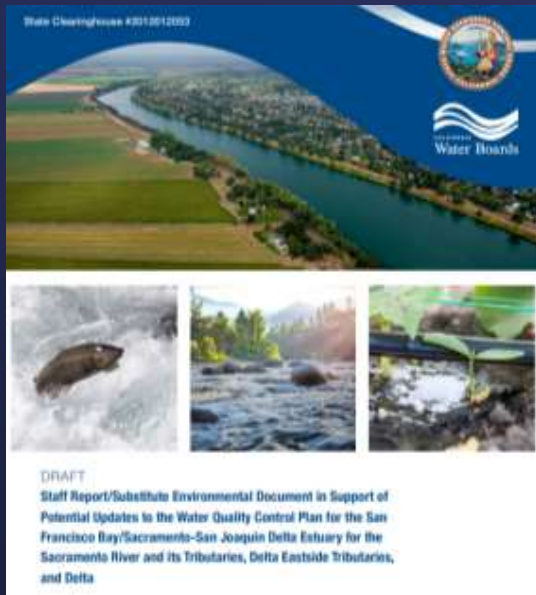


DRAFT

**Staff Report/Substitute Environmental Document in Support of Potential Updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary for the Sacramento River and its Tributaries, Delta Eastside Tributaries, and Delta**

# State Water Board Staff Report

# State Water Board Staff Report Overview



## Purpose

Evaluate potential benefits and impacts of possible alternatives to update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan

## Contents

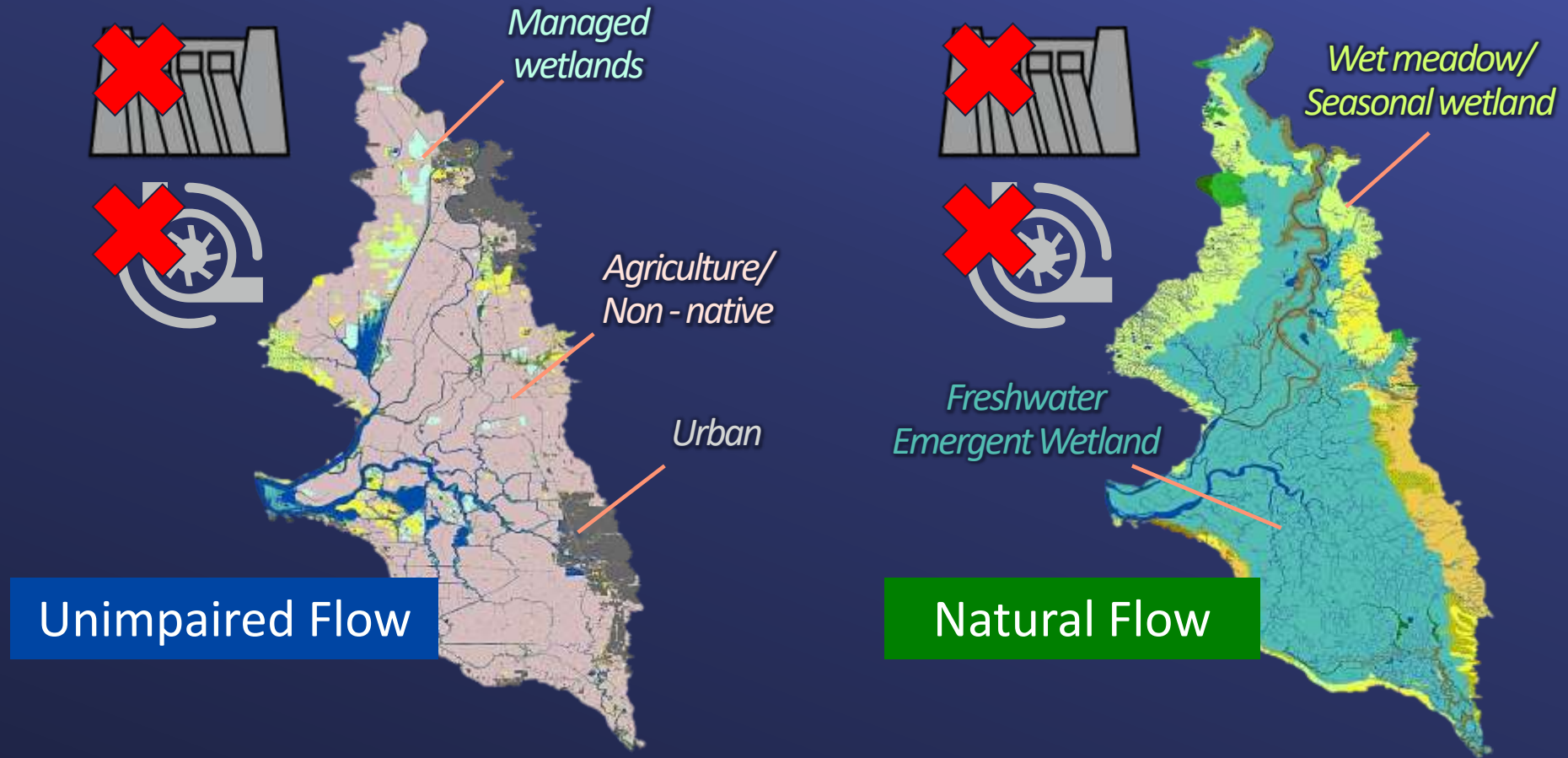
Range of alternatives

- Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes
- Modular Components
- Unimpaired Flow

# What is Unimpaired Flow?

*Unimpaired flow* represents the flow that would be present in a river or stream under current land use patterns in the absence of diversions, storage, releases from storage, water transfers, or other hydrologic modifications

# What is Unimpaired Flow?



*Unimpaired flow* represents the flow that would be present in a river or stream under current land use patterns in the absence of diversions, storage, releases from storage, water transfers, or other hydrologic modifications

Note: Definition from Staff Report section 2.1.1. Delta Diagram Source: San Francisco Estuary Institute Aquatic Science Center

November 13, 2023

One Water & Stewardship Committee

Item 6a Slide 13

127

# State Water Board Staff Report

## Seven+ Alternatives

No  
Action

Alternative 1  
No Project

Unimpaired  
Flow

Preferred  
Alternative  
55%

Alternative 2  
Low Flow  
35%-45%

Alternative 3  
High Flow  
65%-75%

Modular

Alternative 4  
SWP/CVP  
Operations

Alternative 5  
Drought  
Actions

Healthy Rivers  
& Landscapes

Alternative 6

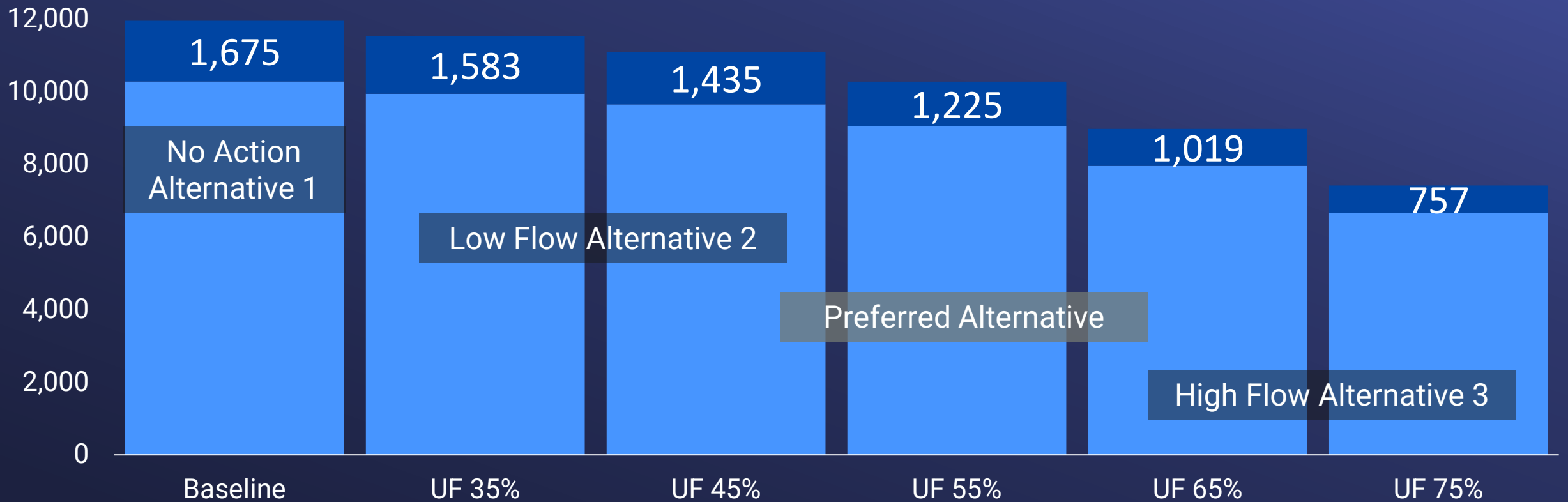


# Unimpaired Flow Approach

## Preferred and Alternatives 1, 2, 3



### Average Statewide Bay-Delta Supplies (Thousand Acre-Feet)



Note: values from Staff Report, Table 6.4.1.

Remainder of State includes: Sacramento River Watershed, Delta Eastside Tributaries, Delta, San Francisco Bay Area, Central Coast and San Joaquin Valley

# Modular Components

## Alternatives 4, 5, 6

### Interior Delta Flows/Outflow

- Alternative 4a – Interior Delta Flow and Fall Delta Outflow
- Alternative 4b – Head of Old River Barrier
- Alternative 4c – San Joaquin River Export Constraint

### Modular Drought Alternatives

- Alternative 5a – Instream Flow Protection Provision
- Alternative 5b – Shared Water Shortage Provision

### VA Specific Modular Alternative

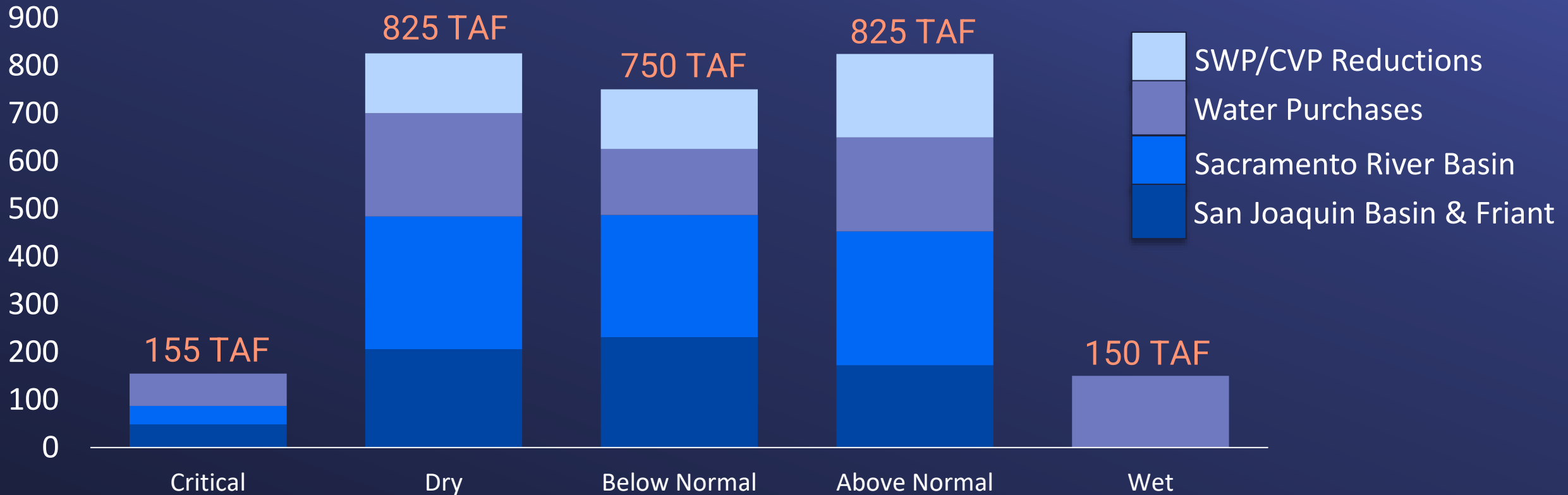
- Alternative 6a – Protection of Baseline Flows<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Alternative 6a is titled “Protection of Voluntary Agreement Flows” in staff report.

# Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Alternative 6

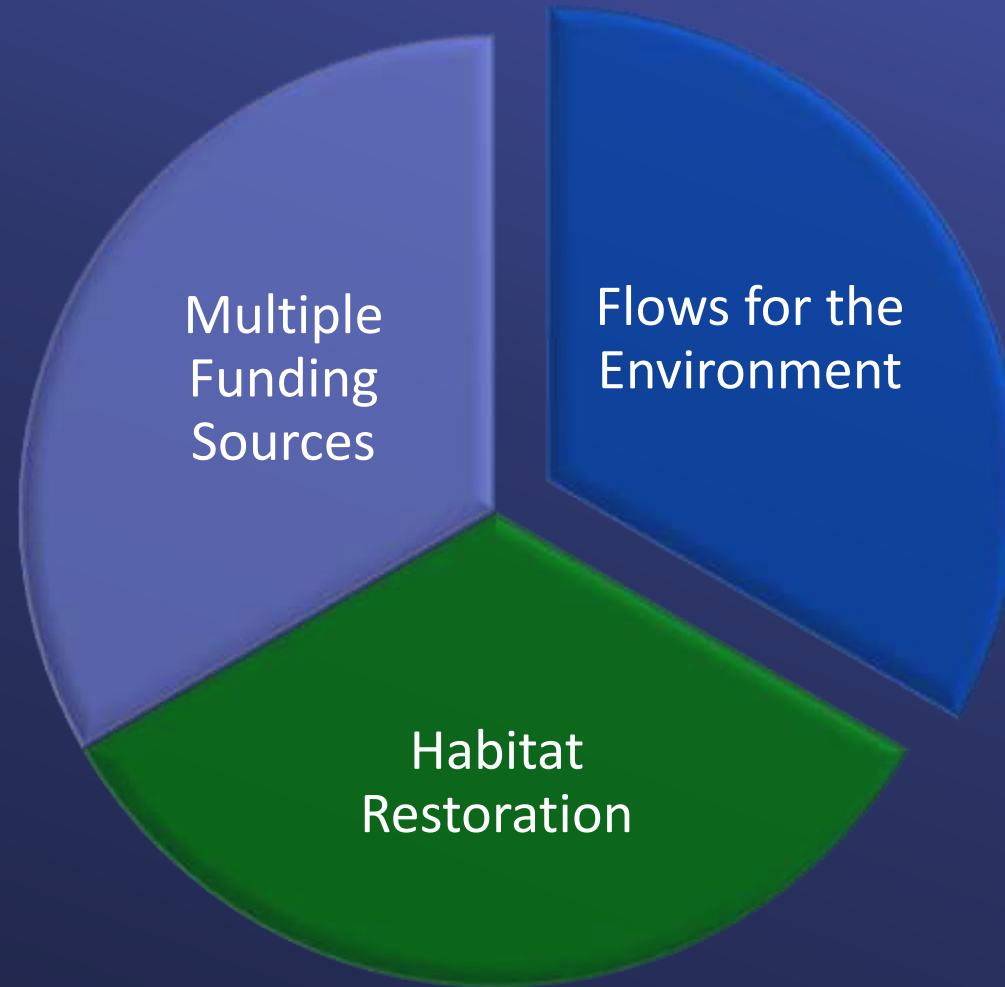
## Flow Contributions by Water Year Type (Thousand Acre-Feet)



Note: values consolidated from Appendix G1, Voluntary Agreement Proposal, Table 1

# Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

## Alternative 6



### Aligns with:


Water Resilience Portfolio

State's priorities in Executive Orders (Drought and Biodiversity)

State's desire to fund multiple benefit programs

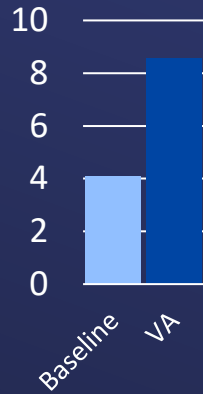
# Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

## Salmon Habitat

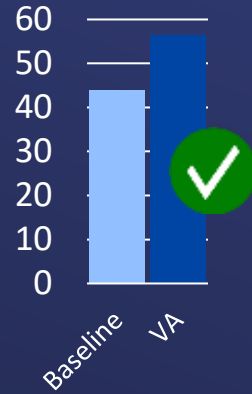
 Checkmark indicates watershed meeting habitat required to support 25% of salmon doubling goal<sup>1</sup>

Spawning  
Habitat  
(acres)

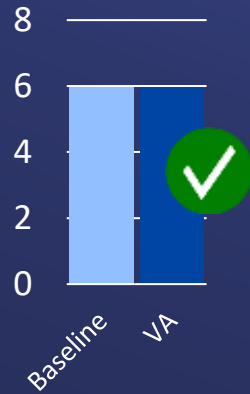
American River



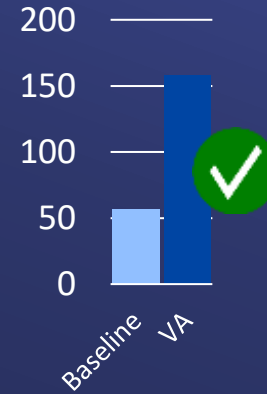
Feather



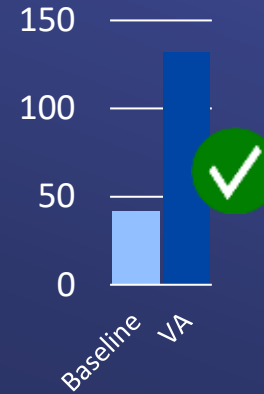
Mokelumne



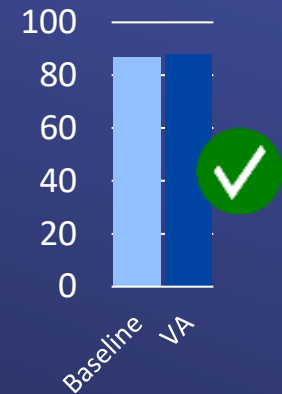
Sac River - FR



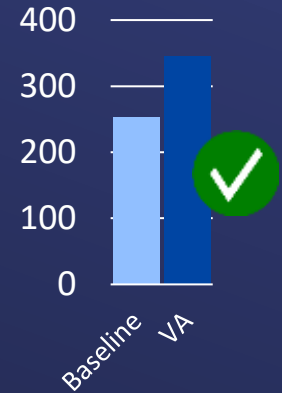
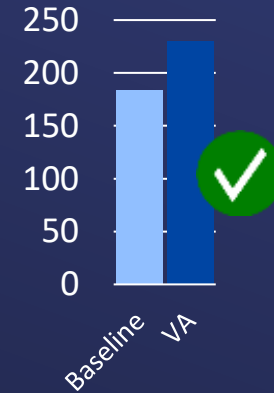
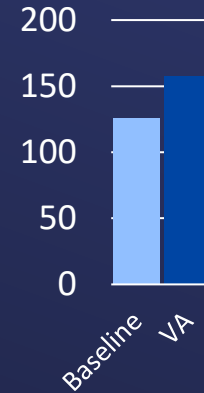
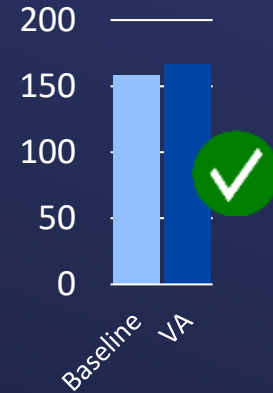
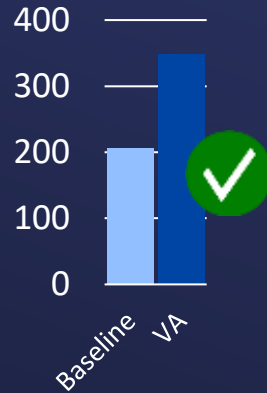
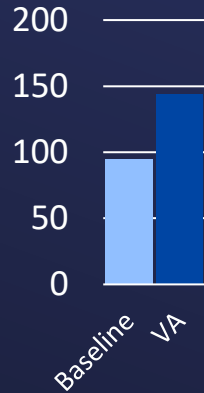
Sac River - SR



Yuba



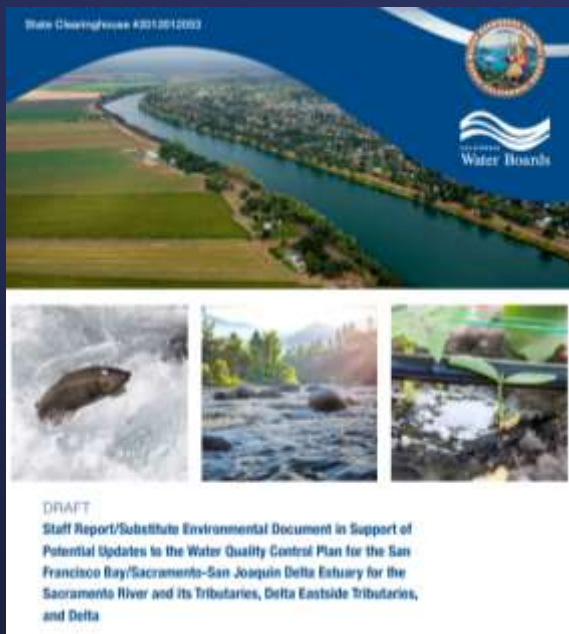
Rearing  
Habitat  
(acres)



Note: values consolidated from Tables 9.6-1 and 9.6-2. The Sacramento and Feather River results do not include the 20,000 acres of floodplain restoration on the Sutter Bypass.

<sup>1</sup>Achieve a doubling of natural production of chinook salmon from the average production of 1967-1991, consistent with provisions of State and federal law. See Appendix G2-5.1.2

# Staff Report



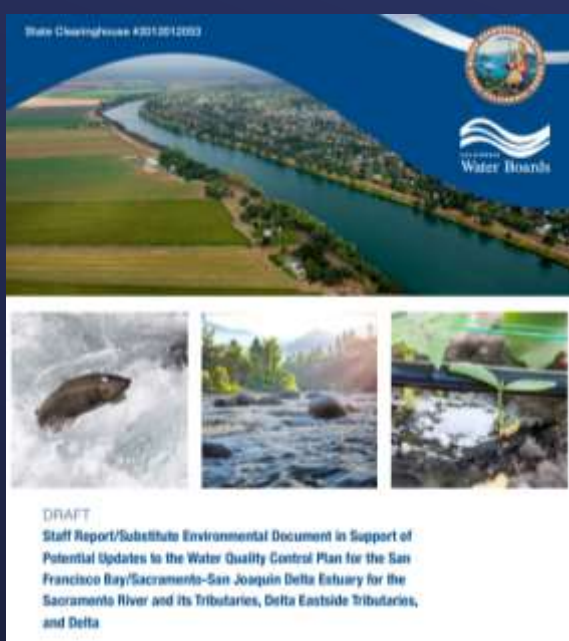
## Preliminary Concerns, Potential Focus of Comments

- Detail regarding alternative actions and narrative objectives
- Show detailed modeling results and assumptions
- Address feasibility, effectiveness and cost of mitigation
- Explain basis for assignment of responsibility and implementation process for each alternative
- Regulatory alignment with in-progress and existing permits, e.g. management of reservoir cold water pools



# Public Review and Next Steps

# Staff Report



## Public Review Schedule

- Environmental document released – Sept. 28
- Water Board Staff Workshop – Oct. 19
- Water Board Staff Workshop, Modeling – Nov. 2
- Public Hearing #1 – Nov. 17
- Public Hearing #2 – Dec. 1
- Public Hearing #3 – Dec. 11
- End of Public Comment Period – Dec. 15



# Metropolitan Written Comments

## Next Steps



- **December 15th**  
Metropolitan will submit a written comment letter consistent with the Board's support of the Voluntary Agreements
- **December 1st**  
Metropolitan comments will be shared with Member Agencies at the Member Agency Manager's Meeting

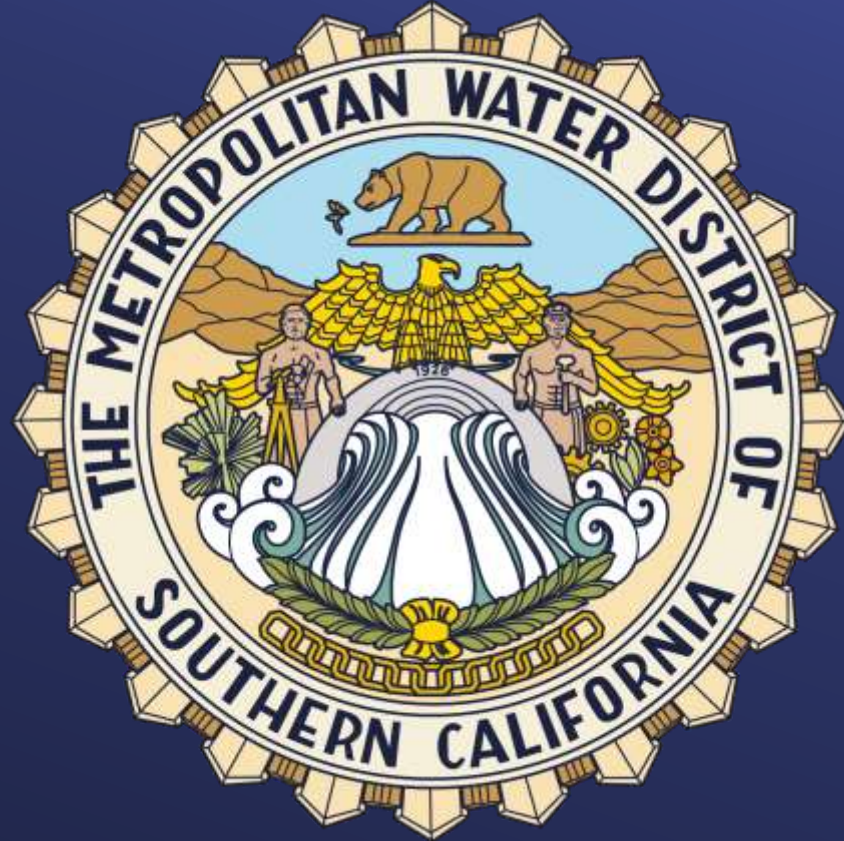
# State Water Board Timeline

## Bay-Delta WQCP Update

### Next Steps 2024



- **Early to mid 2024:** Draft WQCP changes for public review and comment, including program of implementation
- **Late 2024:** Develop responses to comments and propose edits to the WQCP for Water Board consideration
- **Late 2024:** Water Board to consider approval





## One Water and Stewardship Committee

# Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Changing the 2007 Colorado River Guidelines

Item 6b

November 13, 2023

## Item #6b

Revised Draft  
Environmental Impact  
Statement for  
Changing the 2007  
Colorado River  
Guidelines

### Subject

Overview of changes in the Revised Draft Supplemental Impact Environmental Statement (SEIS) analyzing proposed changes to operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead through 2026.

### Purpose

The Revised Draft SEIS includes improved hydrologic conditions since last fall and analyzes the Lower Basin Plan to conserve an additional 3 million acre-feet of water through 2026.

### Next Steps

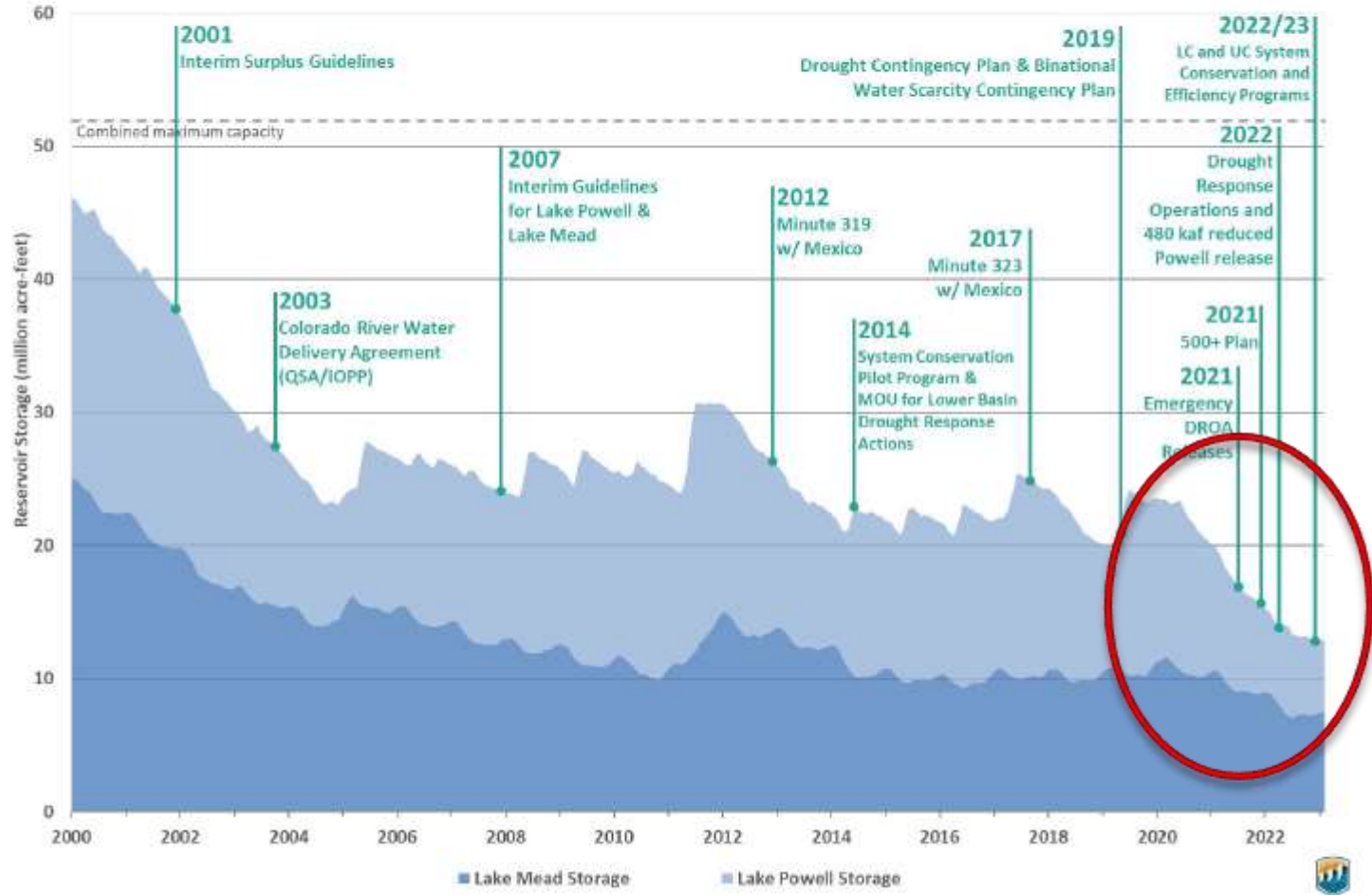
- Public comment period ends December 11, 2023
- Final SEIS and Record of Decision - Spring 2024

Revised Draft SEIS

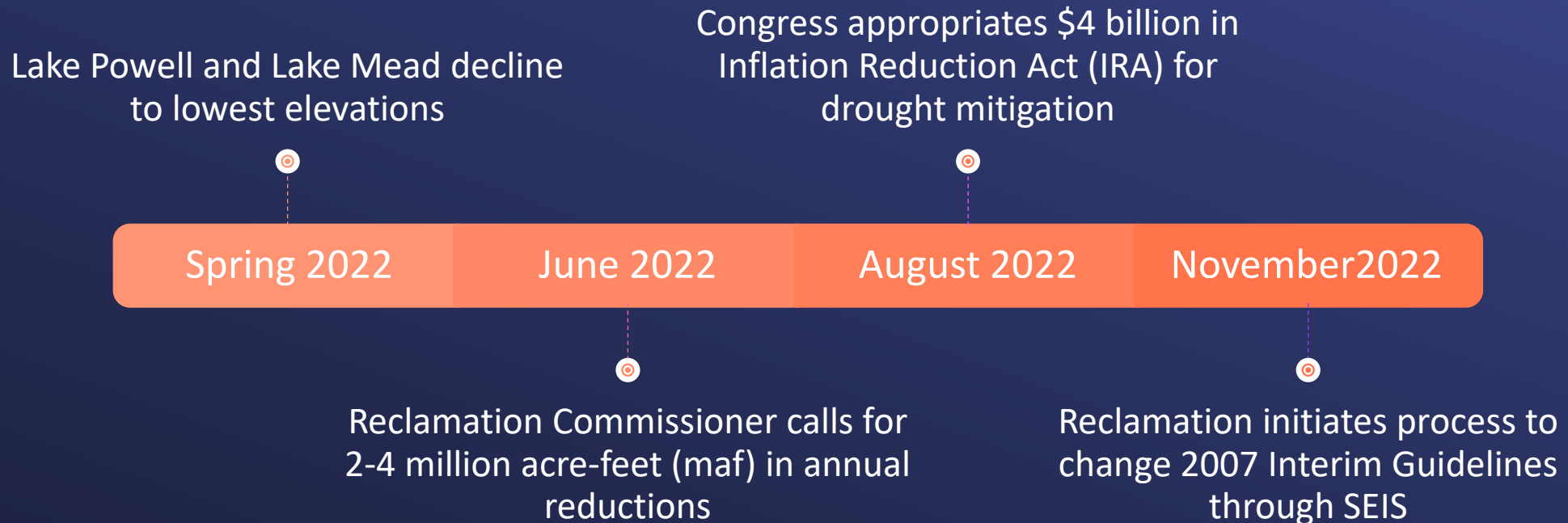
# Lake Powell & Lake Mead Reservoir Elevations

Proposed changes to reservoir operations in advance of the expiration of the 2007 Guidelines in 2026 after three years of rapidly declining elevations in Lake Powell and in Lake Mead

Figure 1-2  
Actions and Agreements to Protect Lake Powell and Lake Mead Reservoir Elevations (since 2000)



# Developments in 2022



# Developments in 2023





April Draft SEIS

# Draft SEIS Alternatives

Draft SEIS did not identify a preferred alternative

Alternative 1: reduces deliveries in Lower Basin according to priority

Alternative 2: reduces deliveries to all Lower Basin water users on a pro-rata basis

No Action Alternative

# Action Alternative Impacts on Metropolitan

## Alternative 1: Priority

- Metropolitan takes increasingly large shortages when Lower Basin shortages above 2.083 maf

## Alternative 2: Pro-rata basis

- Metropolitan takes pro-rata shortages based on Lake Mead elevations
- Highest percentage of reduction: 15.5%

Revised Draft SEIS

# Modeling Assumptions & Analysis

*Preferred alternative has not been selected yet. The preferred alternative will be identified in the Final SEIS.*

## Revisions to April 2023 Draft SEIS

- Updates hydrology to include wet winter 2022/23
- Analyzes effects of the Lower Basin Proposal
- Eliminates Action Alternatives 1 and 2 from detailed analysis in the revised Draft SEIS due to improved hydrology and the addition of in the Lower Basin Proposal

Revised Draft SEIS

# Lower Basin Plan Terms



## Other Provisions

- Existing shortage and Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) contribution obligations under the 2007 Interim Guidelines, Lower Basin DCP, and Treaty Minute 323 will remain in place
- Reclamation may act independently to protect
  - Lake Mead elevation 1,000 feet
  - Lake Powell elevation 3,500 feet
- Annual releases from Glen Canyon Dam may be reduced to protect Lake Powell elevation 3,500 feet to no less than 6.0 maf

# Lower Basin Proposal



MINIMUM OF 3 MAF OF  
SYSTEM CONSERVATION IN  
2023-2026



AT LEAST 1.5 MAF BY END OF  
2024



UP TO 2.3 MAF  
COMPENSATED UNDER IRA

# Record-Setting Conservation in Lower Basin

- In 2023, Arizona, Nevada, and California on track to voluntarily conserve 1~ maf
- In California, deliveries of Colorado River water expected to be the lowest since 1949 – 700,000 af below California’s 4.4 maf allocation
- In Metropolitan’s service area, Colorado River water use was the third lowest in 60 years



# Next Steps

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Staff reviewing Revised  
Draft SEIS

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Comments due  
December 11, 2023

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Final SEIS and Record of  
Decision – Spring 2024







● **Water Surplus and Drought Management Update** *Conditions as of 10/19/2023*

**Summary**

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This report provides highlights for water year (WY) 2022-2023 hydrologic conditions, and an accounting of water supply, demand, and preliminary storage balances for calendar year (CY) 2023, as of October 19, 2023. Updated supply and hydrologic information will be provided during the oral report in November.

**2023 Highlights:**

Water Year 2022-2023 began on the heels of an exceptionally dry period in the Western United States, marked by persistent dry conditions in October and November 2022. However, improved hydrologic conditions emerged in late December and persisted through the winter months leading to a significant turnaround in the water year’s outcome. By the water year’s end, it had become one of the wettest periods in recent history for both northern California and the Colorado River Basin. The following are notable highlights for the year:

**State Water Project Supplies**

- A series of atmospheric river storms and cold temperatures boosted the State snowpack allowing for the State Water Project (SWP) allocation to increase to 100 percent of Table A, the first time since 2006.
- Article 21 surplus supplies were also made available as San Luis Reservoir filled.
- Northern Sierra snowpack peaked with twice the snow water equivalent amount making it one of the largest snowpacks on record.
- Above normal runoff into the Sacramento River - more than twice the amount of the previous year.

**Colorado River Aqueduct Supplies**

- Snowpack in the Colorado River Basin was one of the largest in the past thirty years.
- Above normal inflows into Lake Powell - more than twice the amount of the previous year.
- Water usage by the higher priority water users is trending low.
- Improved hydrologic conditions eliminated the risk of Metropolitan making Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) Contributions in 2024 and 2025 and reduced the probability of Metropolitan making DCP contributions in 2026.

**Demands on Metropolitan**

- Lowest projected combined member agency consumptive and replenishment demands on Metropolitan for CY 2023 since 1979.
- Continued conservation and behavioral water use reductions following the drought.

**Water Management Tools**

- Rescinded the Water Shortage Emergency Condition for the SWP Dependent Area and terminated the Emergency Water Conservation Program due to improved hydrologic conditions.
- Pre-delivered water to local storage managed by its member agencies through the Cyclic Program and initiated the Cyclic Cost-Offset Program to help member agencies offset the additional costs incurred from capturing increased volumes of water into their cyclic accounts.
- Reduced obligations to return and/or deliver water by (1) delivering water to member agencies who deferred deliveries through the Reverse Cyclic Program, (2) returned water to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for human health and safety supply received in CY 2022 and for flexible storage takes in CY 2021 and 2022, and (3) delivered water to Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District.
- Stored surplus supply in Metropolitan’s dry-year storage reserves. Metropolitan’s dry-year storage reserves at the end of CY 2023 is projected to be approximately 3.4 million acre-feet (MAF), a record-high storage balance for Metropolitan.

**Purpose**

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Informational

**Attachments**

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Attachment 1: Projected 2023 WSDM Storage Detail (100 percent SWP Table A allocation)

Attachment 2: Future Contributions and Obligations and Cyclic Program

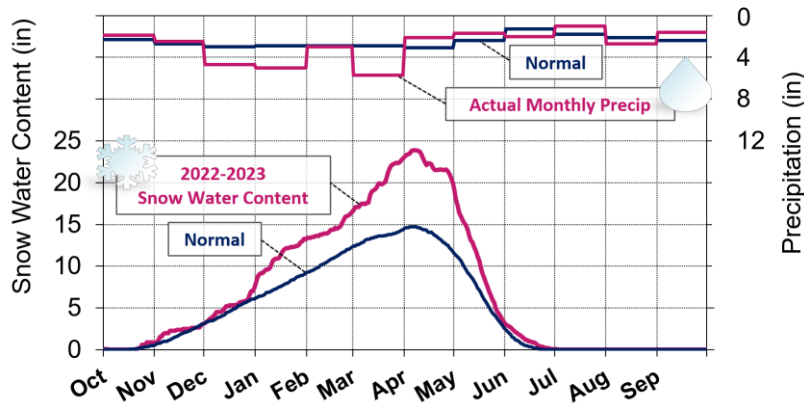
**Detailed Report**

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This Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) report summarizes the hydrologic conditions for WY 2022-2023 and provides the water supply and demand conditions for CY 2023.

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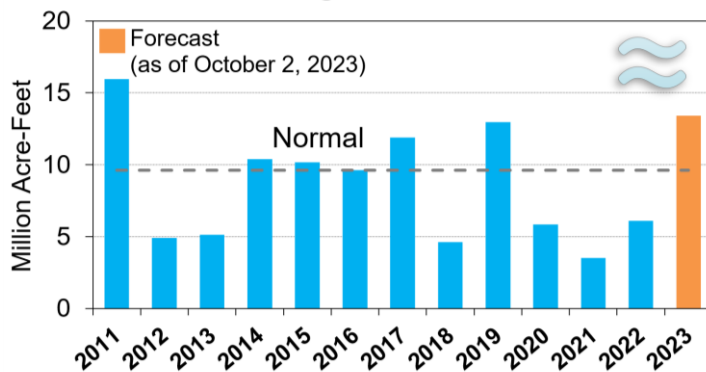
Upper Colorado Basin Snowpack & Precipitation



Upper Colorado River Basin

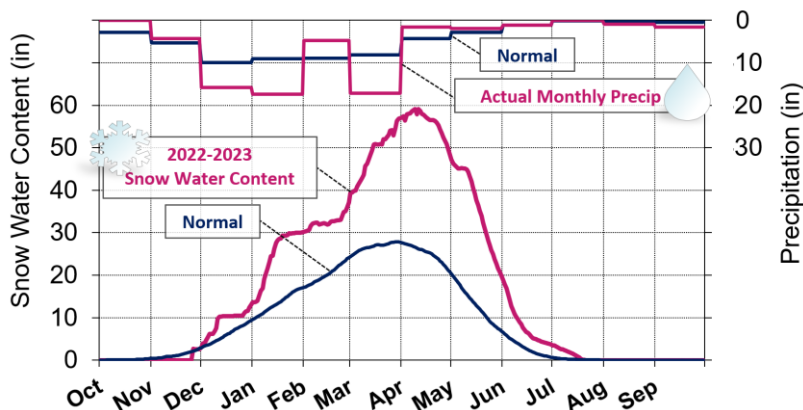
- ❄ Peak snowpack water content: 23.9 inches or 164% of April 1 normal.
- ◆ Above normal precipitation: 33.9 inches or 114% of normal.

Powell Unregulated Water Year Inflow



- ≈ Above normal runoff into Lake Powell: 13.4 MAF or 140% of normal.

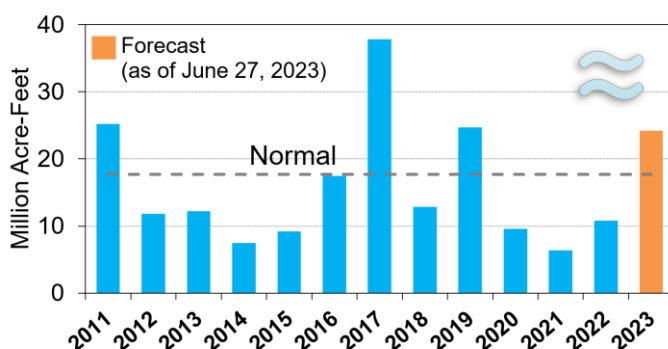
Northern Sierra Snowpack & 8 Station Precipitation



Sacramento River Basin

- ❄ Peak snowpack water content: 59.1 inches or 199% of April 1 normal.
- ◆ Above normal precipitation: 66.6 inches or 125% of normal.

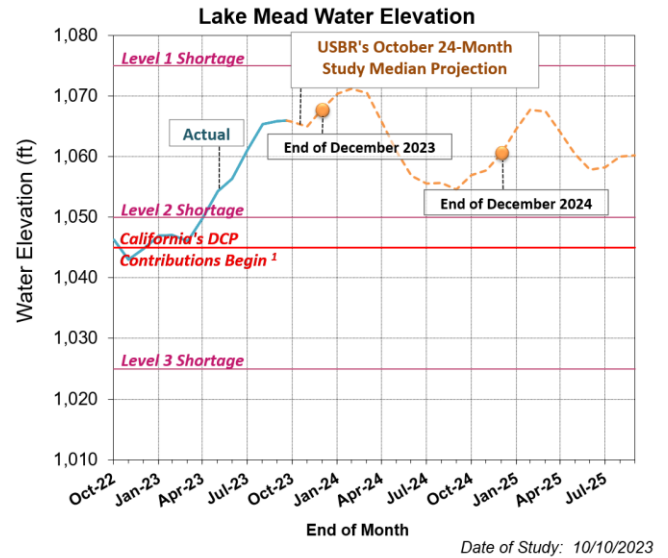
Sacramento River Water Year Runoff



- ≈ Above normal runoff into the Sacramento River: 24.1 MAF or 137% of normal.

<b>CRA Supplies</b>	<b>Acre-Feet (AF)</b>
Basic Apportionment	550,000
IID/ MWD Conservation Program	105,000
CVWD - 2nd Amendment, Exchange of Additional Water	57,000
PVID Following Program	38,000
Exchange w/ SDCWA (IID/Canal Lining)	278,000
Exchange w/ USBR (San Luis Rey Tribe)	16,000
Lower Colorado Water Supply Project	9,000
Bard Seasonal Following Program	5,000
Quechan Diversion Forbearance	0
Quechan Seasonal Following Program <sup>1</sup>	0
Higher Priority Water Use Adjustment	190,000
<b>Total CRA Supplies<sup>2,3</sup></b>	<b>1,248,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rounded to the nearest thousand. Supply is 281 AF.  
<sup>2</sup> Per United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Forecast (10/16/2023) and is likely to change based on approval of proposals for system conservation, resulting in wet water remaining in Lake Mead.  
<sup>3</sup> Total may not sum due to rounding.

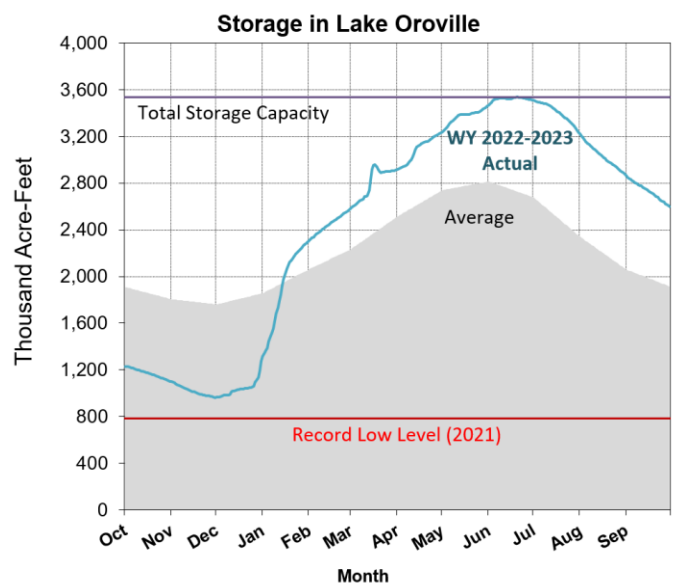


<sup>1</sup> Metropolitan is required to make Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) contributions in the following year if the August 24-month Study projects Lake Mead’s elevation is at or below 1,045 feet on January 1. Since the August 2023 24-month Study projected Lake Mead’s elevation to be above 1,045 on January 1, 2024, Metropolitan is not required to make DCP contributions in 2024. This figure reflects the latest 24-month study (October) available at the time of this report.

- Lake Mead began the water year with 7.33 MAF in storage (28 percent of total capacity). By the end of the water year, Lake Mead gained 1.54 MAF in storage ending the water year with 8.87 MAF in storage (34 percent of capacity).
- The Lower Basin is at a Level 2a shortage in CY 2023. Under this level, Metropolitan is not impacted.
- The Lower Basin will be in a Level 1 shortage in CY 2024, an improvement over last year’s determination. This determination does not affect Metropolitan’s operations.

<b>SWP Supplies</b>	<b>Acre-Feet</b>
Table A (100% SWP allocation)	1,912,000
Port Hueneme	2,000
Unbalanced Exchange <sup>1</sup>	3,000
Article 21	134,000
Purchase of SDCWA’s Semitropic Supply	4,000
<b>Total SWP Supplies<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2,055,000</b>
<b>Total Supplies (CRA + SWP) (Prior to storage actions)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>3,303,000</b>

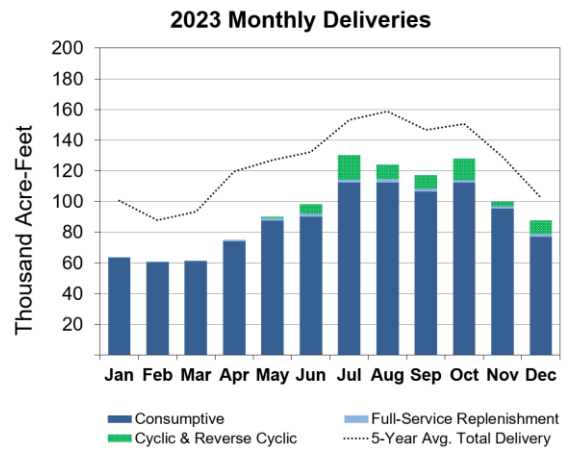
<sup>1</sup> Unbalanced exchange with the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency.  
<sup>2</sup> Total may not sum due to rounding.



- The SWP Table A allocation for CY 2023 is 100 percent following the three driest years on record.
- Lake Oroville started the water year with 1.23 MAF in storage (35 percent of total capacity or 64 percent of the historical average) and was full in June. By the end of the water year, Lake Oroville gained 1.37 MAF of water ending the water year with 2.60 MAF (73 percent of capacity or 136 percent of the historical average).

Current Demand	Acre-Feet
Member Agency Consumptive <sup>1</sup>	1,051,000
Member Agency Replenishment	16,000
Coachella Valley Water District Agreement	135,000
Imperial Irrigation District Return <sup>2</sup>	0
Exchange w/ San Luis Rey Tribe	16,000
System and Storage Losses	103,000
Cyclic Deliveries <sup>3</sup>	60,000
2022 Reverse Cyclic Deliveries	17,000
2022 Human Health & Safety Water Return	134,000
<b>Total Demands <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>1,532,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes exchange w/ SDCWA (IID/Canal Lining) and CUP sales.  
<sup>2</sup> Per USBR Forecast (10/16/2023).  
<sup>3</sup> Includes an estimate of 10,000 AF of deliveries through the Cyclic Cost-Offset Program.  
<sup>4</sup> Total may not sum due to rounding.

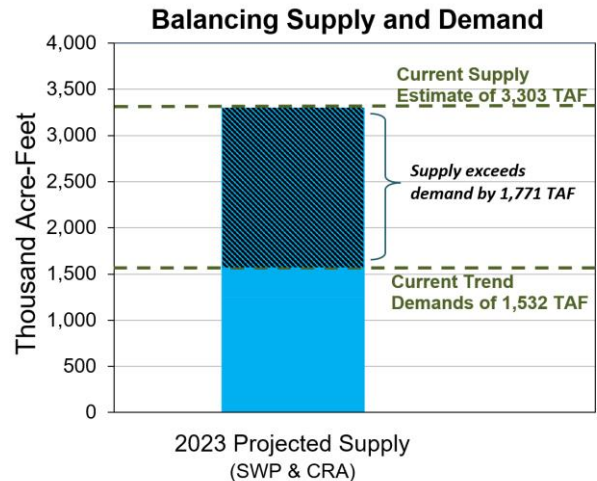


Due to above average in-region precipitation and local supplies, member agency deliveries for CY 2023 are projected to be the lowest going back to 1979.

**MANAGING REGIONAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND**

Supply/Demand Balance	Acre-Feet
Total Supplies	3,303,000
Total Demands	1,532,000
<b>Current Balance Estimate <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,771,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Total may not sum due to rounding.



**WSDM Strategies/Actions**

The following summarizes the WSDM strategies/actions taken to address the estimated supply/demand balance in 2023.

- Balanced the use of available imported supplies from both the SWP and Colorado River.
- Pre-delivered water to local storage managed by its member agencies through the Cyclic Program and initiated the Cyclic Cost-Offset Program to help manage surplus supply by offsetting member agency cost associated with taking additional Metropolitan deliveries.
- Delivered water to member agencies who deferred deliveries through the Reverse Cyclic Program and returned water to DWR for human health and safety supply received in CY 2022 and for flexible storage takes in CY 2021 and 2022.
- Delivered water to Desert Water Agency/Coachella Valley Water District.
- Stored surplus supplies in a manner to achieve equitable reliability across the region.
- Continued to utilize and manage storage assets to satisfy current and future year demands, with special emphasis on rebuilding storage for SWP Dependent Area.
- Metropolitan is projecting to store an estimated 1.20 MAF of the 1.77 MAF of surplus supplies available in CY 2023. Metropolitan’s dry-year storage reserves at the end of CY 2023 is projected to be approximately 3.4 MAF, a record-high storage balance for Metropolitan.

## 2023 WSDM Storage Detail

	1/1/2023 Storage Levels	Net Projected Storage Action Put (+) / Take (-) <sup>1</sup>	Projected End of Year 2023 Balance <sup>2</sup>	2023 Total Storage Capacity
<b>WSDM Storage</b>				
<b>Colorado River Aqueduct Delivery System</b>	1,128,000	416,000	1,544,000	1,657,000
Lake Mead ICS	1,128,000 <sup>3</sup>	416,000	1,544,000	1,657,000
<b>State Water Project System</b>	<b>502,000</b>	<b>486,000</b>	<b>988,000</b>	<b>1,889,000</b>
MWD & DWCV Carryover	39,000	258,000	297,000	350,000 <sup>4</sup>
MWD Articles 14(b) and 12(e)	0	0	0	N/A
Castaic and Perris DWR Flex Storage	3,000	216,000	219,000	219,000
Arvin Edison Storage Program	119,000	-19,000 <sup>5</sup>	100,000	350,000
Semitropic Storage Program	158,000	33,000	191,000	350,000
Kern Delta Storage Program	137,000	-12,000	125,000	250,000
Mojave Storage Program	19,000	0	19,000	330,000
AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program <sup>6</sup>	27,000	10,000 <sup>7</sup>	37,000	40,000 <sup>8</sup>
<b>In-Region Supplies and WSDM Actions</b>	<b>698,000</b>	<b>344,000</b>	<b>1,042,000</b>	<b>1,246,000</b>
Diamond Valley Lake	494,000	285,000	779,000	810,000
Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner	194,000	8,000	202,000	226,000
Conjunctive Use Programs (CUP) <sup>9</sup>	10,000	51,000	61,000	210,000
<b>Other Programs</b>	<b>662,000</b>	<b>-38,000</b>	<b>624,000</b>	<b>1,181,000</b>
Other Emergency Storage	381,000	0	381,000	381,000
DWCV Advanced Delivery Account	281,000	-38,000	243,000	800,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,990,000</b>	<b>1,208,000</b>	<b>4,198,000</b>	<b>5,973,000</b>
Emergency	750,000	0	750,000	750,000
<b>Total WSDM Storage (AF) <sup>10</sup></b>	<b>2,240,000</b>	<b>1,208,000</b>	<b>3,448,000</b>	<b>5,223,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Storage program losses included where applicable.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary end of year balances, subject to DWR adjustments and USBR final accounting in May 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Reflects USBR's final accounting for 2022, released May 2023. This amount is net of the water Metropolitan stored for IID in Lake Mead in an ICS sub-account.

<sup>4</sup> Total storage capacity varies year-to-year based on prior year remaining balance added to current year contractual limits.

<sup>5</sup> Via exchange of surface water supplies.

<sup>6</sup> Includes water previously stored under the AVEK Storage Program.

<sup>7</sup> Represents early recharge in the AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program.

<sup>8</sup> Reflects a portion of the AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program's total storage capacity. The total storage capacity will be reflected once the program is fully constructed. Anticipated to be fully operational by 2027.

<sup>9</sup> Total of all CUP programs including IEUA/TVMWD (Chino Basin); Long Beach (Central Basin); Long Beach (Lakewood); Foothill (Raymond and Monk Hill); MWDOC (Orange County Basin); Three Valleys (Live Oak); Three Valleys (Upper Claremont); and Western.

<sup>10</sup> Total WSDM Storage level subject to change based on accounting adjustments.

## Future Contributions and Obligations and Cyclic Programs

**Table 1: Future Obligations <sup>1</sup>**

	Beginning of Year 2023 Balance	Projected End of Year 2023 Balance
Water Stored for IID under the California ICS Agreement and its Amendment or the 2021 Settlement Agreement with IID	266,000	266,000 <sup>2</sup>
Storage and Interstate Release Agreement with Southern Nevada Water Authority	330,000	330,000 <sup>3</sup>
Coachella Valley Water District Agreement	210,000	105,000 <sup>4</sup>
DWR Flex Storage	216,000 <sup>5</sup>	0
2022 Reverse Cyclic	25,000 <sup>6</sup>	8,000
2022 Human Health & Safety	134,000 <sup>7</sup>	0
<b>Total (AF)</b>	<b>1,181,000</b>	<b>709,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rounded to the nearest thousand. Subject to change based on accounting adjustments.

<sup>2</sup> Reflects final accounting under USBR's 2022 Water Accounting Report released May 15, 2023. IID can request return in any year, conditional on agreement terms.

<sup>3</sup> Up to 30,000 AF per year.

<sup>4</sup> Obligation must be met by the end of 2026.

<sup>5</sup> Flexible storage withdrawals from Castaic Lake and Lake Perris must be returned within five calendar years. Metropolitan is required to return 170,000 AF by 2026 for withdrawals in 2021. Metropolitan is required to return 46,000 AF by 2027 for withdrawals in 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Deferred delivery from Calleguas Municipal Water District, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, and Three Valleys Municipal Water District. Metropolitan is required to deliver water to the member agencies by 2027.

<sup>7</sup> Metropolitan's CY 2022 Human Health & Safety deliveries. This water must be returned by 2027.

**Table 2: Potential Magnitude of California's Drought Contingency Plan Contribution**

	2023	2024	2025	2026
Likelihood of Required California Drought Contingency Plan Contribution <sup>1</sup>	0%	0%	0%	13%
Average Metropolitan DCP Contribution When Contributions Are Required (AF)	0	0	0	214,000

<sup>1</sup> Results from USBR's October 2023 Colorado River Mid-Term Modeling System (CRMMS) model run.

**Table 3: Cyclic Program Activity**

CY	Starting Balance (AF)	CY Actions (AF)				Ending Balance (AF)
		Cyclic Pre-Delivery	Cyclic Cost-Offset Pre-Delivery	Total Pre-Delivery	Sale Out of Cyclic to Date	
2019	51,000	147,000	19,000	166,000	91,000	126,000
2020	126,000	2,000	0	2,000	50,000	79,000
2021	79,000	0	0	0	28,000	51,000
2022	51,000	0	0	0	27,000	24,000
2023 <sup>1</sup>	24,000	16,000	7,000	23,000	5,000	42,000

<sup>1</sup> This table is updated with actual 2023 Cyclic Program activity on a monthly basis.





One Water and Stewardship Committee

# Update on WSDM

Item 6c

November 13, 2023

# Item 6c

## Update on WSDM

### Subject

Update on WSDM

### Purpose

Provide updated supply and hydrologic information

# Water Year 2023: Drought to Abundance

*Shasta Lake (October 2022)*



*Lake Oroville (October 2022)*



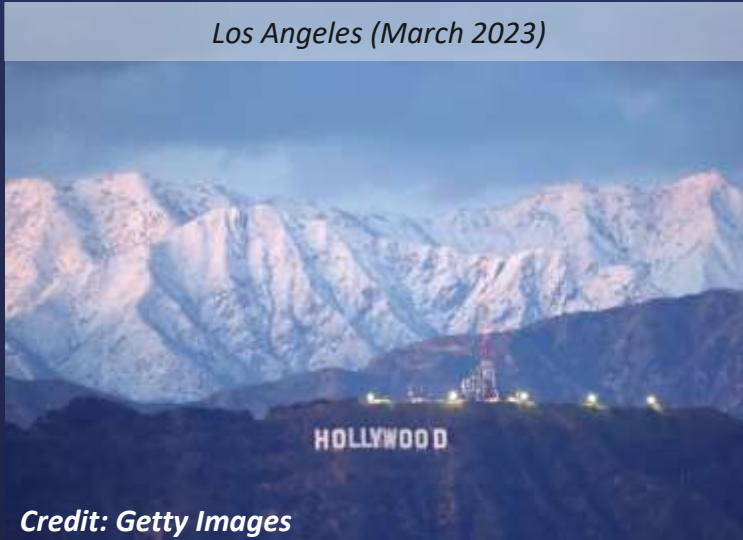
*Lake Mead (January 2023)*



*Tulare Lake (May 2023)*



*Los Angeles (March 2023)*



*Tropical Storm Hilary (August 2023)*



# Word of the Water Year: Whiplash

2022

California's three-year drought continues with no relief in sight

*The Guardian, 2022*

Californians urged to save water as state faces dismal snowpack in Sierra Nevada

*Los Angeles Times, 2022*

**'The brink of disaster': 2023 is a critical year for the Colorado River as reservoirs sink toward 'dead pool'**

*CNN, 2022*

2023

*California Braces for More Heavy Snow and Rain*

*The New York Times, 2023*

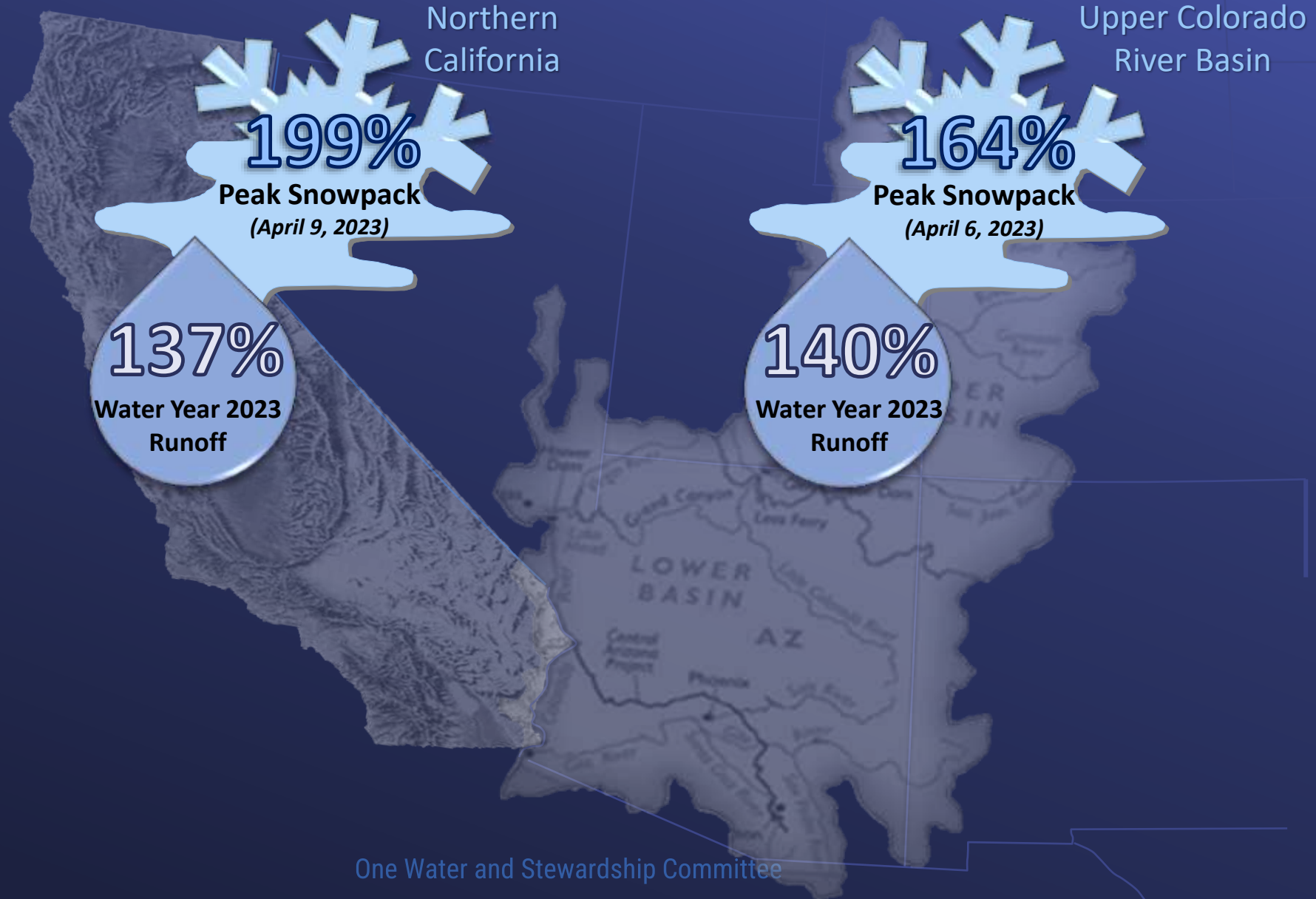
Epic California snowpack is now the deepest it's been in decades

*Los Angeles Times, 2023*

**Here's how much Lake Mead could rise after an epic winter and new water cuts**

*CNN, 2023*

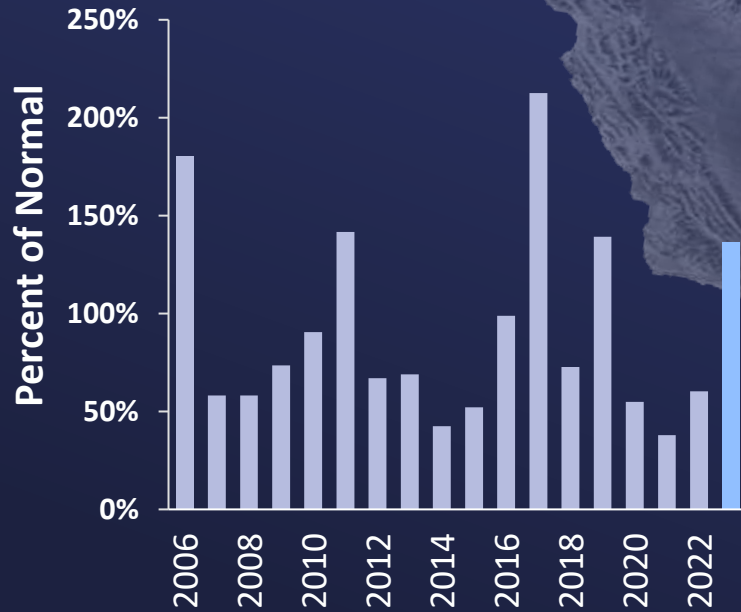
# Water Year Hydrologic Conditions: **Near-Record Breaking**



# Water Year Hydrologic Conditions: **Near-Record Breaking**

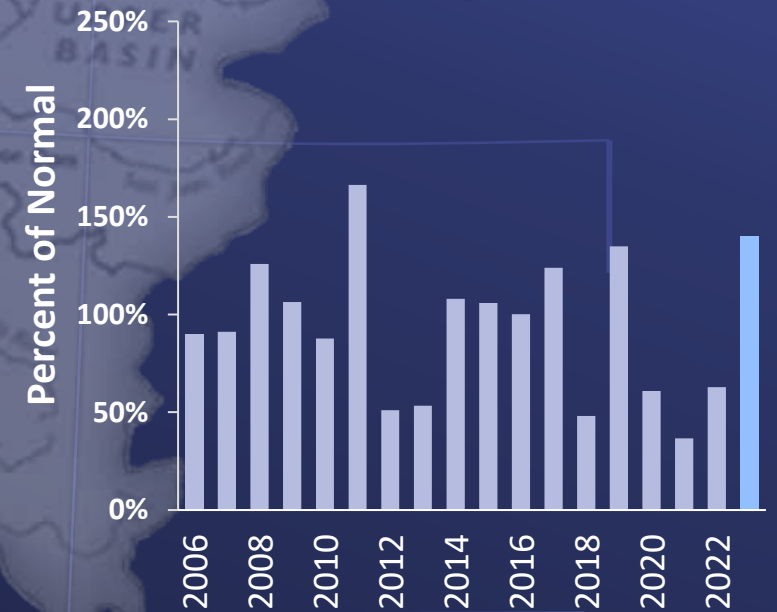
**137%**  
Water Year 2023  
Runoff

### Sacramento River Runoff



**140%**  
Water Year 2023  
Runoff

### Powell Unregulated Inflow



An aerial photograph of a snowy landscape. The ground is covered in a thick layer of snow, with some tracks visible. A small, dark wooden cabin is partially buried in the snow in the upper center. A stream flows through the lower right portion of the image. Several evergreen trees are scattered throughout the scene, casting long shadows on the snow. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

# State Water Project

# Water Year Highlights: *State Water Project*

Over 30  
Atmospheric Rivers  
Hit California

Near-Record  
Breaking Snowpack

Allocation  
Climbs to 100% as  
Reservoirs Improve

Reversal in Drought  
Conditions



Over 30  
Atmospheric Rivers  
Hit California

Near-Record  
Breaking Snowpack

Allocation  
Climbs to 100% as  
Reservoirs Improve

Reversal in Drought  
Conditions

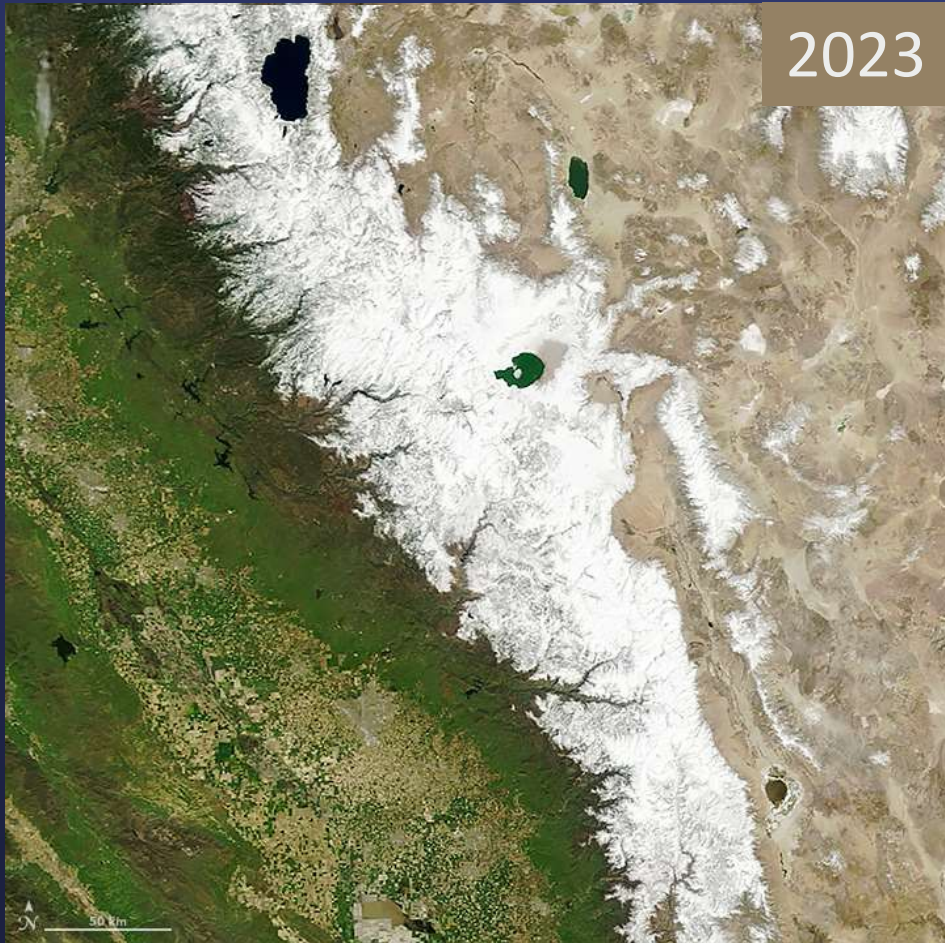


Near-Record  
Breaking Snowpack

Over 30  
Atmospheric Rivers  
Hit California

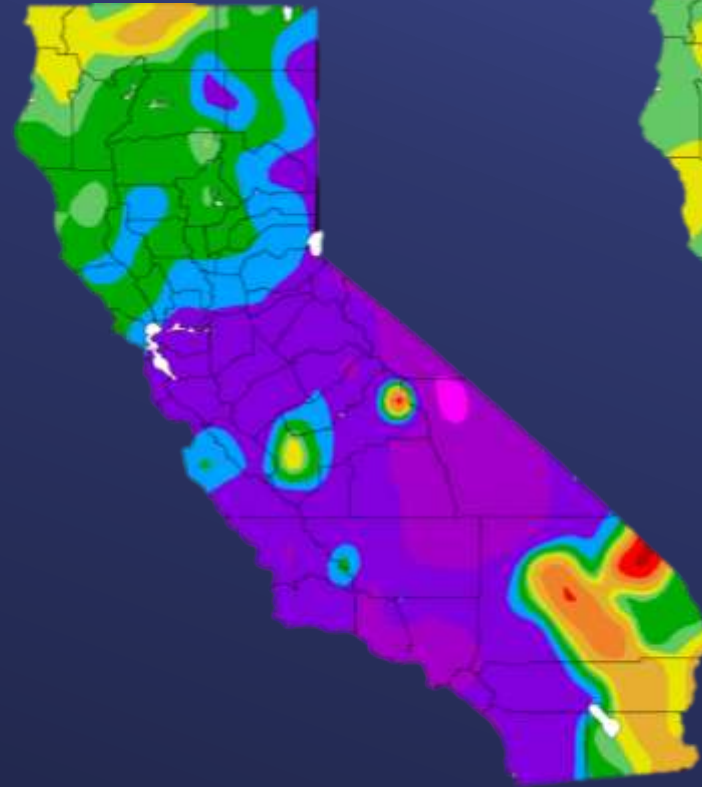
Allocation  
Climbs to 100% as  
Reservoirs Improve

Reversal in Drought  
Conditions



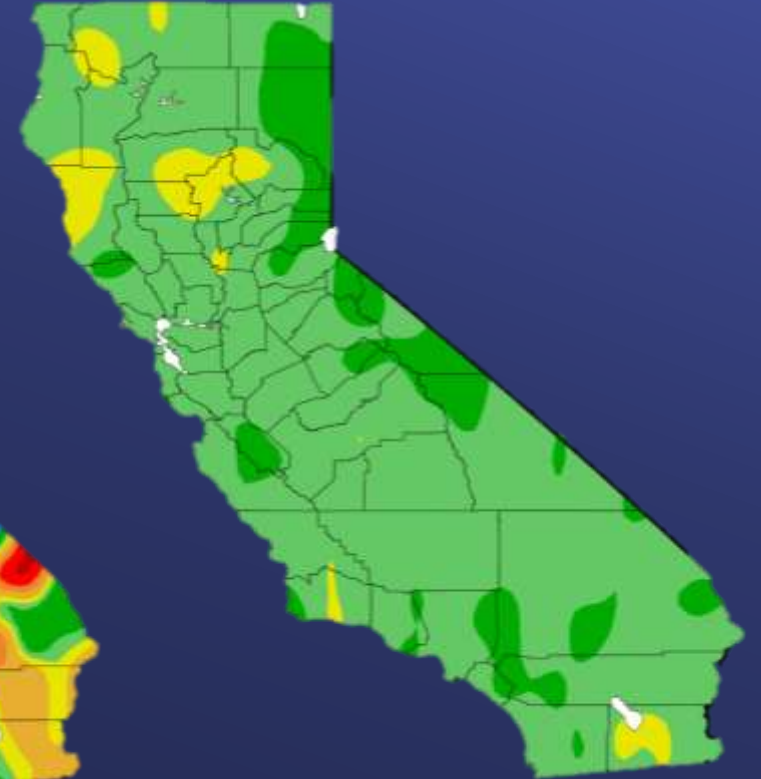
Credit: NASA Earth Observatory

% of Normal  
Precipitation



300 200 150 130 110 100 90 70 50 25 5

Departure from Normal  
Temperature (°F)



-4 -2 0 +4

November 13, 2023

One Water and Stewardship Committee

Slide 10

170

Allocation  
Climbs to 100% as  
Reservoirs Improve

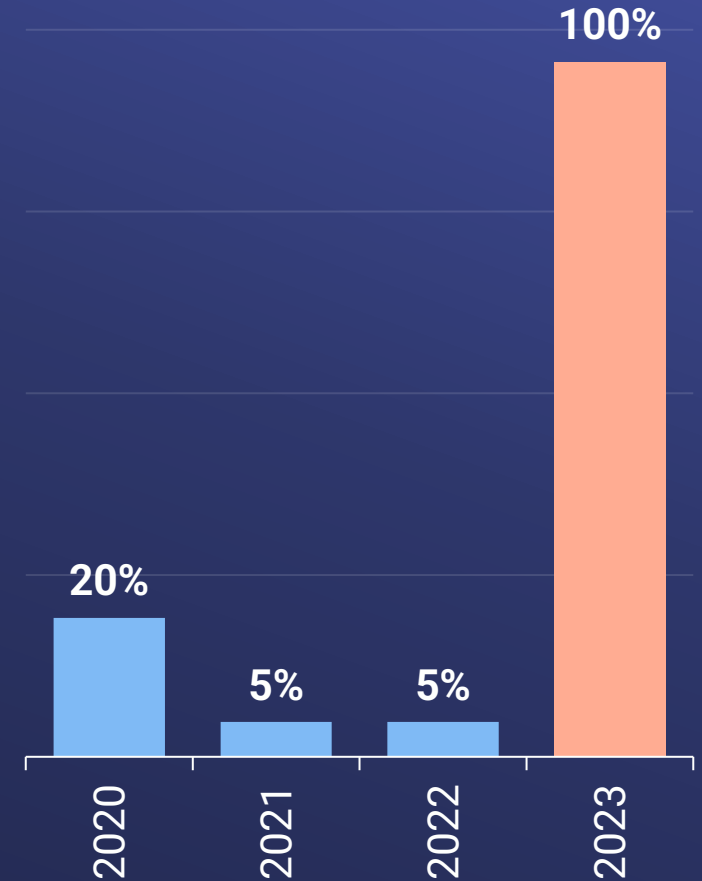
Over 30  
Atmospheric Rivers  
Hit California

Near-Record  
Breaking Snowpack

Reversal in Drought  
Conditions

## State Water Project to Further Increase Water Supply Allocation to 100%

Published: Apr 20, 2023



Allocation  
Climbs to 100% as  
Reservoirs Improve

Over 30  
Atmospheric Rivers  
Hit California

Near-Record  
Breaking Snowpack

Reversal in Drought  
Conditions

## Lake Oroville



**December 2022**  
**30% Full**



**March 2023**  
**75% Full**



**June 2023**  
**100% Full**

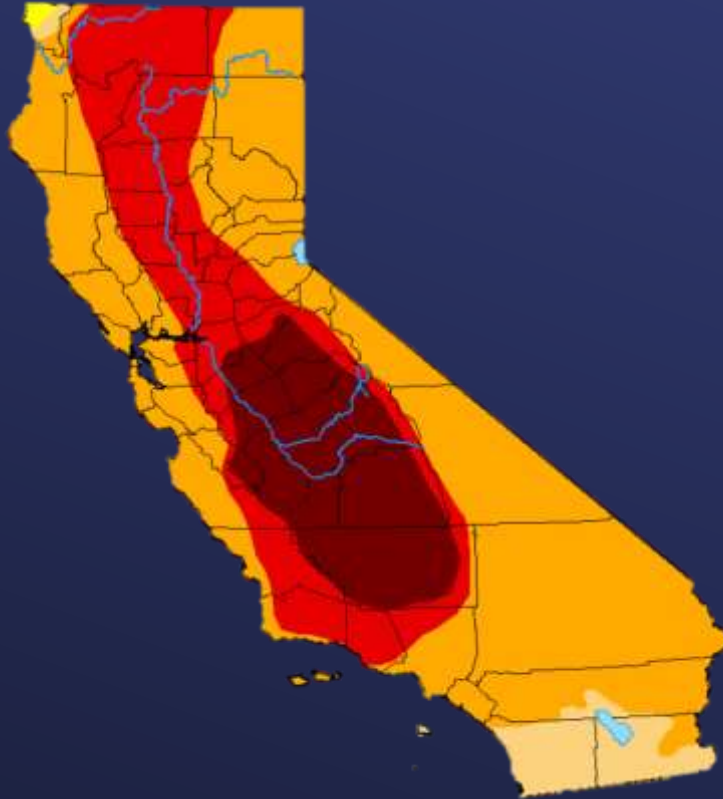
Reversal in Drought Conditions

Over 30 Atmospheric Rivers Hit California

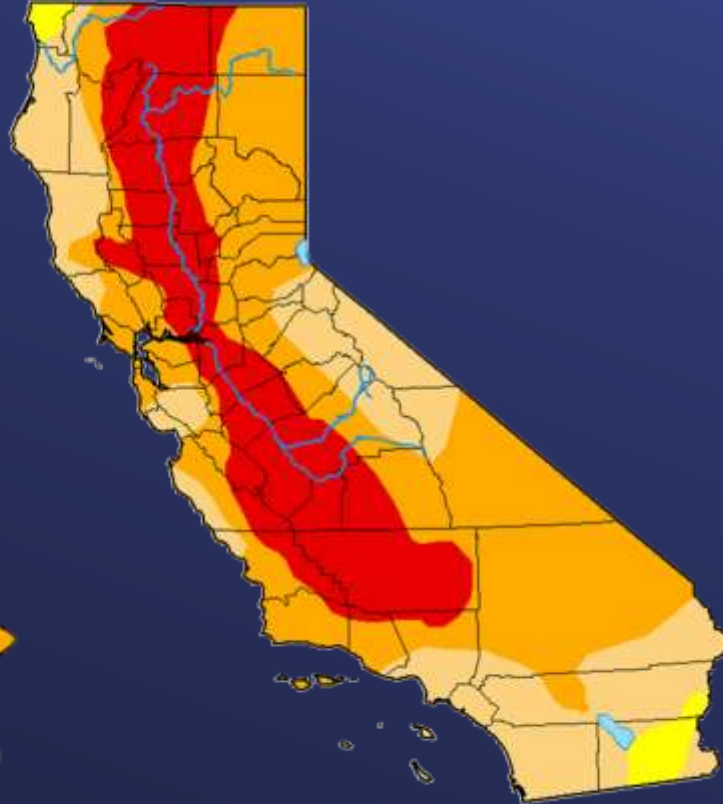
Near-Record Breaking Snowpack

Allocation Climbs to 100% as Reservoirs Improve

October 4, 2022



January 3, 2023



September 26, 2023



Intensity



November 13, 2023

One Water and Stewardship Committee

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# Colorado River

# Water Year Highlights: Colorado River

Conditions &  
Negotiations

Significant Gains in  
Lake Mead &  
Lake Powell

USBR Declares  
Level 1 Shortage  
for CY 2024

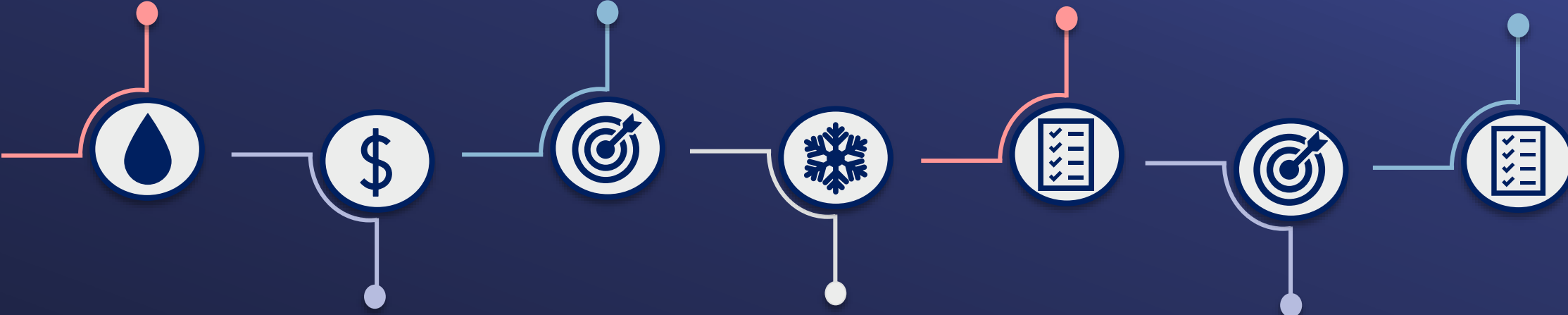
Conditions & Negotiations

Spring/Summer 2022  
USBR calls for 2-4 MAF of annual reductions in response to historic low reservoir elevations

October 2022  
California submits proposal to cut 400 TAF each year from 2023-2026

April 2023  
USBR publishes original Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

October 2023  
USBR publishes Revised Draft SEIS; designates Lower Basin Proposal as the "Proposed Action"



August 2022  
Congress appropriates \$4 billion for drought mitigation within Inflation Reduction Act

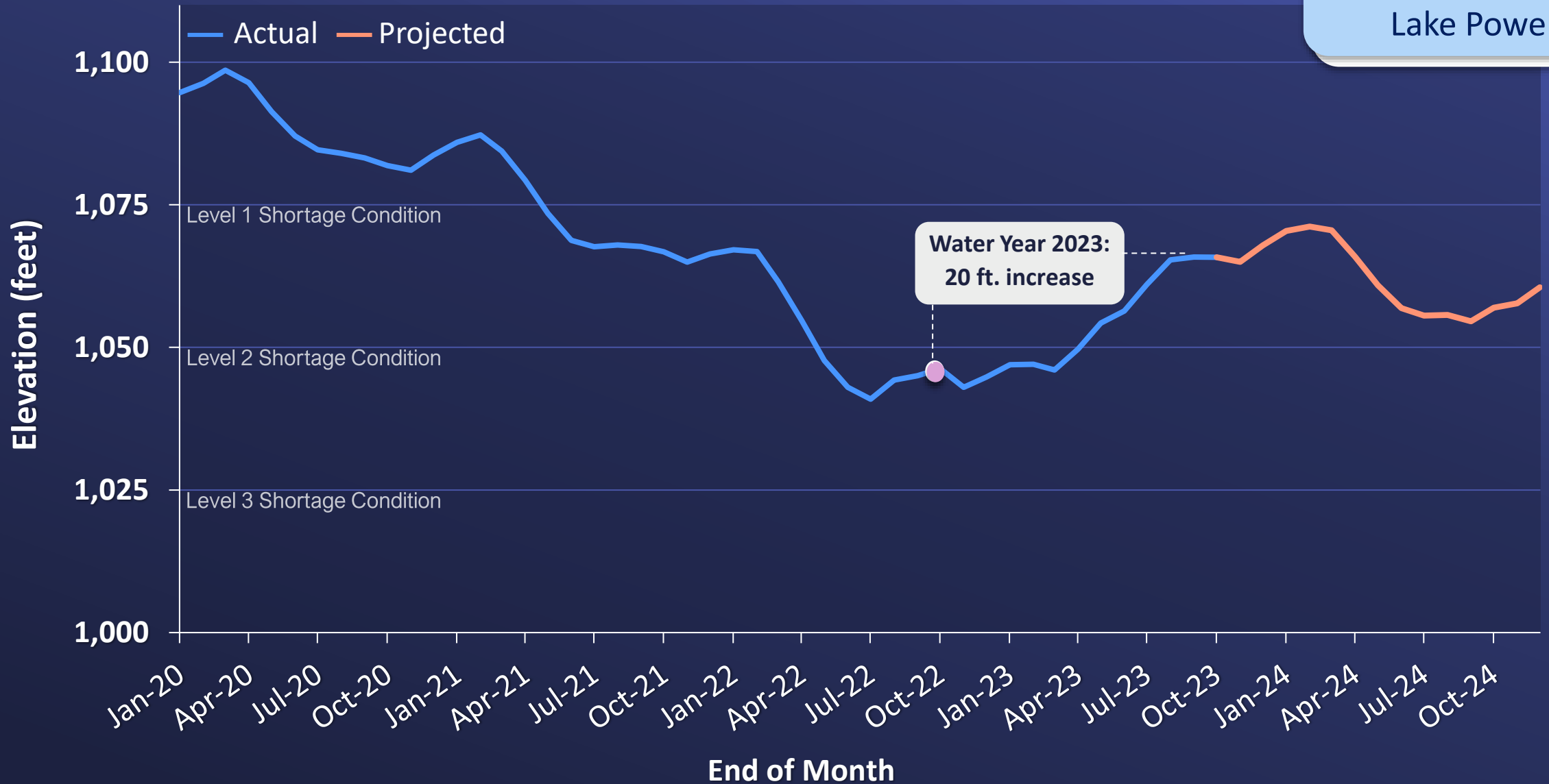
Winter 2023  
Upper Colorado River Basin receives near-record snowpack

May 2023  
Lower Basin Plan proposes to conserve at least 3 MAF from 2023-2026



# Lake Mead

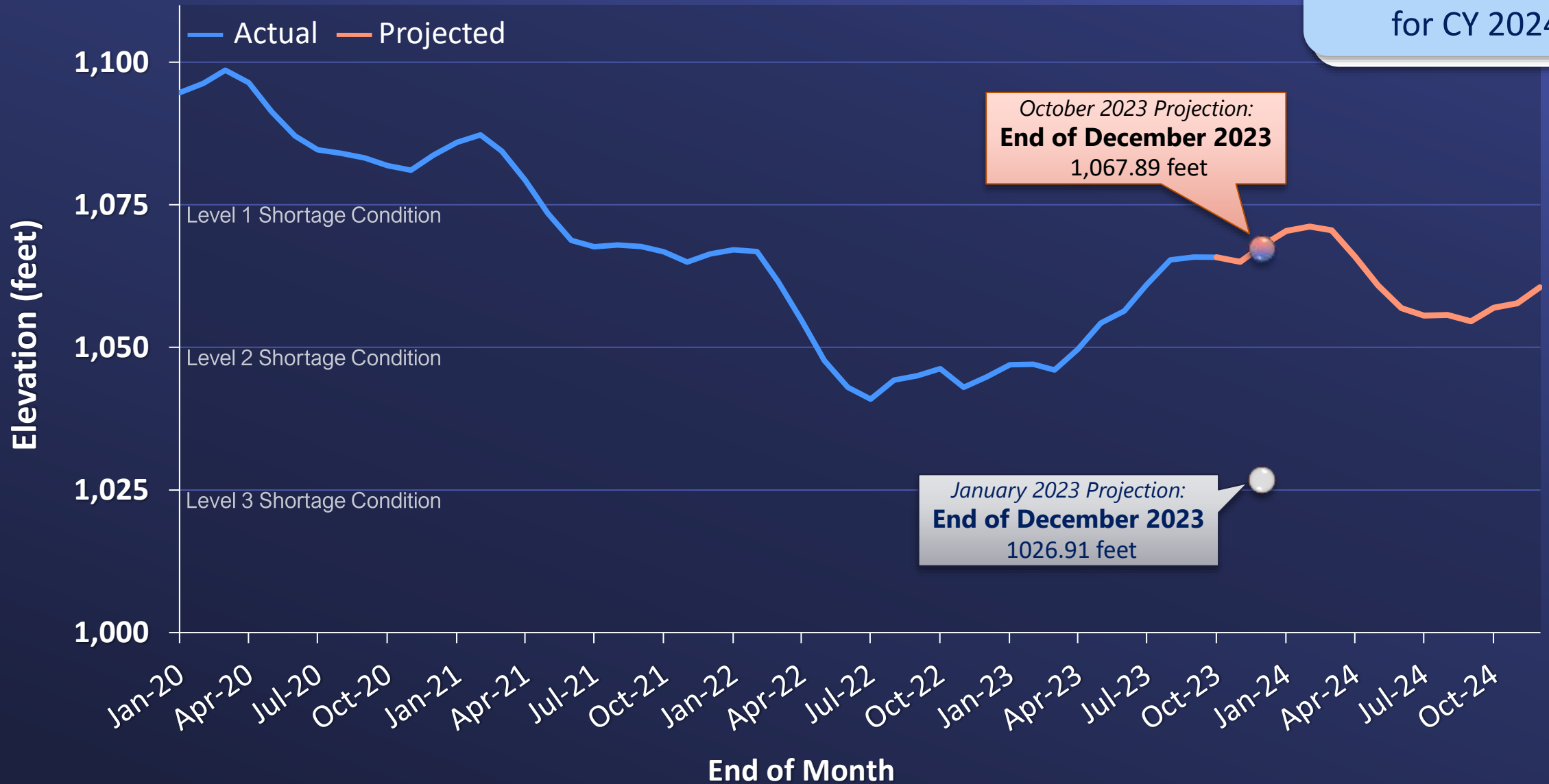
Significant Gains in  
Lake Mead &  
Lake Powell



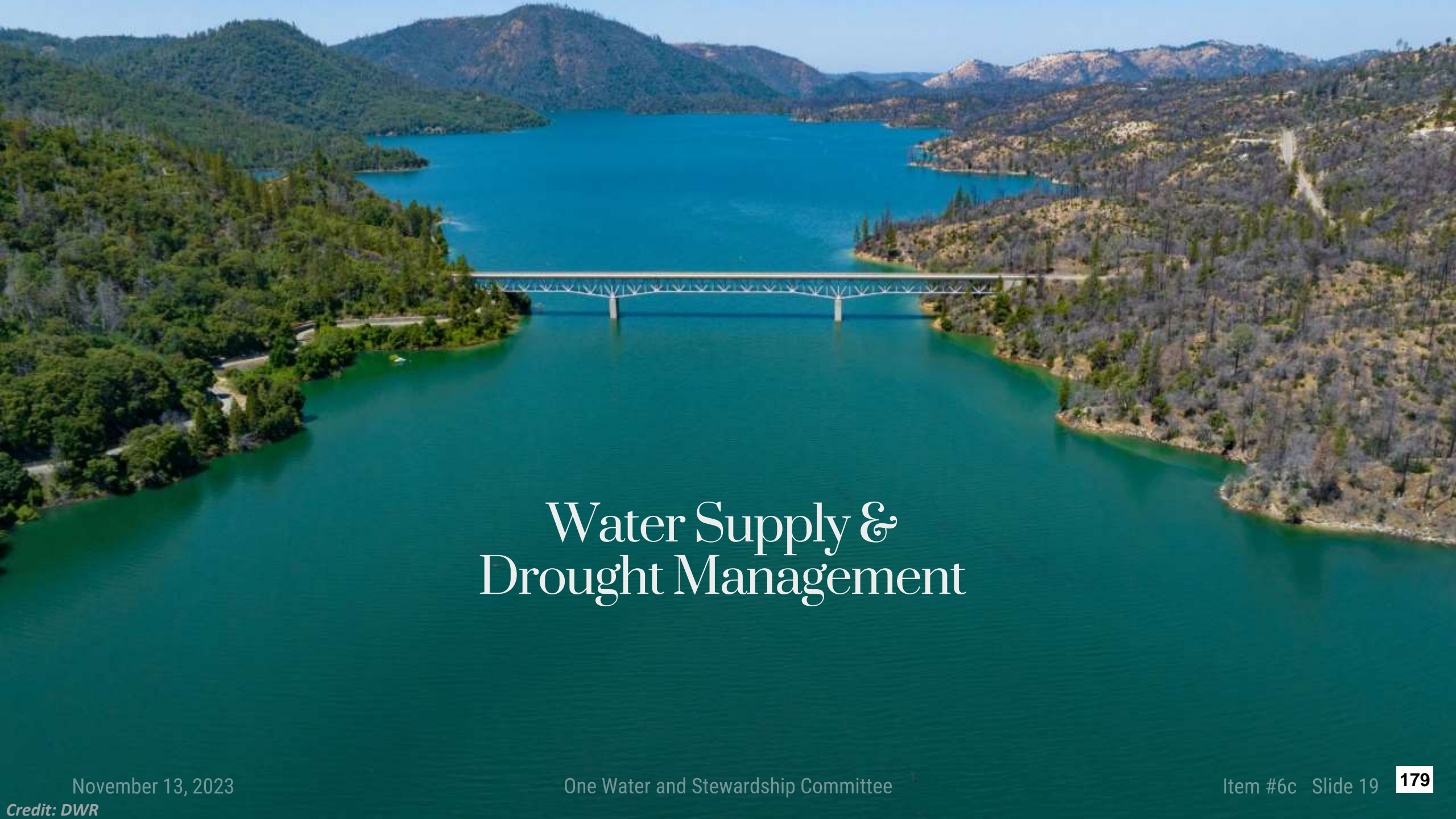
Source: USBR's October 2023 24-Month study

# Lake Mead

USBR Declares  
Level 1 Shortage  
for CY 2024

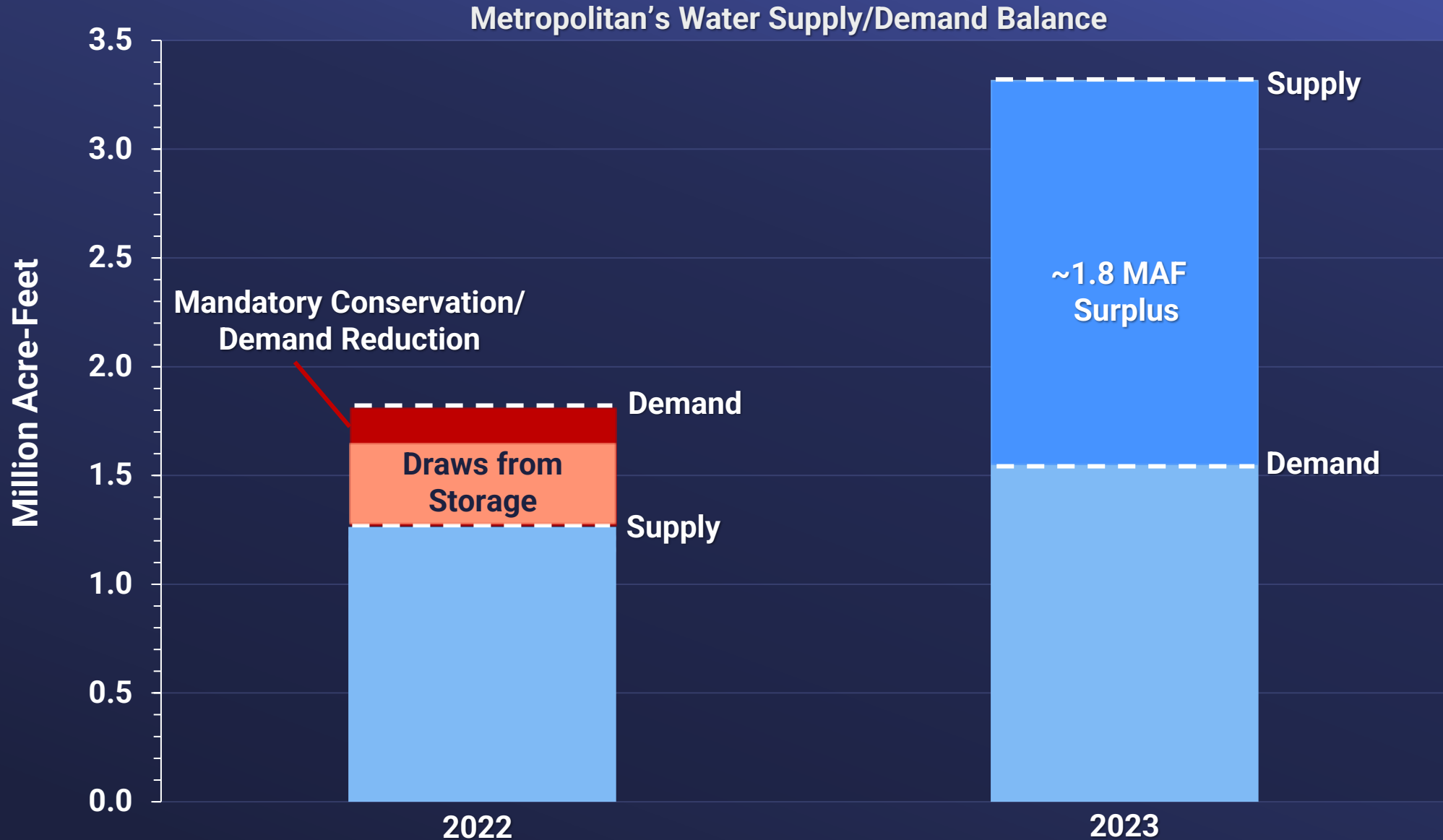


Source: USBR's October 2023 24-Month study

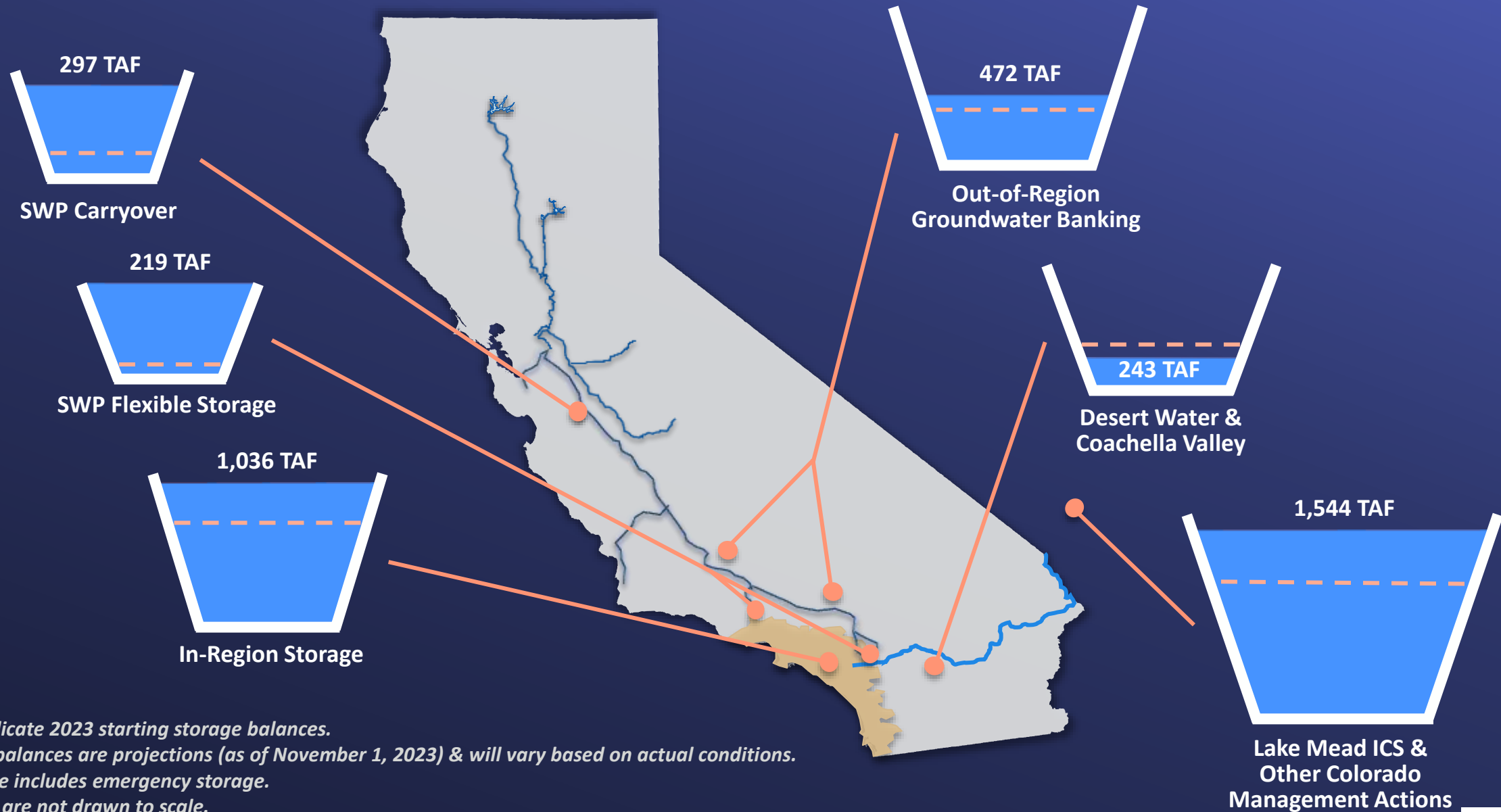


# Water Supply & Drought Management

# The Tale of Two Years: Drought & Abundance



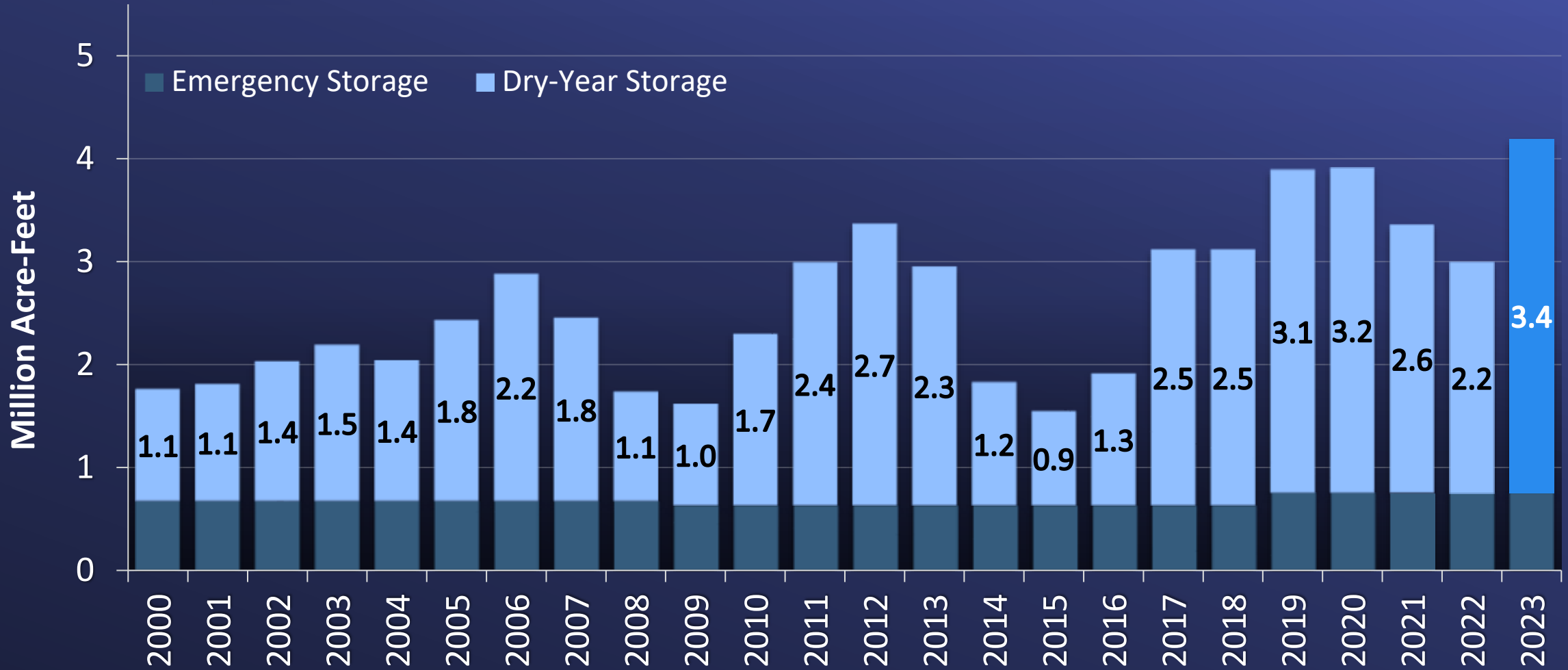
# Metropolitan's 2023 Storage Actions: ~1.2 MAF Increase



**Notes:**

- 1) Dashed lines indicate 2023 starting storage balances.
- 2) Ending storage balances are projections (as of November 1, 2023) & will vary based on actual conditions.
- 3) In-region storage includes emergency storage.
- 4) Storage buckets are not drawn to scale.

# Record-High Storage Projection for Metropolitan End-of-Year Balances



**Note:**

2023 end-of-year balance is preliminary as they are subject to DWR adjustments and USBR final accounting.



# Looking Ahead to 2024

November 13, 2023

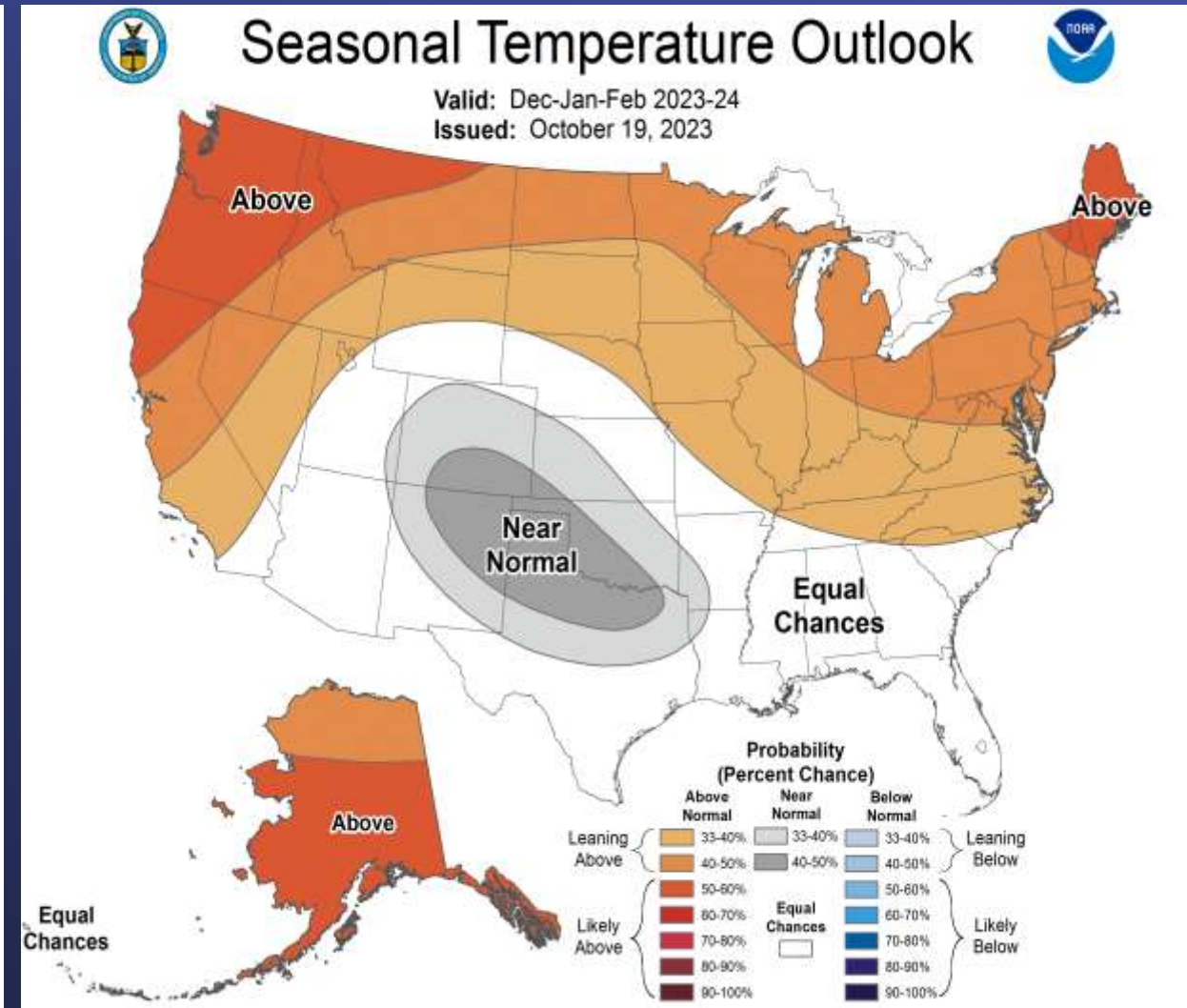
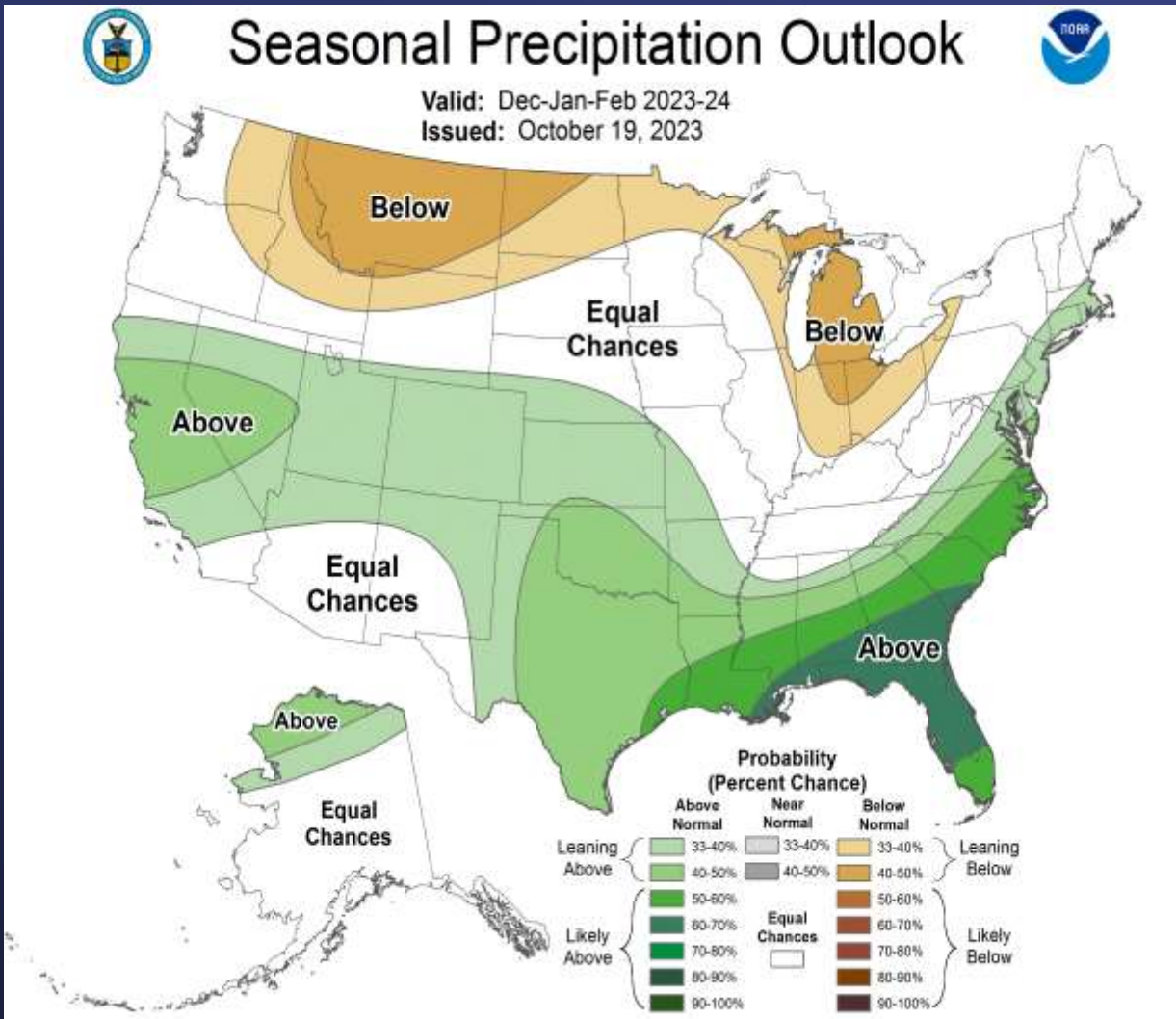
*Credit: DWR*

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# El Niño Conditions on the Horizon





# Planning for 2024

- Initial 2024 SWP Table A Allocation will be announced on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- Metropolitan submitted 2024 SWP Water Order in September 2023
- Projected end-of-year storage levels at San Luis Reservoir will impact initial 2024 SWP Table A Allocation
- December WSDM written report will include projected supply and demand gaps for 2024-2026





One Water and Stewardship Committee

# Conservation Update

Item 6d

November 13, 2023

# Item 6d Conservation Update

## Subject

Conservation Update

## Purpose

This report provides a summary of conservation activity and expenditures for September 2023.

## Next Steps

Provide a summary of conservation activity and expenditures for October 2023 in December.

# Current Conservation Program Expenditures

FYs 2022/23 & 2023/24<sup>(1)</sup>

	Paid <sup>(2)</sup>	Committed <sup>(3)</sup>
Regional Devices	\$8.9M	\$4.3M
Member Agency Administered	\$8.9M	\$4.4M
Turf Replacement	\$29.7M	\$29.3M
Advertising	\$7.4M	\$3.1M
Other	\$2.7M	\$1.5M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$57.6M</b>	<b>\$42.6M</b>

(1) The Conservation Program biennial expenditure authorization is \$86M.

(2) As of 7/1/2022 –9/30/2023.

(3) Committed dollars as of October 10, 2023.

## Coming Soon:

- Tree rebate to launch early 2024 as part of turf replacement program
- Will be returning to Board to request additional flexibility for Member Agency Administered Program spending for local projects

Current  
Conservation  
Program  
Activity  
FYs 2022/23 &  
2023/24



**Turf Replacement Rebates:**

September: 1,018,008 ft<sup>2</sup> removed

**FY2022/23-FY2023/24: 13,790,953 ft<sup>2</sup> removed**



**Toilets:**

September: 3,014 units rebated

**FY2022/23-FY2023/24: 29,704 units rebated**



**Smart Controllers:**

September: 1,109 units rebated

**FY2022/23-FY2023/24: 12,556 units rebated**

**Lifetime Water Savings to be achieved by all rebates in September 2023: 5,826 AF**

FY2022/23-FY2023/24: 81,346 AF lifetime water savings





## ● Colorado River Management Report

### Summary

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This report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River resources for the month of October 2023.

### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### **2007 Interim Guidelines Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Update**

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) issued a revised draft SEIS that analyzes the Lower Basin States' proposal to conserve 3 million acre-feet (maf) of water through 2026 and includes the improvements in hydrology and reservoir elevations since the wet winter in 2022-23. In April, Reclamation temporarily withdrew the draft SEIS in order to conduct this additional analysis. The revised draft SEIS shows that the improved hydrology since the fall of 2022 reduced the risk of Lake Powell and Lake Mead reaching critical elevations from over 50 percent to less than 10 percent. Analysis of the Lower Basin States' proposal showed that it performed well in comparison to Alternative Action 1 and 2 that were analyzed in the April draft SEIS. Action Alternative 1 assumes reductions by priority and Alternative Action 2 assumes pro-rata reductions to Lower Basin contractors. Following the 45-day public comment period on the revised draft SEIS, Reclamation anticipates issuing a final SEIS and Record of Decision next year. Comments on the revised draft SEIS are due December 11, 2023. Metropolitan staff is working with its partners on the Colorado River to prepare and submit comments on the document.

#### **Post-2026 Operational Guidelines Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Comment Report**

Reclamation issued the report on the purpose, need, and scope of the proposed federal action to develop the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines for the Colorado River reservoirs. The proposed federal action is needed because the 2007 Interim Guidelines expire in 2026 and experience has demonstrated that further reductions are needed to sufficiently reduced risk to the system. Reclamation also included in the need for the proposed federal action that low runoff conditions in the future could exacerbate the supply and demand imbalance, and the need to innovate and expand conservation.

The purpose of the proposed federal action is to provide:

- Colorado River water users a greater degree of predictability regarding annual water releases, given the anticipated increasing risk of low runoff and low reservoir conditions.
- Additional mechanisms for the conservation, storage, and delivery of water supplies in the Colorado River reservoirs.
- New or enhanced opportunities for Basin Tribes to benefit from their water rights.
- Flexibility to build resilience and accommodate future needs and growth that are supported by Colorado River water supplies, including the integration of unquantified tribal water rights once they are resolved.

Based on the input received during the public comment period, Reclamation anticipates that the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines will do the following:

- Identify when releases from Lake Mead will be greater than, equal to, or less than 7.5 maf, as established in Supreme Court decree in *Arizona v. California*.
- Provide for coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, especially under low reservoir conditions.

Date of Report: 11/14/2023



## Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

- Include provisions for storage and delivery of conserved water in Lake Mead and/or Lake Powell.

In June, Metropolitan submitted joint scoping comments with Southern Nevada Water Authority and Central Arizona Water Conservation District requesting that the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines to protect Intentionally Created Surplus stored in Lake Mead, include opportunities to augment and exchange water and provide for storage and delivery of health and human safety water. The published scope, purpose and need specifically address storage of conserved water, including storage and exchange of non-system water. But this report did not include provisions for health and human safety water.

The next steps in this process are to develop alternatives that Reclamation will analyze in the draft SEIS. In a joint scoping comment letter submitted in June, the seven Colorado River Basin States confirmed their intent to develop a consensus alternative. Other stakeholders may also develop alternatives. Reclamation will begin analyzing the alternatives in the spring 2024.

### **Salinity Control Forum**

Staff attended a meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, which marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Forum in 1973. The Forum heard an update on progress toward implementing new language in the 2023 federal Farm Bill to reduce the state cost-share requirement from 30 percent to roughly 15 percent for salinity control funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which would reduce the existing Salinity Control Program (Program) funding deficit. The language has strong support in the U.S. Senate. The Executive Director of the Forum is currently seeking a sponsor for the language in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Reclamation gave an update on its Request for Information (RFI) from private industry representatives to solicit new alternatives for the long-term replacement of the Paradox Valley Unit (PVU), a deep-injection groundwater well used to dispose of brine extracted from the Dolores River, a tributary to the Colorado River. Reclamation issued this RFI in summer 2023, and received two statements in response, each proposing possible alternatives for brine disposal. Both proposals resembled alternatives already considered in the 2020 PVU Environmental Impact Statement. Reclamation also reported that the existing PVU continues to operate at two-thirds capacity and within acceptable well pressure and seismicity parameters. The PVU has injected approximately 41,000 tons of salt into deep groundwater in 2023, to date.

The Forum approved the Final 2023 Review of Water Quality Standards for Salinity in the Colorado River System (Triennial Review) in which the Forum communicates every three years to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state water quality agencies an assessment of the sufficiency of existing water quality criteria for salinity on the Lower Colorado River, along with estimates of projected damages in the Lower Basin resulting from salinity in the river.

The Forum also heard updates from key federal agencies involved in the Program, including USBR, NRCS, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Aaron Mead, an Engineer in Metropolitan's Imported Supply Unit, was appointed Chair of the Forum Work Group, the technical body that informs and supports the Forum's decision-making efforts.



## ● Bay-Delta Management Report

### Summary

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This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for October 2023

### Purpose

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Informational

### Detailed Report

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#### Long-Term Delta Actions

##### Sites Reservoir

At the joint Sites Project Authority Board and Sites Reservoir Committee Meeting on October 20, the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board approved work plan related actions including an extension of the work plan to December 31, 2025, an overall program baseline schedule that would support a projected seven-year substantial construction completion which is currently projected in 2032 and an update to the priorities. In anticipation for the projected November 17, 2023, certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report, the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board authorized the Executive Director to post the required public notices in accordance with SB149 should the Governor certify that the Sites Reservoir Project is a SB149 eligible infrastructure project.

#### Near-Term Delta Actions

##### Science Update

In the month of October, science staff submitted a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Applied Science Grants to fund a two-year project that would develop publicly accessible datasets. These datasets would support improved water management planning, assessment of flow operations, and evaluate effects on fish and wildlife.

To progress the Floating Wetlands Pond Study, staff are evaluating options for relocating tules from a nursery location on Bouldin Island to an existing impoundment. The Floating Wetlands Pond Study will be a practical evaluation of the benefits of using native plants from the Delta as a tool in habitat restoration. The results of this study will allow Metropolitan to determine relative benefits of investing in this novel restoration tool.

##### Delta Islands

Metropolitan's Board of Directors approved amending the Capital Investment Plan for fiscal year 2022/23 and 2023/24 to include the development of a multi-benefit landscape project on Webb Tract. Staff completed negotiations and are finalizing the \$20.9 million Webb Tract Multi-Benefit Mosaic Landscape Project grant agreement with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy.

Staff responded to a magnitude 4.2 earthquake centered near Brannan Island on October 18. Metropolitan staff, in coordination with Reclamation Districts, inspected all 56 miles of levees on Metropolitan's four islands within one hour. No damage was reported on Metropolitan's Islands as a result of this seismic event.

## Board Report (Bay-Delta Management Report)

### Metropolitan Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix and EcoRestore/Delta Conveyance Project (BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP) Expenditures

The following is a summary of Metropolitan’s cumulative BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP expenditures updated for the quarter ending September 2023. This report includes the total internal costs related to the BDCP, the CWF-CER alternatives, and the subsequent DCP efforts with the state administration.

Staff will continue to provide this report on a quarterly basis in the Bay Delta Management Report.

#### Total (July 2005 – September 2023)

<b>BDCP/CWF-CER/DCP Internal MWD</b>	<b>Total Costs (18.25 yrs.)</b>
Labor & Benefits <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 37.90M
Professional Services	\$ 7.18M
Travel	\$ 1.80M
Other <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 0.18M
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 47.05M</b>
Administrative Overhead	\$ 13.66M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 60.70M</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Labor costs include salary, leave and non-leave benefits

<sup>(2)</sup> Other includes charges for materials and supplies, trainings & seminars, conferences & meetings, reprographics, and other incidental expenses

#### Quarterly Summary (Oct 2022 – Sept 2023)

	<b>FY22-23 Q2</b>	<b>FY22-23 Q3</b>	<b>FY22-23 Q4</b>	<b>FY23-24 Q1</b>
	<b>Oct-Dec 2022*</b>	<b>Jan-Mar 2023</b>	<b>Apr-Jun 2023</b>	<b>Jul-Sep 2023</b>
Labor	0.273M	0.205M	0.258M	0.186M
Professional Services	0.001M	0.004M	0.033M	0.001M
Travel	0.000M	0.004M	0.004M	0.000M
Other	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M	0.000M
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>0.274M</b>	<b>0.213M</b>	<b>0.295M</b>	<b>0.187M</b>
Admin. Overhead	0.064M	0.044M	0.059M	0.062M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.338M</b>	<b>0.257M</b>	<b>0.354M</b>	<b>0.249M</b>