



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

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

Summary

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

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- Attended Member Agency Board and City Council meetings with General Manager Adel Hagekhalil and Executive Officer Deven Upadhyay. I made seven stops in April: The City of San Fernando, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Eastern Municipal Water District, City of Long Beach, City of Compton, and West Basin Municipal Water District. We addressed the inter-relation between CAMP4Water, the Biennial Budget Process, Bay-Delta Issues, and the Colorado River, as well as our collective resiliency in addressing the State Water Project Exclusive Areas challenges. We also answered questions and comments from the member agency directors and, in some instances, members of the public, including local elected officials.





- Joined General Manager Adel Hagekhalil for a tour of the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center with Congresswoman Grace Napolitano and members of her staff, as well as officials of the County Sanitation Districts. Congresswoman Napolitano was joined by Congressman David Rouzer, Chairman of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Water Resources. It was an opportunity to communicate Metropolitan's mission, policies and projects that warrant congressional support.



- Participated in the first-ever gathering of Southern California's local governmental ethics and oversight experts responsible for ensuring transparency, integrity, and public trust. I addressed attendees, acknowledging the work that ethics office employees do in bridging the gap between the rules and regulations and real-life situations faced to make the right choices.



- Attended the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) signing ceremony for the signing of the historic Colorado River Indian Tribes Water Resiliency Act in the State of Arizona. I joined General Manager Adel Hagekhalil, and we had the opportunity to meet U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs, U.S. Senator Mark Kelly, Central Arizona Project President Terry Goddard, CRIT Chairwoman Amelia Flores, U.S. and Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Tom Buschatzke.



- I was presented with an award by the Hispanic Coalition of Small Businesses Spheres of Sustainability Summit for the work I have done advancing opportunities for small businesses around California. The event's theme, which I addressed, was "Spheres of Sustainability." I was honored to join Metropolitan Water District Business Outreach and Sustainability experts Liz Crosson, Rick Duarte and Rosa Castro who led panels on the subject. Thank you to General Manager Adel Hagekhalil for joining me at the event.



- I had the honor of speaking at a reception honoring three distinguished California water leaders who have recently ascended to lead national and statewide water organizations. Metropolitan Water District Assistant Group Manager Heather Collins, who is the incoming president of the American Water Works Association (AWWA); Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) President Cathy Green; and ACWA Vice President Ernie Avila from Contra Costa Water District. In



attendance were Metropolitan board members Dennis Erdman, Karl Seckel, Marty Miller, Gail Goldberg, Jacque McMillan, Larry Dick, and General Manager Adel Hagekhalil

Interviews & Correspondence

- I was interviewed by former Assembly Speaker Curt Pringle on his podcast titled "Talking Issues." I provided an overview of Metropolitan's CAMP4W and a basic overview of the district's history, water sources, delivery challenges, system evolution, and plans for future service.

Other Activities

- Celebrated Administrative Professionals Day with staff to honor and express gratitude for their unwavering dedication and hard work. While not all team members could be present, their contributions were acknowledged and deeply appreciated. Their commitment is pivotal to our success, and their efforts are valued daily.



Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

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