



General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of October 2024

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Message from the General Manager

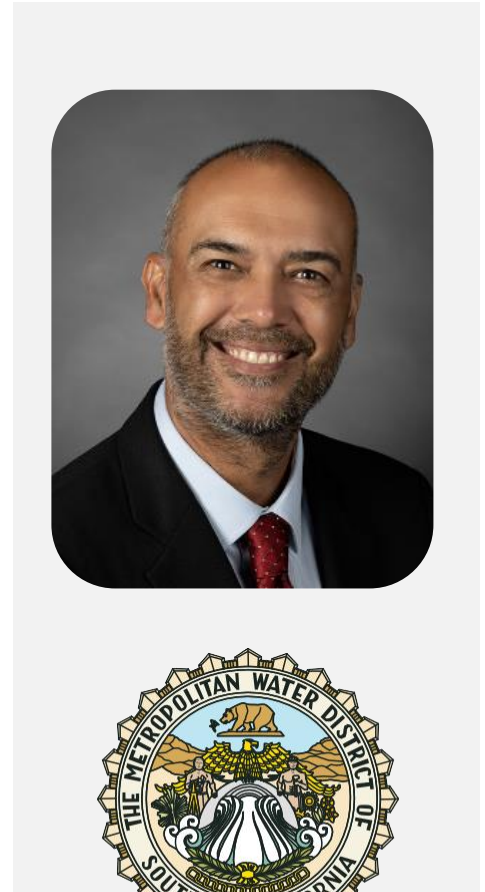
Water quality has been at the heart of Metropolitan’s mission from the very beginning, and last month we celebrated two remarkable milestones – the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Metropolitan’s Water Quality Section Lab and the 50th anniversary of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Both of these have played a profound role in ensuring safe, reliable water for millions.

In 1974, the creation of our Water Quality branch, in alignment with the Safe Drinking Water Act, was a critical step toward ensuring public health across Southern California. Since then, our lab has grown from a team of just 10 to a team of 120 experts, each committed to excellence and innovation. Today, this team runs more than 200,000 tests a year, ensuring that over 70,000 samples meet the strictest standards.

Metropolitan has become a worldwide leader in water quality, thanks to the pioneering spirit of our staff. Innovations such as flavor profile analysis, patented cryptosporidium detection, and satellite-based reservoir monitoring underscore our commitment to cutting-edge research. These accomplishments reflect the dedication, expertise, and daily work of hundreds of employees who have made our communities safer.

To all those who have contributed over these 50 years, and the many Directors who have supported their work, we owe our thanks. It has not only set a high standard for water quality but has enriched and protected our lives.

Deven Upadhyay
Interim General Manager



Below - Metropolitan’s 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Water Quality Section Lab and Safe Drinking Water Act



Strategic Priorities Update

The General Manager's Strategic Priorities guide actions in key areas of change and opportunity that will strengthen Metropolitan and its ability to fulfill its mission. Review the General Manager's [Business Plan for FY24-25](#) and the "[SMART Tracker](#)" dashboard of specific actions that advance the Strategic Priorities.



Empower the workforce and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion



Goal Dashboard

8 Outcomes in progress are on target

■ **Build a safe, inclusive, and accountable workplace where all employees feel valued, respected, and able to meaningfully contribute to decisions about their work to fulfill Metropolitan's Mission.**

To increase awareness of Metropolitan's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policies and programs across all Metropolitan facilities, and to help safeguard the right to a discrimination-free, harassment-free and retaliation-free workplace for all employees, EEO staff held office hours at four Desert facilities (Gene, Iron Mountain, Eagle Mountain and Hinds) in October. EEO staff was available to meet with Metropolitan employees in the Desert region to share more information about the EEO Office's policies and procedures and to assess any EEO work-related concerns.

The Executive Safety Committee convened to provide a high-level oversight and guidance to all the Facility Safety Committees and the Safety Committee Forum. Staff is now working to standardize activities of the various safety committees. Safety Committee Procedures (HSE 101.5) were prepared and presented at the Safety Committee Forum to solicit feedback from the local safety committees.

■ **Prepare and support the workforce by expanding training and skill development and updating strategies to recruit and retain diverse talent, to meet the evolving needs and expectations of the workplace.**

We are finalizing an MOU with the City of Carson that is focused on Pure Water and establishing internships and pipelines of talent into the water industry. This has been a cross-functional partnership not only internally for Metropolitan among External Affairs, DEI, HR, etc., but also other agencies such as the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, LA County Sanitation District, West Basin, the

City of Carson, and others. In addition, we are preparing broad outreach for the next Apprenticeship class which will focus on Desert recruitments and are continuing to advance workforce pathways with tribal communities, focused on exploring key areas of opportunity that best serve the community such as welding programs in partnership with area high schools.

In October, the Engineering Services Group (ESG) kicked off its Career Launch program, which will support career growth and succession planning, with a meeting focused on program overview, ESG mission, career paths, and expectations. ESG also held a supplemental training session for its new managers, which focused this month on facilitating technical decision making.

Human Resources Organizational Development & Training Unit facilitated sessions 8 and 9 of the Metropolitan Management University for 14 new managers. The topics were Recruitment, Employee Relations, Assertive Communication, and Coaching. The Unit also hosted a Job Spotlight which educates employees on jobs and departmental functions at Metropolitan that we might not be aware of. Thirty-one employees logged in for this Spotlight session, which featured Metropolitan's Records Management Team and our Historical Library.



Career Development

ESG launches its Career Launch training program



Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model



Goal Dashboard

5 Outcomes in process

Develop revenue and business model options that support the needs of the member agencies as well as Metropolitan's financial sustainability and climate adaptation needs.

Member agencies met in a two-day workshop facilitated by Ken Kirby, with a particular focus on SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and other foundational discussions for business model refinement. The next workshop is scheduled for November 15. Member agencies also convened in October for the sixth meeting to discuss Treated Water cost recovery.

■ **Identify and secure programmatic cost savings, organizational efficiencies and external funding.**

Staff is completing negotiations for “bucket 2” funding with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which will then be brought to the Board for authorization.



Adapt to changing climate and water resources



Goal Dashboard

10 Outcomes in process and on target

■ **Provide each member agency access to an equivalent level of water supply reliability.**

With procurement of long-lead equipment completed, the start of Phase 2 for improvements at the Sepulveda Pump Stations is planned for March 2025. In the meantime, site investigation, design to the 70-percent level, and setting of a guaranteed maximum price for all work is scheduled for completion by December 2024.

The contractor is currently installing electrical equipment at the Wadsworth Pump Plant Bypass and preparing for installation of a large isolation valve in early 2025.

The Inland Feeder Badlands Tunnel Surge Protection project construction is approximately 60 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in June 2025.

The Surface Water Storage Study is 70 percent complete with a shortlist of potential sites identified and a set of proposed evaluation criteria; completion is expected by June 2025.

■ **Advance the long-term reliability and resilience of the region’s water sources through a One Water approach that recognizes the interconnected nature of imported and local supplies, meets both community and ecosystem needs and adapts to a climate change.**

To support the inclusivity in the deliberations over compact renegotiations, staff is setting up meetings at the Colorado River Water Users Association conference in December to coordinate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and to continue to develop areas of mutual interest. Intrastate negotiations about sharing reductions to meet California’s shortage requirements have been delayed to focus on efforts toward seven-state consensus for post-2026 operational guidelines/discussions that are likely to be significantly affected by the November elections.

The draft Environmental Impact Report for the Pure Water Southern California program (PWSC) is scheduled to be available by mid-2025, and technical studies are complete. Member agency meetings are continuing toward the development of draft terms for direct participation in PWSC, and we are aiming to agree upon term sheets in early 2025. A value engineering review was performed for Reach 1. The conveyance team continues to discuss what suggestions will be incorporated into the design, and the benefits of additional tunneling are being evaluated. Geotech and potholing for Reach 1 is nearly complete and Reach 1 Preliminary Design Review (PDR) should be final by the end of 2024.

Staff is making progress in negotiations with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) regarding the \$99 M grant award from the federal Large Scale Water Recycling program. Staff is indicating that the start date for the grant expenditures could be moved earlier and the period for expending funds extended.

The Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Coordinator meeting and Program Advisory Committee meeting took place in October. An update on Conservation as a California Way of Life (CAACWOL) was presented and discussed at the WUE meeting, with slides also provided to the One Water and Stewardship Committee in October.



Protect public health, the regional economy, and Metropolitan's assets



Goal Dashboard

9 Outcomes in process and on target

■ Proactively identify, assess, and reduce potential vulnerabilities to Metropolitan's system, operations, and infrastructure.

An updated Hazard Mitigation Plan has been drafted and is undergoing staff review, after which it will be shared with the public for their comments.

Quality control procedures are currently being tested to ensure reliability of microplastics detection and enumeration methods in Water Quality's dedicated microplastics lab. Standard operating procedures are being developed for two detection instruments. It is anticipated that state mandated monitoring will be scheduled in Q3 of 2025.

A draft preliminary design report for the Water Quality Laboratory upgrade was delivered to all stakeholders in summer 2024. The final preliminary design is expected to be completed in Q2 of 2025.

In October, Water Quality and Operations Planning staff participated in a second workshop with member agencies and water purveyors in Orange County, supporting regional efforts to manage nitrification.

The number of cyber threat investigations continues to be consistent at 10 percent of the total amount of threat detections. This metric will progress with anticipated improvements to existing tool configurations and staffing levels. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for Managed Cybersecurity Operations Center Services (CSOC) is intended to establish a more permanent staffing solution to the requirements for operating and maintaining a cybersecurity operations center. The CSOC RFP has closed, and the Office of Cybersecurity is working with the contracting team to complete the award process and begin contract negotiations with the respondent selected.

A Cybersecurity Executive Steering Committee has been established, and the first meeting of this new body will be conducted in January 2025.

To expand Emergency Operations Center (EOC) participation/integration, two additional Group Managers were trained in EOC Management Section operations this month.

Emergency Management staff participated in kick-off meeting with contractor to develop the Risk and Resiliency Assessment due in Q1 of 2025.

■ Apply innovation, technology, and sustainable practices across project lifecycles.

The Board awarded on-call agreements for design of zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure at the October board meeting, which will support the transition of Metropolitan’s fleet consistent with regulatory requirements.

Policies and procedures are under development to support procurement practices that account for sustainability factors. Operating policies (a revision and a new policy) are under review by the Legal Department, and a Sustainable Procurement Guidebook (procedures) is in final-draft review.



Zero Emission Vehicles

design contracts awarded for vehicle support infrastructure



Partner with interested parties and the communities we serve



Goal Dashboard

6 Outcomes in progress and on target

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

As part of public engagement and outreach for the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W), staff met with Public Information Officers for Western, Eastern, and the Inland Empire Utilities Agency to discuss potential CAMP4W outreach strategies for early 2025. The focus is on aligning the outreach with key issues for member agencies, such as rate increases, in the first half of 2025. Targeted outreach was also discussed where the issues CAMP4W addresses will meet the interests and needs of specific customer sectors, such as business and industry.

- **Reach disadvantaged communities and non-traditional interested parties to better understand their needs and ensure their inclusion in decision making.**

A MetWorks event in Orange County drew more than 500 participants to learn about construction opportunities for small businesses across our service area.

Water Use Efficiency shared their data on conservation program participation, which includes analysis and maps of underserved communities.

DEI and Finance are working on a grant through the Municipal Bond Markets and Racial Equity Grant & Technical Assistance Program, which could provide opportunities for conservation programs in underserved communities.

Executive Summary

This executive summary is added to this report to provide a high-level snapshot of key accomplishment from each area of the organization.

Bay-Delta Resources

On October 15 and October 16, staff from the Waterschap Hollandse Delta, based in the Netherlands, traveled to Northern California for a peer-to-peer workshop and tour. The workshop facilitated an exchange of information and approaches related to levee safety, real-time levee monitoring, nature-based solutions, innovation, and stakeholder engagement. On October 16, staff provided a tour of Metropolitan's Delta Islands to the group from the Netherlands. Staff will continue to exchange information and gain international perspectives to discover novel solutions to shared challenges.

Chief Financial Officer

On October 16, 2024, Metropolitan received 26 responses from underwriting firms and banks to a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select financing teams for Metropolitan financings planned in 2025. Staff expects to complete the review of the RFQs in November 2024, with a final selection of financing teams completed in December 2024.

Colorado River Resources

In October, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation notified stakeholders that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Post-2026 Guidelines will be delayed from the original release date of December 2024 to the spring of 2025. Instead, in December, Reclamation will provide a summary of the alternatives being considered, including the full range of actions that will be analyzed. The various alternatives will be able to provide components of a final alternative that could be adopted in 2026.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Team (DEI) continued to advance greater procurement opportunity and advance workforce development efforts throughout Metropolitan's service territory in the month of October. Some notable highlights include yet another successful MetWorks event, this time held in Orange County, which drew more than 500 participants. During this MetWorks event, we were able to socialize more than \$1B in upcoming construction opportunity with small businesses across our service area. We were also sponsors of the Taste of Soul, one of the largest street festivals in the country focused on the African American community. During Taste of Soul, we shared information on water conservation tips as well as on employment opportunities and helped spread the word on Metropolitan's mission. Last, but certainly not least, we engaged with our tribal communities in meaningful ways to co-create solutions around workforce development. Underscoring all of this work is the cross-functional collaboration needed internally—between the Engineering Services Group, External Affairs, our Employee Resource Group leaders and so many of our dedicated employees. The DEI Office continues to foster this cross-functional collaboration as a way to build connections, reduce cost and ultimately advance Metropolitan's mission of delivering safe, reliable water to 19 million residents across Southern California.

Engineering Services

Engineering conducts scheduled inspections to assess the existing conditions of Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipeline (PCCP). In October 2024, we completed an electromagnetic/visual inspection of the Lake Perris Bypass Pipeline, the first PCCP inspection of the 2024/25 shutdown season. Metropolitan assesses the condition of its PCCP inventory over a five-year cycle. Engineering uses the results of these inspections to document changed conditions and update PCCP rehabilitation priorities. For the upcoming shutdown season, we plan to inspect over 40 miles of PCCP.

Equal Employment Opportunity Office

Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) staff held office hours at four Desert facilities, including Gene, Iron Mountain, Eagle Mountain, and Hinds. The office hours were from October 21, 2024, through October 23, 2024. During this time, EEO staff was available to meet with Metropolitan employees in the Desert region to share more information about the EEO Office's policies and procedures and to assess any EEO work-related concerns. Also, on October 30, 2024, EEO conducted a concurrence process training for approximately 13 Conveyance and Distribution East-West Section Managers at the Diemer Facility. The purpose of this training was to provide hiring managers in this section with an understanding of EEO's role in the recruitment process.

External Affairs

Directors Erdman and Dennstedt accepted the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference's (WEFTEC) Utility of the Future award for Metropolitan, recognizing the district's commitment to local resource development, conservation and community partnering programs. (October 8)

Human Resources

In October, 700 employees completed in-person and virtual trainings covering topics such as Stress Management & Positivity in the Workplace, CyberSecurity Awareness, Developing Successful Interpersonal Skills, Foundations of Customer Service, Microsoft Visio, and Microsoft Project. LinkedIn Learning's online training platform was accessed for trainings on Mastering Common Interview Questions, Project Leadership, Strategic Ability, Tips to Build a Positive Mindset, and Working with Difficult People. In addition, 260 managers and 400 non-managers attended Employment Learning Innovations (ELI) "Civility in the Workplace" training.

Organizational Development & Training (OD&T) facilitated sessions 8 and 9 of its 14th cohort of Metropolitan Management University for 14 new managers. The topics were Recruitment, Employee Relations, Assertive Communication, and Coaching. OD&T also hosted a Job Spotlight, which educated employees on jobs and departmental functions at Metropolitan that we might not be aware of. Thirty-one employees logged in for this Spotlight session, which featured Metropolitan's Records Management Team and Historical Library.

The annual Employee Survey collected feedback on Metropolitan's culture and leadership (with a 54 percent response rate). The results will be posted on a SharePoint site hosted by Human Resources.

Information Technology

Major accomplishments have been made in the efforts to migrate and decommission 125 servers. The new location provides a more direct link to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI), enabling the Information Technology Group (ITG) to build and run various applications and services. For each server, ITG communicated with stakeholders to determine whether a server was deemed vital and then coordinated with the team to schedule downtime to execute the migration of servers. Upon completion, thorough testing was conducted to ensure that services were restored to normal. For all servers slated to be near end of life, ITG proceeded with decommissioning to reduce computing and power consumption to realize cost savings.

In summary, ITG addressed 125 servers:

- Forty four were successfully migrated.
- Twenty five were decommissioned.
- Fifty six are standard infrastructure servers scheduled to be decommissioned.

Safety, Security and Protection

Metropolitan Safety, Security & Protection staff assessed potential workplace violence hazards at the Pure Water demonstration facility in Carson and recommended control measures to reduce risk. Emergency Management was extremely busy this month with six wildfires in Metropolitan's service area, as well as two significant earthquakes. The Safety team prepared the draft Health, Safety and Environmental 101.5 Safety Committee Procedures to standardize the Safety Committees' activities. This procedure was presented at the Safety Committee Forum to solicit feedback from the local safety committees. The Environmental team submitted a Sewer Capacity Study to support an increase on the permitted flow rate into the Los Angeles County Sanitation District sewer. Additionally, the team submitted applications to Mojave District Air Quality Management District to permit a flexible abrasive blasting system that includes a booth, dust collector, abrasive blaster, and a compressor. The Apprenticeship Program hosted a tour at Diamond Valley Lake for the Board Chair, several directors, and representatives from the Southern California Pipe Trades training trusts.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

Staff presented progress on priority ratings for district facilities/campuses at the second Fire Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on October 2, 2024.

Water Resource Management

Water Resource Management (WRM) staff was involved in many areas of collaboration and water management. On the State Water Project front staff met with the Central Coast Water Agency and participated in the Municipal Water Quality Investigation annual meeting. The Colorado River staff participated with the North American Weather Modification Council, completed the annual Colorado River order through the the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Part 417 process and participated in the Minute 323 desalination working group. In conservation staff conducted two Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program trainings, partnered in a rainwater capture training with Southern California Gas, and received a briefing from the Advance Resilience LA organization. WRM staff also participated in the Annual Water Utility Climate Alliance General Manager meeting, completed the annual Local Supply Survey with the member agencies, and estimated and documented retail demand and regional gallons per capita per day.

Water System Operations

Metropolitan celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Water Quality Section, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. On October 24, the Water Quality Laboratory hosted a commemorative event with Metropolitan board members, executive management, current and former Water Quality staff, member agencies, and representatives from the State Water Resources Control Board. Originally established in 1974 as the Water Quality and Research Branch with 10 staff, today the Water Quality Section celebrates 100 dedicated professionals focused on safeguarding Metropolitan's water supplies and meeting emerging challenges through research and innovation.



Eagle Delivery Line 2 steel to concrete transition caulking joint deterioration



Completed Delivery Line 2 transition Joint



Coater Erik Griffin

TEAM DESCRIPTION

The Desert Section Coatings Team covers a wide range of skill sets. When fully staffed there are six coaters, two plumbers, two HVAC technicians, and two electricians. The team supports maintenance in pump plants, switch houses, industrial buildings, communication sites, canal repairs, and various equipment types throughout the Desert Section.

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

The Desert facilities, constructed in the early to mid-1900s, were built to endure. However without the expertise of the diverse team of skilled trades professionals, these facilities and their systems would not function reliably. Skilled trades play a crucial part in the reliability of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA).

MEMORABLE MOMENT

For many years, the Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant headgate structure has experienced leaks at the transition joints between the steel delivery line and the concrete headgate structure during high flows. These transition joints had deteriorated due to age, pressure, and vibration. Repairs over the years had been met with limited success, however during the February 2022 CRA Shutdown, the Corrosion Engineering Team (Phil Dooks and Steven Gallegos) recommended a relatively new multi-product application process that had been tested and proven to have much better adhesion and flexibility.

Coater Erik Griffin was assigned lead to perform the repairs for the transition joints at Eagle during the 2023 and 2024 CRA Shutdowns. Erik worked with Phil and Steven to strictly adhere to coating guidelines.

Erik did a remarkable job procuring, and staging equipment and materials for this task. He researched coating application temperature requirements considering potential weather variations that could affect the substrate temperatures, and the recoat timelines. He scheduled and directed staff through the entire process which took approximately three weeks of 12-plus hour days to achieve.

“Erik has the experience, knowledge, and the respect of a true Coatings professional. He continues to impress me with the quality of each project he completes.”

- John H. Wooster, Desert Support Services Unit Manager

Water Supply Conditions Report

Water Year 2024-2025

As of 10/31/2024

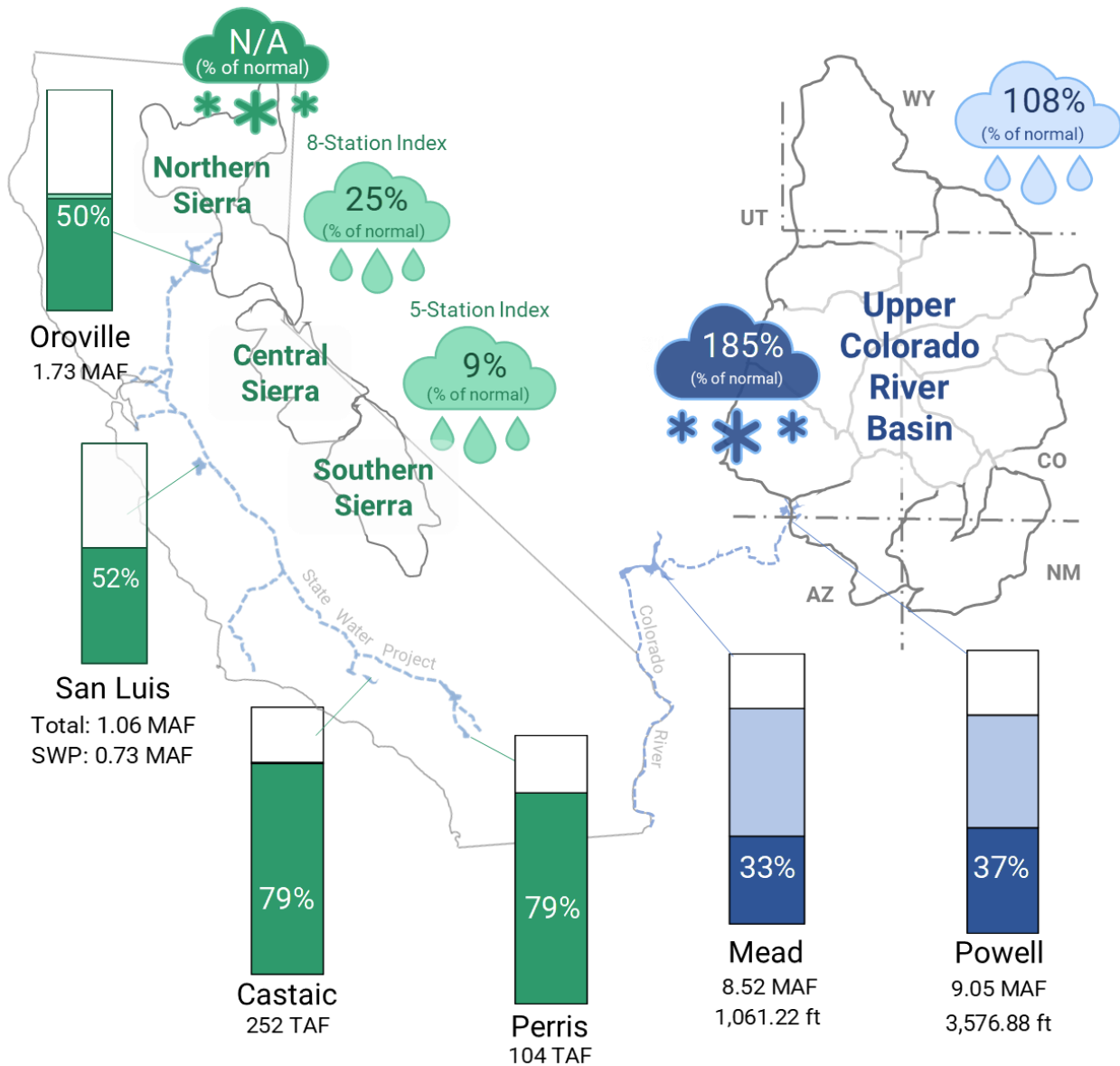
Extended Report: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

State Water Project Resources

SWP Allocation
40% Table A: 764,600 acre-feet

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions
957,000 acre-feet



Reservoir Report

End of Month Reservoir Report

Monthly Update as of:

10/31/2024

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	9,048,007	37%
Lake Mead	8,511,000	33%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	1,723,918	50%
Shasta Lake	2,591,139	57%
San Luis Total	1,057,140	52%
San Luis CDWR	723,679	68%
Castaic Lake	333,461	103%
Silverwood Lake	71,178	95%
Lake Perris	104,066	79%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	783,738	97%
Lake Mathews	103,777	57%
Lake Skinner	36,205	82%



Hoover Dam



Metropolitan's Mission 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.

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