



General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of January 2023



Table of Contents

Message from the GM	3
Strategic Priorities Update	4-6
Executive Summary	7-8
Upcoming Board Items	9
Reflections	10
<hr/>	
Water Resources and Engineering	
Water Resource Management	11-16
Bay-Delta	17-18
Colorado River	19
Engineering	20-26
<hr/>	
Operations	
Water System Operations	27-47
Information Technology	48-49
Real Property	50-52
Security	53-54
<hr/>	
Finance and Administration	
Finance	55-56
Administrative Services	57
Human Resources	58-60
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	61
<hr/>	
External Affairs	62-65
<hr/>	
Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation	66-70

Message from the General Manager

Metropolitan has been working to reach agreement among the seven states that share the Colorado River basin on how to reduce water use and respond to the crisis of megadrought on the Colorado River.

And we do have agreement on a core element of the near-term response: the need to reduce use of Colorado River water by as much as 3.3-million-acre feet.

California has proposed a highly implementable approach to meet this goal, one that is consistent with the urgency of the situation.

It would operate within existing laws and agreements, build on funded water conservation, and commit Southern California agencies to a 9% cut, in addition to previously agreed to reductions.

Above all else, California's proposal would protect communities across the West by prioritizing water for human health and safety—a glaring omission in the proposal from other states.

The proposal from the other states seeks to shift the vast majority of cuts onto California. Their proposal conflicts with the existing Law of the River and the current water rights system, and it mandates cuts without providing tools to manage them. These flaws will surely delay any meaningful response to the crisis, harm existing water management programs, and ultimately undermine the ability to achieve the reductions offered.

Since 2003, Southern California water agencies have cut their use of Colorado River water by 15%. Californians' commitment to conservation has added more than 488 trillion gallons and 19 feet of elevation to the water level at Lake Mead since 2007.

Metropolitan remains committed to further improving water use efficiency, and we will continue to develop water management programs with our agricultural and tribal partners. We expect all water users to become more efficient and participate in the reductions necessary.

Forty million Americans and nearly six million acres of farmland depend on the Colorado River, as do people who live and farm in Mexico.

Each of us has a role to play in sustaining the river, which will require action in both the near-term and long-term. Metropolitan's proposal maintains a cooperative environment for negotiating long-term solutions, which will be the focus of further discussion over the next couple of years.

We have taken an important but early step in the modeling, analysis and ultimately decision-making that will take place over the next several months among the states, tribes, Mexico and the federal government.

I remain hopeful for consensus that shares responsibility fairly and equitably. In pursuit of that vision, know that I and all of Metropolitan will remain tireless advocates for protecting the river and its ability to serve the needs of Southern Californians.

We are one,

Adel



“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

**- Marie Curie,
Nobel Prize-winning
physicist and chemist**



Strategic Priorities Update

The General Manager's Strategic Priorities guide actions in key areas of focus, investment, and transformation for Metropolitan.

Empower the workforce and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion

Build a safe, inclusive, and accountable workplace where all employees feel valued, respected, and able to meaningfully contribute to decisions about their work.

The EEO Office has closed 82 percent of the cases inherited from April 2022, which exceeds the set goal. The DE&I Office is working with HR to fill four open positions to support its work and expects to be completely staffed by June 2023. In addition to presentations from Chief DE&I Officer Liji Thomas, panel discussions about water and resources, and a Q&A with the board chair, January's Management Forum for all staff managers hosted a presentation by an expert on how to develop emotional intelligence and build psychological safety to improve effectiveness.

The National Safety Council's (NSC) independent review of Metropolitan's safety program is complete, and its report is available to all employees. NSC will work with Metropolitan's leadership throughout the year to focus on setting Metropolitan's safety vision, mission, and annual safety goals; developing and adopting a continuous safety improvement process; and reviewing the organizational structure of safety staff and resources to effectively support all safety requirements.

Prepare and support the workforce by expanding training and skill development and updating strategies to recruit and retain diverse talent at a time when Metropolitan's needs are evolving and employee expectations about the workplace are changing.

To expand pathways to employment, Metropolitan is a signatory on IEWorks, a consortium that increases the number of highly qualified candidates for mission-critical positions in the water/wastewater industry, while promoting economic equity across the Inland Empire. Metropolitan also is part of the California Water, Wastewater, and Energy Workforce Development Program, in collaboration with the California Municipal Utilities Association. The Program recently received a \$4M High Road Training Partnership grant which will support, among other things, Metropolitan's water cybersecurity internship program.

In partnership with Engineering Services Group (ESG), the SRI office held a brown bag event to introduce over 100 participants to the ENVISION sustainable infrastructure training program.

Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model

Conduct a careful, deliberative and inclusive review of the rate structure to ensure the business model can adapt to changing needs of the member agencies and support sustainable local and imported supplies.

Working with board leadership and with input from a member agency managers meeting in January, staff prepared for the February Board Retreat that will focus on integrating our water, climate, and financial planning efforts, in the context of a changing climate. Interviews with all board members and member agency managers have been completed and the summary findings will be presented at the February Board Retreat.

Manage rate pressure on member agencies through attention to programmatic costs, organizational efficiencies and efforts to secure external funding for projects with broad and multi-purpose benefits.

SRI and RPG will be issuing a Request for Statements of Interest in early February to assess interest in developing renewable energy projects on Metropolitan properties.

Adapt to changing climate and water resources

Provide each member agency access to an equivalent level of water supply reliability through necessary adaptive implementation of the IRP findings.

Metropolitan has estimated the amount of turf in the service area and has been sharing that with the member agencies. Based on their feedback and interest, we are further developing the online turf dashboard to include analysis at the retail agency level, in addition to the current member agency-level analysis.

Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract for the Wadsworth Pumping Plant Bypass.

In partnership with the State Water Project-dependent area member agencies, staff is advancing a portfolio to support equivalent water supply reliability, and staff conducted Workshop #7 to update member agencies on analyses of near-term proposals that could provide relief to the SWP-dependent areas in times of drought.

After months of negotiations, two separate proposals were submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation in January—one from California and another from the six other states. While California was united in proposing water conservation that would comport with existing laws and agreements, we were unable to agree with states that want California to shoulder the majority of cuts under an inequitable framework and without the funding or tools to manage such cuts. Reclamation will proceed with modeling and environmental analysis of the necessary reductions, and the negotiations over both short-term actions and long-term solutions will continue. We are committed to pursuing a true consensus, one that maintains unity within California, includes agricultural, tribal, and international concerns, shares responsibility among all the basin states, and protects the health of Southern Californians as well as the Colorado River itself.

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 changing climate.

SRI has completed briefings on the Sustainability and Resiliency Strategy with internal groups and has launched the SRI Council to help guide strategy development. ESG has drafted the framework outline for the Infrastructure Resilience Plan, which will add to the Strategy. ESG also continues to assess two capital projects for ENVISION certification and is planning a pilot to test higher levels of recycled asphalt in paving projects.

In January, Metropolitan's Board awarded an agreement for program management services to support Pure Water Southern California, along with an increase in agreement authority for the process demonstration effort at the demo plant. The team is working to finalize the contract and to negotiate the first task order. An RFP for early start pipeline design was advertised in December, with proposals due January 17, 2023. The pipeline consultant authorization is scheduled for March 2023. We are reviewing NOP comments. We are evaluating impacts of increasing program flow from 100 mgd (90 mgd IPR/10 mgd DPR) to 115 mgd (90 mgd IPR/25 mgd DPR). Analysis of nitrogen management processes is underway, and selection of the nitrogen management process will be a major milestone for the program, anticipated sometime this summer/fall.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released the public Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Delta Conveyance Project and extended the comment period by 30 days until March 16, 2023.

The Sites Project Authority Board authorized entering into a Financial Assistance Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, securing the FY22 \$80 million Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) storage funds allocated to the Sites Project.

Staff worked with researchers from UC Davis to complete the first Delta Smelt Pilot Propagation Study using impoundments on Bouldin Island for Delta Smelt Cage Studies. The study successfully demonstrated impoundments as a viable tool for aquaculture of Delta smelt on Metropolitan's Delta Islands properties to produce and supplement Delta smelt for the wild.

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

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

This month marks the completion of two primary targets under this priority, the completion of the Cybersecurity Operations Center and the Datacenter Modernization and Relocation Project. The Cybersecurity Operations Center is still waiting on some minor ancillary equipment, such as audio-visual equipment and workstations, and the Datacenter Modernization and Relocation Project is in the decommissioning and project closure phase. Work also

continued this month on reviewing and finalizing the DVL dam emergency action plan and developing the condition assessment model for pipelines. In addition, staff is reviewing a tool to assess existing climate vulnerabilities, which was developed through a consultant.

Apply innovation, technology, and sustainable practices across project lifecycles (design, construction, operations, maintenance, and replacement).

A Request for Proposals was posted for the Enterprise Content Management System, and a pre-proposal conference was held and attended by 45 potential vendors representing 30 different companies. Proposals are due 2/16/23.

The innovation team is conducting six pilots throughout the district and is launching a new employee engagement platform in February.

Contracting Services is drafting an update to operating policy for the procurement of goods and services to integrate sustainability into procurement.

Partner with interested parties and the communities we serve

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.

While completion of the transition to in-house website management awaits final IT work on firewall security, key elements of new website content is under development, including the highlighting of strategic priorities. Preliminary work is largely complete to identify ways to improve and reflect public engagement and input in board letters. Internal and board review is expected, which could establish new operating policy.

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

Since signing the Equity in Infrastructure Program pledge, outreach to historically underutilized businesses has grown the number of DBEs in our vendor database by 30 percent.

Research continues to identify improvements for tribal engagement in California, and staff recently visited the Chemehuevi reservation for initial exploration of a potential partnership for environmental restoration and water conservation through the removal of invasive (and thirsty) Salt Cedar trees along the Colorado River shoreline.

Executive Summary

This executive summary is added to this report to provide a high-level snapshot of a key accomplishment from each area of the organization. Detailed information is reported in the pages following this summary.

Administrative Services

Throughout 2020 and 2021, Rideshare participation was greatly affected by COVID-19 and Metropolitan's teleworking policies. Now, in 2023, an average 39.6 percent of employees are enrolled in at least one Rideshare program. Of our six programs, Vanpool was affected the most by the pandemic because the entire program was terminated, and all vehicles returned to the leasing agency. Today, we are proud to say that currently 32 vanpools are active across seven worksites, including a total of 165 participants enjoying the benefits of Rideshare's vanpool program. Of the 165 Vanpool participants an additional 571 participants are enjoying the benefits from either our Transit, Carpool, Electric Vehicle, Bike, or Walk programs.

Bay-Delta Initiatives

In January, the Sites Project Authority Board (Authority Board) authorized entering into a Financial Assistance Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) securing the FY22 \$80 million Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act storage funds allocated to the Sites Reservoir Project. The Authority Board also reviewed and confirmed key points of response to Reclamation's December 16, 2022, letter indicating interest in participation in the Sites Reservoir Project at 16 percent and discussed steps to convert from supply-based participation to storage allocation-based participation in the project.

Chief Financial Officer

In December, an information report was provided to the Finance and Insurance Committee on Budget expenditure trend for fiscal year 2022/23 and status of new revenues and grants.

Colorado River

Representatives from California, including Metropolitan, met with representatives from the Colorado River Basin States (Basin States) to attempt to develop a seven-state consensus alternative to be modeled in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the 2007 Interim Guidelines. The Basin States were unable to reach a seven-state consensus, and California and the other six Basin States submitted model proposals to the Bureau of Reclamation by the January 31 deadline.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

DEI Staff has been continuing our outreach and engagement with Tribal Communities with recent visits to the Chemehuevi Reservation and engagement in topics that are relevant to our conservation efforts such as the eradication of salt cedar trees along the Colorado River banks. In Workforce Development efforts, we were recently part of a \$4MM grant award through the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) application for a High Road Training Partnership (H RTP) program to develop the California Water, Wastewater, and Energy Workforce Development Program (CWWEDP). Lastly, in the wake of the recent tragic shooting in Monterey Park, CA, we issued an all-employee communication through the Office of the GM and worked with our Asian American Employee Organization (AAEO) to celebrate Lunar New Year with remarks from Chair Ortega, General Manager Hagekhalil, Chief DE&I Officer Liji Thomas, and Director Morris.

Engineering Services

With \$80 million of state grant funding, Engineering has established a project team focused on advancing Pure Water Southern California. In January, Metropolitan's Board authorized an agreement for program management services to support the initiation of the program with the state grant funding. Also, Metropolitan received proposals for preliminary design of the initial reaches of the conveyance pipeline system. Staff anticipates a March 2023 board action to award agreements from this solicitation. Technical studies continue both to support the EIR effort and to further define the program's advanced treatment processes.

External Affairs

Adán Ortega, Jr., representing the city of San Fernando, was sworn in as chair of the Metropolitan Board of Directors. The first Latino to lead the board, he is the 20th chair in the district's history. (January 10)

Human Resources

The HR Group Manager concluded the recruitment process for the General Auditor position with a successful candidate selected by the Board.

Information Technology

Payroll and IT successfully completed processing the W-2 form (Wages & Taxes). Employees who have given consent to receive the electronic form, can download it by logging into MyHR.

Real Property

A 12-month Advanced Electronic Approval/Notice to Proceed was obtained from the Bureau of Reclamation in support of the Gene Communication System Upgrade project at the Colorado River Aqueduct's (CRA) Gene Pumping Plant facility. This approval will allow Metropolitan to commence potholing and construction activities to bring high-speed and high-quality connections in the desert to improve communications and security for continued water reliability and resiliency.

Security Management

Metropolitan security specialists proactively assessed, validated, and rapidly deployed several mobile security detection and video surveillance units to select critical infrastructure facilities that were either experiencing higher incidents of attempted catalytic converter thefts or are at an elevated risk, based upon recent nationwide electrical grid attacks and potential threats to public drinking water systems. The leased trailer units contain cutting-edge video cameras, detection sensors, lighting, and remote speaker systems that are completely self-sufficient and wirelessly connected to Metropolitan's 24/7 Security Watch Center.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

This month, staff held its first SRI Council Meeting with representatives from throughout the district focused on elevating and furthering sustainability initiatives and setting some near-term targets. Staff also helped lead a Brown Bag discussion with ESG on Envision Sustainable Infrastructure and a demonstration of LADWP's Ford F-150 Lightning electric truck at Jensen. The entire SRI Office toured the Los Cerritos Wetlands and planted native plants in the area's Zedler Marsh during the team's first office-wide field trip. The Chief SRI Officer participated in panels focused on climate resilience and adaptation at the American Water Summit and the UCLA Bren School Water Markets Symposium. The team also facilitated the participation of Heather Cooley from the Pacific Institute in a discussion with the Board's One Water and Stewardship Committee.

Water Resource Management

As a new phase of the Emergency Water Conservation Program went into effect for the State Water Project Dependent Area, staff coordinated with the agencies and provided updated supply volumes as the water year progressed.

Water System Operations

January storms brought welcome drought relief but also posed short-term challenges. Increased sediment loading in Castaic Lake brought turbidity in water entering Jensen plant to the highest levels in memory—over 100 times higher than normal. Staff quickly responded by activating the Jensen Incident Command Post, making system changes to lower plant demand, bringing additional basins into service, increasing chemical dosages, and implementing an innovative approach to manage excess solids. Despite this extreme event, all operational and water quality goals and regulations were met through the exceptional response by Metropolitan staff.

Upcoming Board Items

ANTICIPATED KEY ITEMS OF FOCUS – NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST
SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Report on Portfolio of Recommended Actions for State Water Project Dependent Areas • Health and Safety Program update • Action to consider revising the Emergency Water Conservation Program for the State Water Project Dependent areas while maintaining emergency water conservation across the entire service area
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on alternatives being considered by Reclamation in Supplemental EIS for Colorado River Basin Operations • Review water supply conditions, especially around the Colorado River supplies, and consider the implementation and timing of the Water Supply Allocation Plan (if necessary) • Quarterly Desert Housing update • Authorization to amend PVID following agreement and accept Inflation Reduction Act funding
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Direct Potable Reuse regulations • Review of Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Colorado River Interim Guidelines • Authorization to amend Quechan Forbearance Agreement and accept Inflation Reduction Act funding
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Desert Housing update • Approve new Colorado River implementing agreements • General Manager’s Business Plan update
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Sites Reservoir Project

The schedule of the following upcoming board items has not yet been determined:

September - February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Range Finance Plan – Phase 1 • Metropolitan Storage Portfolio workshop • Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation Strategic Plan workshop • Update on Voluntary Agreements package • Federal grants for large recycled water projects
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Diver entering Garvey Reservoir



Diver positioning isolation plate at Diemer plant



Diver entering Diemer plant basin

“Our work takes us where most will never venture. The safety of everyone on the team relies on our ability to work together and plan ahead.”

Brad Wallace, Diver-Inland Commercial

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MAINTENANCE DIVERS - There are many facets to the Maintenance Services Unit (MSU), often referred to as the “La Verne Shops” in Water System Operations. One particularly interesting element is that Metropolitan’s in-house maintenance divers are part of this unit. Our in-house dive team performs a multitude of underwater projects and is key to making emergency repairs in challenging environments. These divers work at depths up to 100 feet, often wearing more than 50 pounds of gear in complete darkness other than the lights they bring. Because their work locations are seldom seen by others, the five-member team is often tasked with the odd and unknown. This requires planning, collaboration, and “outside the box” problem-solving skills. The MSU Divers face an array of daily hazards due to the nature of their underwater work that must be carefully planned for and mitigated.

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

The MSU Divers have many critical responsibilities that can affect water quality, system flow, and regulatory maintenance. Some of these responsibilities include floating cover reservoir maintenance, reservoir outlet tower cleaning, as well as underwater valve sealing. Sealing of valves is crucial to the success of many shutdowns throughout the year, including the CRA Shutdown. Having an in-house dive team also allows quick deployment when issues arise to maintain system reliability. The dedicated efforts of the MSU Divers help Metropolitan continue to provide safe, reliable drinking water to millions of Southern Californians.

MEMORABLE PROJECTS

The divers have been integral to many important projects. In recent years, filter upgrades at Diemer, actuator refurbishment at the Lake Skinner Tower, and an emergency repair at the CB-01 service connection would not have been possible without the talent and dedication of our MSU Divers.



Cleaning Lake Mathews

Water Resources and Engineering



Water Resource Management

Ensure Reliable State Water Project (SWP).

Starting in 2013 and finishing in 2014, the public water agencies representing the 29 State Water Project contractors negotiated an MOU for a 50-year extension of the State Water Project contract. Since that time, an amended contract was drafted, the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process was completed, the amended contract was reviewed by the Legislature, and lawsuits challenging the amended contract and EIR were addressed by the courts. This month, the California Department of Water Resources notified all water contractors that the extended contract became effective on January 1, 2023. The extended contract includes amendments to the cost recovery provisions and extends the term through December 2085.

Manage Existing and Develop New Regional Water Management Programs to Maintain Water Supply Reliability in the Face of Increasing Water Supply Volatility.

Staff presented a new Stormwater for Direct Use Program project at the January One Water and Stewardship Committee. The project is located at the South Pasadena City Hall building and will include new infrastructure to capture and store stormwater on-site for irrigation use. The Board approved entering into an agreement with the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and the City of South Pasadena for this project.

Each year, staff conducts inspections of On-Site Retrofit Program projects that received funding in the previous fiscal year. The inspections are required for audit purposes but are also a useful tool for learning about the successes and challenges that agencies and project applicants encounter when retrofitting their systems to recycled water. In January, staff conducted the final four site visits for the FY21–22 On-Site Retrofit Program inspections. Three projects were located within the City of Carlsbad (San Diego County Water Authority), and one project was located in the City of Hemet (Eastern Municipal Water District).

Participate in Federal, State, and Local Water-Energy Nexus processes to support Metropolitan Energy Sustainability and Climate Action Plans

On January 19, staff participated in a water-energy nexus workshop organized by the Walton Family Foundation. The workshop focused on addressing the water supply and demand crisis in the Lower Colorado River Basin by discussing the potential use of solar covers or floating solar projects on canals, which would save water by reducing evaporation while producing energy. In addition to speakers talking about current pilot projects and future potential studies, the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Commissioner, Michael Brain, discussed federal funding opportunities included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Implement Regional Conservation Program

Staff submitted an application to the California Department of Water Resources 2022 Urban Community Drought Relief Program. The application includes a request for a total of \$38 million as described below:

- \$30 million: Non-functional turf replacement in commercial and public agency landscapes
- \$5 million: The direct installation of weather-based irrigation controllers, premium high-efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucet aerators, benefiting low-income customers of SoCalGas and Metropolitan member agencies (Residential Direct Installation Program)
- \$3 million: Direct Recirculating Apparatus Firefighting Training and Sustainability Units for local fire departments through the Water Savings Incentive Program (WSIP)

Collaborate with Member Agencies, Water Agencies and Associations, and Provide Leadership for Policy Development, Advocacy, Outreach and Education

Staff participated in CalDesal's Executive and Regulatory meetings in January. The discussions included preparation for CalDesal's Annual Conference and for legislative activities in 2023. CalDesal is holding its annual conference on February 16–17 in Sacramento. The program includes panels on climate change, permitting and regulations, innovation in seawater and brackish desalination, applied research, and project delivery. Staff is presenting at the conference and Metropolitan is sponsoring the conference. The Multi-States Salinity Coalition is holding its annual Salinity Summit from February 22 through 24 in Las Vegas. Here are the links to the two conferences: CalDesal: <https://www.caldesal.org/events>; MSSC; <https://www.multi-statesalinitycoalition.com/mssc-summit/>.

Department of Water Resources (DWR) continues to lead efforts in developing the California Water Plan (CWP) Update 2023. On January 11, DWR held a virtual meeting to kick off the Equity Survey Workgroup process. This workgroup will help DWR develop a survey to gather information on water equity from regional and local water agencies. This survey will assist state agencies in better understanding how regional and local water managers are advancing water equity and will serve as an opportunity for water managers to communicate their needs to the State. With water equity as one of the main themes of the California Water Plan (CWP) Update 2023, this process will inform the Equity chapter that DWR is developing. Metropolitan staff volunteered to participate and provide input to DWR as part of this workgroup.

Staff continued implementing the Emergency Water Conservation Program (EWCP) to address severely limited SWP system water supplies. The affected member agencies continued to show reductions in purchases from Metropolitan compared with historical and projected levels, indicating consumer responsiveness with demand-cutting measures. Path One watering day limit compliance requirements remained at one day-per-week watering restrictions during December. Staff is continuously monitoring and reporting water use performance to the affected member agencies to ensure that SWP water usage stays on track to remain within the available supplies. No penalties were issued under the EWCP in 2022.

On January 18, staff held the first of a series of coordination meetings with the Member Agencies on the Water Supply Allocation Plan (WSAP). The purpose of these coordination meetings will be to gain a common understanding of the WSAP, coordinate the necessary updates needed for implementation, and discuss the developing hydrologic conditions and decision-making before making any recommendation to the Board to modify and/or implement the WSAP. The primary topics of discussion at the January 18 meeting were how the Base Period is used in the WSAP and the implications of changing the current Base Period.

Staff made several presentations in the community on Metropolitan's water supply reliability outlook and water resource management efforts. On January 18, staff gave a keynote presentation to the Orange County Water

Association. On January 23, staff participated in a Water Resiliency Panel for the Resiliency and Conservation Subcommittee of the Southern California Association of Governments. On January 26, staff was a guest presenter to the Southern California Water Utilities Association.

Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Water Resource Management staff held a Future Supply Actions Funding Program (FSA) webinar on stormwater recharge basins on Friday, January 13th. The webinar covered the Calleguas Municipal Water District's FSA demonstration study of an innovative approach for tracking the flow of water in recharge basins. Stormwater managers can use the approach to identify problems with individual basins, which can then be used to optimize stormwater capture. The study's results are applicable to recharge basins throughout the region. Staff from External Affairs and Information Technology assisted with the webinar. Over 50 stakeholders participated. The Future Supply Actions study presentations, webinar recordings, and final reports are available on Metropolitan's website here: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/funding-opportunities#future-supply>. Staff is planning more FSA studies for 2023.

Implement Stormwater Pilot Programs

Staff participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Montclair Basins Improvement Project (Project), one of the projects in Metropolitan's Stormwater Recharge Pilot projects. Project partners include the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) and Chino Basin Water Conservation District (CBWCD). The project includes upgrades to the existing Montclair Basin, groundwater modeling, and three years of stormwater recharge monitoring and reporting. It will increase capture in the Montclair Basins by an average of 152 AF per year. Representatives from IEUA, CBWCD, and San Bernardino County also spoke at the ceremony.

Position Metropolitan as a leader in Open Water Data.

Staff participated in a California Water Data Consortium (CWDC) board meeting and related subcommittee meetings. Key topics included managing several state and federal grants awarded to the CWDC and strategic planning. Staff also provided in-kind services for the CWDC's Urban Water Data pilot study. The study is a collaboration among the CWDC and participating State agencies. Study goals include identifying opportunities for streamlining the reporting of urban water data to the state while also increasing access to the data.

Explore opportunities to leverage Metropolitan's SWP and Colorado River supplies and storage assets.

On January 23, staff met with Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District for an in-person quarterly coordination meeting. The agencies met at Lake Perris to discuss Metropolitan's plans for 2023 as well as other items of common interest. Staff from the California Department of Water Resources presented information on the DWR projects in the Lake Perris area, such as the dam remediation, outlet tower, emergency release facility, and the proposed seepage capture program. After the meeting, DWR staff took the group on a tour of Lake Perris facilities.



Lake Perris Recreation Area covered with a green landscape due to the recent rains and the snowy mountains in the background.



Staff from Metropolitan, Desert Water Agency, and Coachella Valley Water District enjoy a windy sunny day at the Lake Perris outlet tower bridge.

Promote Metropolitan’s Technical Capabilities and Innovation Efforts to Advance the Understanding of Water Resources Management

On January 20, staff who are alumni of UC Santa Barbara’s Bren School of Environmental Science and Management attended the annual Sustainable Water Markets (SWM) symposium. Staff moderated two panels: “Market-based Approaches to Colorado River Management” and “Water Resilience and Intersections with Urban Efficiency.” Metropolitan’s Manager of Colorado River Resources and Chief Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation Officer joined the event as panelists to share updates on Metropolitan partnerships and projects relating to the Colorado River and sustainability initiatives.

Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)



Market-based Approaches to Colorado River Management panel. Panelists included (from left) Andrew Purkey (AMP Insights), Brian Richter (Sustainable Waters), Season Martin (Virga Labs), Bill Hasencamp (Metropolitan Water District), moderated by Lauren Steely (Metropolitan Water District).



Water Resilience and Intersections with Urban Efficiency panel. Panelists included (from left) Heather Cooley (Pacific Institute), Tara Moran (CA Water Data Consortium), Liz Crossen (Metropolitan Water District), Newsha Ajami (on screen, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory), moderated by Lindsay McPhail (Metropolitan Water District).

On January 26, staff welcomed a group of Brazilian students to the F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant in La Verne. Staff provided an overview of Metropolitan, how water resources are managed in California and some of the challenges faced during droughts while keeping Metropolitan’s mission of delivering high-quality water. After the presentation, staff accompanied the group on a tour of the Weymouth treatment plant.

Water Resources and Engineering

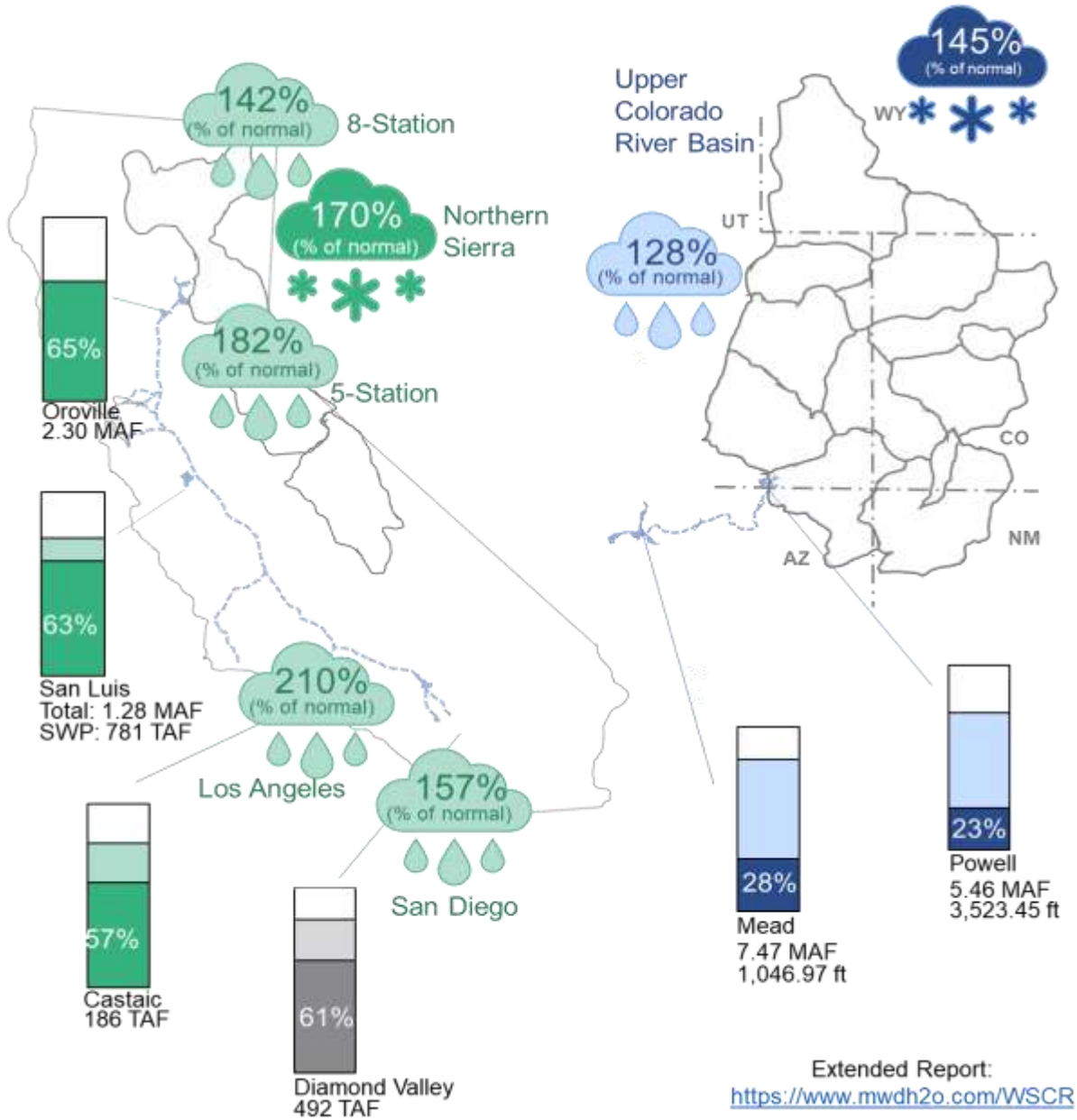
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State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A – 30% - 573,450 AF

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions – 971,000 AF



As of January 31, 2023

Bay-Delta Initiatives

Project Highlights

Delta Conveyance

The public comment period for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) closed on Friday, December 16, 2022. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is in the process of reviewing and responding to comments received on the Draft EIR and plans to issue a Final EIR in late 2023.

On December 16, 2022, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released the public Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the DCP. The USACE held three virtual public meetings in January to receive comments from affected federal, state, regional, and local agencies, Native American tribes, other interested private organizations, and the public on the project and the draft document. The USACE extended the comment period by 30 days until March 16, 2023.

Joint Powers Authorities

On January 13, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Board of Directors held a special meeting and approved extending a resolution authorizing virtual board and committee meetings pursuant to AB 361.

During the January 19 meeting of the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) new board officers were elected, with the President as Paul Sethy (Alameda County Water District), Vice President as Russell Lefevre (Metropolitan), Secretary as Robert Cheng (Coachella Valley Water District), and Treasurer as Katano Kasaine (Metropolitan).

Sites Reservoir

In their January joint meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board (Authority Board) and the Sites Reservoir Committee (Reservoir Committee) authorized the Authority Board to enter into a Financial Assistance Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) securing the FY22 \$80 million Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act storage funds allocated to the Sites Reservoir Project. The Authority Board and Reservoir Committee also reviewed and confirmed key points of response to Reclamation's December 16, 2022, letter indicating interest in participation in the Sites Reservoir Project at 16 percent and discussed steps of converting from supply-based participation to storage allocation-based participation in the project.

Science Activities

Staff worked with researchers from UC Davis to complete the first Delta Smelt Pilot Propagation Study. The study involved using impoundments on Bouldin Island for use in Delta smelt cage studies. The study successfully demonstrated impoundments as a viable tool for aquaculture of Delta smelt on Metropolitan's Delta Islands properties in the effort to produce more Delta smelt for supplementation into the wild. The second deployment is scheduled for the beginning of February 2023.

Regulatory Activities

On January 5, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement in Support of Proposed Voluntary Agreements for the Sacramento River, Delta, and Tributaries Update to the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Water Quality Control Plan (Draft Scientific Basis Report

Supplement). The SWRCB held a Board Workshop on January 19, and public comments on the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement are due February 8, 2023. The Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement documents the science supporting the provisions included in the proposed Voluntary Agreements (VAs) and is the first step to considering the VAs as an alternative for the Sac/Delta Update and implementation of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan (Bay-Delta Plan). Staff is reviewing the Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement and coordinating with the State Water Contractors (SWC) to develop comments. The next steps in the Sac/Delta Update to the Bay-Delta Plan include:

- Spring 2023: Draft Scientific Basis Report Supplement revised to address public comments and submitted for independent peer review
- Spring 2023: SWRCB releases Draft Bay-Delta Plan Update Staff Report for public comment
- Spring/Summer 2023: Public workshop on Draft Staff Report
- Spring/Summer 2024: Release of final draft Staff Report including responses to comments and proposed Sac/Delta changes to the Bay-Delta Plan
- Summer/Fall 2024: SWRCB consideration of adoption of the Sac/Delta Update to Bay-Delta Plan

Staff coordinated with SWC to develop a near-term monitoring program to determine whether Delta smelt and longfin smelt are present in the South Delta turbidity field and to evaluate the effects of the 2019/2020 Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Permit Early Winter Pulse Protection Action (EWPPA). The monitoring includes coordination with DWR and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and uses environmental DNA monitoring methods to determine whether smelt are present in the south Delta and to inform the efficacy of the EWPPA. On January 18, the SWC Board of Directors approved funding to implement the monitoring.

Delta Island Activities

Staff is developing several grant proposals for proposed projects on the Delta Islands, including wetland/habitat restoration projects on Bouldin Island and Webb Tract, funding for a Phase I Delta Smelt study, funding for construction of Phase II of the Delta Smelt Project, and is pursuing a planning grant for a proposed integrated research, training, and education center on Bouldin Island.

Colorado River

California Submits Modeling Alternative for Reclamation's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

In late 2022, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) initiated the process to develop a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines. The purpose of the SEIS is to analyze and develop new operating guidelines for the Colorado River that protect critical infrastructure and Lake Mead and Lake Powell, including power generation facilities. Reclamation stated that it would model several alternatives in the SEIS, including a consensus-based alternative from the Colorado River Basin States (Basin States), provided that such an alternative was submitted by the end of January. Starting in December 2022, the seven Basin States and key water agencies, including Metropolitan, attempted to reach a consensus alternative to be included in the SEIS. After many days of meetings, in late January it was apparent such a consensus alternative could not be achieved. Six Basin States developed and submitted an alternative to Reclamation, and California submitted its own alternative. Both alternatives include significant water delivery reductions and include provisions to protect Human Health and Safety supplies. The California alternative seeks voluntary and compensated water conservation actions initially, and if insufficient, moves to mandatory cutbacks. The six-state alternative imposes mandatory cutbacks immediately without any tools to help water agencies reduce their use.

It is anticipated that Reclamation may include both alternatives in the SEIS for evaluation. A draft SEIS is scheduled for release in late April 2023, and despite not being able to achieve a consensus-based modeling approach, the seven Basin States have each expressed interest in working together to see if all states can develop and support a proposed preferred alternative to Reclamation for the Final SEIS. A Record of Decision is anticipated in July 2023, with any new delivery reductions and new operating rules applied to the Lower Basin from 2024 through 2026. Metropolitan staff will provide an overview of the two proposed modeling alternatives at the February 2023 Legal and Claims Committee.

Engineering

Core Business Function – Execute Capital Investment Plan projects

Engineering Services manages and executes projects within the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) to maintain infrastructure resiliency, ensure regulatory compliance, enhance sustainability, and provide flexibility in system operations to address uncertain water supply conditions.

Distribution System Reliability Program

This program maintains reliable water deliveries through specific rehabilitation and upgrade projects on Metropolitan’s pipelines, reservoirs, and control structures. Recent activities include the following:

- **Casa Loma Siphon Seismic Upgrades**—This project mitigates leaks associated with long-term ground subsidence and will improve seismic resilience of the siphon as it crosses the Casa Loma Fault. This project replaces approximately 1,200 feet of the Casa Loma Siphon Barrel No. 1 at a fault crossing, using earthquake resistant ductile iron pipe (ERDIP) and welded steel pipe. The contractor has installed both the ERDIP and steel pipe and has finished backfilling along the new Casa Loma Siphon Barrel No. 1 alignment. The final tie-in will occur in February 2023 during the planned CRA shutdown. Construction is approximately 75 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 2023.
- **Etiwanda Pipeline Relining**—This project will remove damaged mortar lining in 5.5 miles of pipeline and replace it with polyurethane lining. Stages 1 and 2, which relined 3 miles of the pipeline, have already been completed. Stage 3 will reline the remaining 2.5 miles of pipeline and is currently under construction. The contractor is removing mortar lining and installing noise control panels at pipe entry portals. Stage 3 construction is approximately 25 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by October 2023.
- **Sepulveda Feeder Electrical Improvements**—This project replaces deteriorated electrical components, includes other upgrades at three Sepulveda Feeder underground structures, and installs two blind flanges after removing a spool of the West Valley Feeder. The contractor is currently backfilling excavations for electrical conduits. Construction is 15 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2023.
- **San Diego Pipeline No. 1 Rainbow Tunnel Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates the concrete tunnel liner of San Diego Pipeline No. 1 Rainbow Tunnel at ten locations by removal and replacement of localized degraded concrete sections. The contractor will perform the work during two upcoming shutdowns, scheduled for late January 2023 and early March 2023. The contractor is currently transmitting submittals for review. Construction is currently estimated to be 5 percent complete.



Etiwanda Pipeline Relining—Preparing pipe surface for relining

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program

This program was established to enhance the reliability of Metropolitan’s water distribution system and to reduce the risk of costly emergency repairs of PCCP. The priority pipelines included in the program are the Second Lower Feeder, Sepulveda Feeder, Calabasas Feeder, Rialto Pipeline, and the Allen-McColloch Pipeline. A total of 100 miles of PCCP pipelines will eventually be relined with new steel pipe liners under this 20-year program. Recent activities include the following:

- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 3A**—This project enhances distribution system reliability by rehabilitating 6,500 feet PCCP portions of the Second Lower Feeder within the city of Rolling Hills Estates. The contractor has completed traffic control setup, shoring installation, and excavation of an excavation pit. Construction is 32 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2023.
- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 3B**—This project enhances distribution system reliability by rehabilitating PCCP segments of the Second Lower Feeder. Final design of the 3.7-mile-long portion of the Second Lower Feeder that traverses the cities of Lomita, Los Angeles, and Torrance is complete, and a construction contract was awarded in January 2023.
- **Second Lower Feeder Valve Procurement**—This procurement contract provides 13 conical plug valves for the Second Lower Feeder PCCP rehabilitation. Six valves have been delivered. Two additional valves are complete, are undergoing hydrostatic testing, and are scheduled to be delivered in early 2023. Two more

valves will be delivered in the summer of 2023. Fabrication of the last three valves will be completed in early 2024.

- **Sepulveda PCCP Reach 1**—This project enhances distribution system reliability by rehabilitating PCCP segments of the Sepulveda Feeder. Reach 1 spans 4.7 miles through several cities including the City of Hawthorne, City of Inglewood, and City of Los Angeles. Final design is approximately 72 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2023.
- **Sepulveda Feeder North Reach**—This rehabilitation project was re-prioritized to support the West Area Water Supply Reliability Improvements. The North Reach project, in conjunction with the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations, will allow the reversal of normal flow in the Sepulveda Feeder to augment treated water deliveries to the west service area. The North Reach preliminary design is approximately 5 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in December 2023.
- **PCCP Rehabilitation Valve Storage Building**—This project constructs a 18,160 square-foot pre-engineered metal building on a reinforced concrete slab at Lake Mathews for valve and equipment storage. The contractor is currently erecting the building framing. Construction is 60 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in September 2023.



PCCP Rehabilitation Valve Storage Building—Erection of steel framing

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

This program maintains the reliability of Metropolitan’s CRA conveyance system. Recent activities include the following:

- **Cabazon Radial Gate**—This project replaces two radial gates and makes security, access, and safety improvements to the Cabazon Radial Gate Structure. Preliminary design is 90 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by February 2023.
- **CRA Pumping Plants Sump Rehabilitation**—This project consists of rehabilitating two main and five auxiliary sumps, each at all five of Metropolitan’s Colorado River Aqueduct Pumping Plants. Rehabilitation includes

installation of pumps, piping, valves, structural support, and electrical systems, including improved access and lighting. Final design is 40 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by March 2024.

- **CRA Main Transformer Replacement**—This project replaces the 35 230 kV and 69 kV step-down transformers that are used to run the main pumps at all five of Metropolitan’s Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. Preliminary design is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed by April 2023. The new transformers will be procured by Metropolitan. A procurement contract is scheduled to be awarded in mid-2023.
- **CRA Conveyance System Level Sensor Installation**—This project installs eleven water level gauging stations at remote sites along the Colorado River Aqueduct’s conveyance system and rehabilitates five access structures along the Sand Hill cut-and-cover conduit. Final design is 90 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by April 2023.

System Flexibility/Supply Reliability

Projects under this program will enhance the flexibility and/or increase the capacity of Metropolitan’s water supply and delivery infrastructure to meet current and projected service demands. Projects under this program address climate change affecting water supply, regional drought, and alternative water sources for areas dependent on State Project water. The following projects are part of a series of projects that are being undertaken to improve supply reliability for State Water Project-dependent member agencies.

- **Verbena Land Acquisition**—This project will complete Records of Survey for properties acquired in the Palo Verde Irrigation District. The final Record of Survey map has been prepared and submitted to Imperial County for review and recordation.
- **Foothill Pump Station Intertie**—This project will connect San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District’s (SBVMWD) Foothill Pump Station with the Inland Feeder to provide the needed hydraulic lift to deliver water from DVL to Rialto service area upon completion. Final design is 85 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in March 2023. A procurement contract for long-lead valves is scheduled for award by the Board in April 2023.
- **Perris Valley Pipeline Interstate 215 Crossing**—This project will complete unfinished portions of the Perris Valley Pipeline by tunneling underneath the I-215 Freeway. The Perris Valley pipeline project allows Metropolitan to deliver treated water from the Mills plant to meet projected treated water demands in Riverside County and increase operational flexibility in this portion of Metropolitan’s service area. Final design is complete, and a construction contract was awarded in January 2023.
- **Wadsworth Pumping Plant Bypass Pipeline**—This project will construct a pipeline connecting the Wadsworth Pumphouse Conduit to the Inland Feeder at the Wadsworth Pumping Plant to allow continuous pumping of water from DVL’s forebay while simultaneously filling the forebay from the lake. Final design is complete, and a construction contract was awarded in January 2023.
- **Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Project**—This project will add pump stations at the Sepulveda Canyon and Venice Pressure Control Facilities to allow Metropolitan to reverse the normal flow in the Sepulveda Feeder and augment treated water deliveries on the west service area portion of Metropolitan’s distribution system. It is Metropolitan’s first project to use a progressive design build approach. Conceptual design is 75 percent complete. Front end engineering documents are scheduled to be complete by March 2023, in preparation for issuing a request for qualifications for a design-build entity.

Treatment Plant Reliability Program

This program was initiated to maintain reliability and improve the operating efficiency of Metropolitan’s water treatment plants through specific improvement projects. Recent activities include the following:

- **Weymouth Basins 5-8 and Filter Building No. 2 Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates major mechanical and structural components including the flocculation/sedimentation equipment, sludge pumps, baffle boards and walls, launders, inlet gates, and outlet drop gates at the Weymouth plant. Other improvements included in this contract are seismic upgrades of basin walls and inlet channel, abatement of hazardous materials in the basins, and replacement of filter valves and actuators in Filter Building No. 2. During a planned outage of Basins 5–8, the contractor completed installation and testing of six new Metropolitan-furnished filter valves, an isolation drop gate in the basin inlet channel, and critical electrical equipment. In January, the half-plant shutdown was completed on schedule. Construction is 15 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 2025.
- **Mills Ozonation System PLC Upgrade**—This project replaces the outdated generator control system at the Mills plant with new PLC equipment along with upgraded software. Final design was completed in December 2022. Metropolitan forces are currently installing and commissioning the equipment with support from a specialized consultant. The upgrade is scheduled to be completed by March 2023.
- **Mills Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2**—This project upgrades the electrical system with dual-power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practices; improve plant reliability; and enhance worker safety. Stage 1 construction is complete. Stage 2 improvements will add a second incoming 12 kV service from Riverside Public Utilities (RPU), reconfigure the existing 4160-volt switchgear, and replace the standby generator switchgear and the emergency generator programmable logic controller. The contractor has started installation of duct banks and electrical vaults and is preparing to expand the ORP switchgear building. Construction is 21 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2024.



Weymouth Basins 5-8 and Filter Building No. 2 Rehabilitation—Installing gate guide

System Reliability Program

The System Reliability Program consists of projects to improve or modify facilities located throughout Metropolitan's service area in order to utilize new processes and/or technologies and improve facility safety and overall reliability. Recent activities include the following:

- **Headquarters Physical Security Upgrades**—This project implements comprehensive security upgrades for the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. These upgrades are consistent with federally recommended best practices for government buildings. This work has been prioritized and staged to minimize rework and impacts on day-to-day operations within the building. Stage 1 work is complete and provides enhanced security related to perimeter windows and doors. Stage 2 work is complete and provides security system upgrades inside the building with a focus on the main entry rotunda area, boardroom, executive dining lounge, and security control room. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. A construction contract for Stage 3 improvements was awarded in December 2022, and the contractor is beginning to transmit project submittals. Construction is scheduled to be complete by December 2023.
- **Headquarters Building Fire Alarm and Smoke Control System Upgrades**—This project upgrades the Metropolitan Headquarters Building fire life safety systems, which includes replacement of the fire detection and alarm system and HVAC system improvements for smoke control. The fire alarm and smoke control systems in the Metropolitan Headquarters Building provide detection, notification, and control of building functions so that occupants and visitors can safely exit in the event of a fire. The contractor completed the fire alarm system upgrades and is currently working on the smoke control upgrades, including installation of smoke fire dampers and control panels on Floors 1–7. Construction is 75 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2023.
- **SCADA System Upgrades**—This project will upgrade Metropolitan's entire control system in incremental stages, spanning the Colorado River Aqueduct, the five water treatment plants, and the conveyance and distribution system. The first stage of this project replaces the control system at the Mills plant, starting with a pilot effort on one of the plant's remote terminal units. The pilot effort will demonstrate the proposed technology and the consultant's approach for the plant and the overall project. The pilot phase is 12 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by September 2023. The system upgrades at the Mills plant are scheduled to be complete by April 2026.

Partnering with Operations to Maintain System Reliability

Approximately 70 employees participated in the sixth semiannual Operations & Engineering partnering workshop. This staff-led workshop reminded the attendees of the partnering group's values of safety, communication, reliability, teamwork, and stewardship. The Group Managers expressed their shared commitment to partnering and reminded the attendees that partnering is easy when everything is going smoothly, but it will be key to Metropolitan's success as we face the challenges ahead. Staff summarized the progress on several partnering initiatives; presented information on asset and maintenance management; and conducted a panel on lessons-learned from the Upper Feeder expansion joint repair. The workshop format provided opportunities for interaction and collaboration on future initiatives. The resident engineer conducted a tour of two construction projects, Weymouth Basins 5–8 Upgrades, and La Verne Shops Upgrades.



Partnering Workshop Attendees Outside Metropolitan’s Water Quality Lab



Water System Operations

Core Business Objectives

Develop New Solutions to Enhance Operational and Business Processes

This month, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) provided a demonstration of battery electric F-150 Lightning trucks and construction vehicles at the Jensen plant. Managers throughout Metropolitan were able to test drive and learn about LADWP's experiences operating electrical vehicles.



Metropolitan managers with LADWP battery-electric pick-up truck at the Jensen plant



LADWP battery-electric front-end loader at the Jensen plant

Prepare Employees for New Opportunities

The Water System Operations Apprentice and Technical Training Programs develop and train personnel to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, the Apprenticeship Program completed physical abilities testing for the internal recruitment candidates. This recruitment gives Metropolitan employees the opportunity to be hired on as a mechanical or electrical apprentice. Physical abilities testing took place at the Mills plant. Each candidate completed the written exam and interview before advancing to the physical abilities testing, the final step in the hiring process. All candidates that passed the test will move forward in the hiring process. Approximately 12 candidates participated in confined space, working overhead, shoveling, climbing while lifting, and wire color matching simulation activities. Experienced journey-level workers from mechanical and electrical operations and maintenance teams proctored the tests. Candidates will be ranked on a list and will be offered positions according to their ranking.



Apprenticeship candidate completing the confined space simulation of physical abilities testing



Apprenticeship candidate completing the working overhead simulation of the physical abilities test



Apprenticeship candidate completing the shoveling simulation of the physical abilities test



Apprenticeship candidate completing the confined space simulation of the physical abilities test

Manage Vacancies

WSO filled eight vacant positions in December 2022.

Provide Reliable Water Deliveries

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 63,200 acre-feet (AF) for January with an average of 2,039 AF per day, which was 1,474 AF per day lower than in December. Treated water deliveries decreased by 14,500 AF from December, for a total of 34,300 AF, or 54 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct

(CRA) transitioned from seven to five and then four-pump flow in January, with a total of 65,000 AF pumped in January. This change in operations was due to several storms in late December and January, which decreased demands throughout Metropolitan’s service area and resulted in higher than anticipated storage in Lake Mathews. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 303 AF per day, totaling about 9,400 AF for the month, which accounted for approximately 15 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

Manage Water Reserves

Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles, operational objectives, and the low State Water Project (SWP) allocation. Deliveries of SWP supplies were minimized to preserve SWP Carryover and Flexible Storage. Releases from DVL through PC-1 to connections on the Lakeview Pipeline, as well as the DVL to Mills plant operation, continued in January to conserve SWP supply use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in January. In addition, staff continued coordination with member agencies, shifting their deliveries from SWP connections to Colorado River water connections when possible. Staff continue to develop additional drought mitigation actions to prepare for a potential low SWP allocation in 2023.

Support Imported Supply Reliability

Pipelines and distribution systems have many appurtenances that are essential to managing reliability. These include siphon breakers that can prevent pipeline collapse caused by a sudden pressure drop. The La Verne Shops received a request from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to refurbish a 30-inch siphon breaker for the Oso Pumping Plant. The siphon breaker was refurbished to an as-new condition and a functional test was successfully performed.



As-received condition of the siphon breaker cover (left) and body (right) for DWR’s Oso Pumping Plant



Checking dimensions of the blasted siphon breaker body (left) and final coating of assembled siphon breaker (right) for DWR's Oso Pumping Plant



Functional testing of the siphon breaker (left) and completed siphon breaker packaged for delivery (right) from the La Verne Shops to DWR

Support the Pure Water Southern California Program

Staff continued baseline testing for secondary membrane bioreactor operations at the Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) demonstration plant in Carson. A return activated sludge pump in one of the membrane bioreactor systems was quickly replaced after developing an electrical short, and the system resumed operation without interrupting the sampling schedule. Samples were also collected to test for potential chemical contaminants such as nitrosamines, nitrosamine precursors, and low molecular weight compounds, and to develop bioassay methods for toxicity testing.



Staff installing a replacement return activated sludge pump at the PWSC demonstration plant

Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner

Energy markets experienced a spike in natural gas prices in the second week of December 2022, caused by unusually cold weather across the United States and particularly on the West Coast, and tighter natural gas supplies due to geopolitical conditions and exports to European markets. Natural gas delivered to southern California increased from a typical winter range of \$6–10 per 1 Million British Thermal Units (MMBtu) to previously unheard-of prices in the \$40–60 per MMBtu range. In comparison, 2021’s Winter Storm Viola, which affected natural gas production and transportation in Texas and led to a similar pricing event, caused gas to increase only temporarily to \$10–15 per MMBtu.

As natural gas has replaced coal and nuclear as the base load fuel for electric generation in the western United States, high gas prices were immediately reflected in wholesale electricity prices. Electrical energy prices in the California ISO market, from which Metropolitan purchases the majority of supplemental energy for the CRA, increased from the typical winter range of \$40–60 per megawatt hour (MW-hr) to \$200–300 per MW-hr. Gas prices remained high through the end of 2022. In response, CRA pumping was reduced from eight to seven pumps in mid-December. As natural gas prices were forecast to remain elevated, further pumping reductions were implemented, eventually reducing CRA flow to four pumps by the second week of January. This pumping reduction saved approximately \$10 million during these two months.

Because of low SWP allocations and system operating conditions, Metropolitan’s hydroelectric plants generated an average of about 3.8 megawatts, or about 2,720 megawatt-hours and just over \$232,150 in revenue, for the month of November 2022. Metropolitan’s solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated approximately 437 megawatt-hours in December 2022.

Ensure Water Quality Compliance, Worker Safety, and Environmental Protection

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during December 2022. The Division of Drinking Water issued a permit amendment (1910087-009) removing Skinner Plant 2 from the permit and re-rated the design capacity of the Skinner plant from 630 to 350 million gallons per day (Plant 1 and Plant 3 combined), effective on December 30, 2022.

This month, Operational Safety and Regulatory Services staff sponsored an Ergonomic virtual webinar on Posture, Pain Prevention, and Productivity. Attendees were taught five to ten targeted posture exercises that could easily be performed at their workstations.



Ergonomic workshop flyer

This month, staff published and posted several Safety Talks and a new Safety Poster on the IntraMet to inform and promote employee safety during on-the-job activities. Topics included Hazardous Chemicals Awareness, Effective Housekeeping, Safety Communication, Stress in the Workplace and Employee Assistance Program, 10 Steps to Safety, and Excavation Hazards.

MWD Safety Talk

Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Hazardous Chemical Awareness

Metropolitan employees may work around potentially hazardous chemicals. Employees need to be aware of the hazardous chemicals present in or near their work area, the potential health effects, safe work practices, and emergency procedures.

Types of Hazards Found at MWD Facilities

Category	Comminution	Construction
Flammable	Corrosive	Explosive
Toxic	Flammable	Pressurized Liquids or Compressed Gases

Chemical Hazards

Two types of health effects or reactions can occur when an individual is exposed to hazardous chemicals:

- Chronic** – happens after continuous or repeated contact with the hazardous chemical over a long period of time (months or years)
- Acute Reactions** – happens at the time of contact. It may last a few seconds or a few hours.

MWD Resources

- MWD has created safety talks for most of the Water Treatment Plant hazardous chemicals that employees may encounter. These Safety Talks provide you useful information on proper usage and health effects, but not insurance, special handling/usage, and personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements. You can access the Safety Talks at [WorkSafeTalks](#).
- 3-Step Process: Safety Talks, PPE, and MSDS**
- For all chemicals used at MWD, there is the 3C safety chemical inventory database that has all the Safety Data Sheets (SDS), OSHA 309, OSHA 302, or Safety Data Sheets (SDS) at 1-800-431-6242 or 706-622-6712.
- Important sections of SDS to review include:
 - Section 1: Identification
 - Section 2: Hazard Identification
 - Section 3: Physical and Chemical Properties
 - Section 4: Accidental Release Measures
 - Section 5: Handling and Storage
 - Section 6: Exposure Controls/Personal Protection
 - Section 7: Physical and Chemical Properties

When responding to spills, notify your supervisor manager and the OHS Site Support Representative. Spills and releases will need to be reported to the Incident Reporting (IR) System at ext. 7771.

Spills & Leaks

- Decide what you manage the scope of work that needs to be completed.
- Complete a [Spill/Leak Incident Report \(SILIR\)](#) for any new work being completed or make a complete copy of a SILIR to ensure that all hazards are being properly controlled.
- Know the chemical properties and read the container label and SDS.
- Check all PPE to ensure that the equipment will function as needed.




MWD Safety Talk

Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Effective Housekeeping

DOXO ADHERING TO THE KEY TO SAFETY

According to OSHA, good housekeeping practices that a workplace is kept in an organized, uncluttered, and hazard-free condition. Safe work environments lead to healthier workers, higher worker morale, and increased productivity. The practice can be used in employee's homes or in most, conference rooms, break rooms, control rooms, shops, laboratories, warehouses, construction sites, or any other place employees may potentially work. Here are some tips for effective workplace housekeeping.

Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls

- Keep aisles and walk clear of items. Especially emergency exits and fire doors.
- Ensure areas have good lighting and visibility.
- Report damaged, loose, or missing carpeting or uneven flooring.
- Report electrical cords that are in walkways or are covered.
- Report and clean up any spills or leaks. Additionally, allocate slippery conditions such as oil or grease that undermine and weaken surfaces, as necessary.



Eliminate Fire Hazards

- Keep 18 inches of vertical clearance between the ceiling, beams, and rafters.
- Keep 2 feet of clearance in front of the radiators, radiators on panels and between stacked material and ceiling. If stock is added more than 12 feet high, clearance should be double.
- Report hazards or electrical areas.
- Use and store flammable materials in designated locations away from possible ignition sources.



Prevent Falling Objects

- Make sure ladders or stepladders are properly set up and secured.
- Don't be called down when not in use.
- Store heavy objects close to the floor and out of walkways.
- Store tools, equipment, and materials properly away securely to prevent falling or sharp edges being exposed.
- Block ladders in general loading, falling, or unloading.



Clear Clutter

- Tag or mark or reorganize.
- Report tools and other materials to storage after use.
- Dispose of materials in equipment that is no longer needed or required.
- Ensure caps, gloves, and combos have tags on them to prevent spills.



Inspected Discussion Questions

- What are some areas that can be potentially have housekeeping issues that require attention?
- How are some ways you can help keep the workplace clean?
- Are there some housekeeping that can be properly disposed of because they are no longer needed?

MWD Safety Talk

Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Safety Communication

Metropolitan is committed to providing a work environment that encourages open communication of health and safety (H&S) concerns without fear of retaliation. All employees are encouraged to report new or unrecognized health and safety hazards, as well as any accident, injury, illness or near miss incident.

Avenues to Communicate H&S Concerns

- Take 5 for Safety
- Meetings and Inspections
- Management, Supervisors, All Levels, Toolbox/Safety Talks, Safety Committees
- Local Safety Committees
- Local SRS Site Support Representatives or other SRS personnel
- Confidential Hotline - (771) 217-5864 or Extension 7784

When Work Authority - Take 5 For Safety

All employees have the authority to stop work and request a time-out if they consider a plan or action or condition is unsafe or unclear, or if they believe there is a need to further discuss concerns, collaborate on solutions, communicate updated developments or a new plan.

Meetings

It is very important that managers facilitate regular meetings with employees to provide opportunities for safety communication. Regular meetings can be:

- Weekly Planning
- Weekly Toolbox/Safety Talk
- Pre-shift Toolbox
- All Hands The Job/Per Start
- Quarterly All-Hands
- Monthly Safety Committee Updates

What is Retaliation?

Retaliation is when an individual is subjected to an adverse employment action because they reported a health and safety concern or a suspected safety violation. An adverse employment action is conduct that materially affects the terms and conditions of employment, or any conduct that would deter a reasonable person from reporting a H&S concern.

Retaliation harms individual employees and can negatively impact overall employee morale. Examples of retaliation for reporting health and safety concerns can include, but are not limited to:

- Demotion or suspension
- Changing work assignments
- Exclusion or ostracism
- Transfer to a job
- Verbal or physical abuse
- Ignoring performance evaluations
- Making work more difficult
- Encouraging hostile team cohesions

Employees who wish to file a retaliation complaint may do so anonymously or directly through the Ethics Office.

MWD Safety Talk

Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Stress In the Workplace and Employee Assistance Program

Whether it's the result of a personal problem, a workplace incident, or a larger societal issue, stress can manifest in a variety of different ways. Although stress can affect both the physical and mental health of an employee, certain steps can be taken to reduce stress at work.

What is Stress?

Stress is the physical or mental response to an external cause. A stressor may be a one-time or short-term occurrence, or it can happen repeatedly over a long time. In short bursts, stress can be positive (e.g., when it helps you avoid danger or meet a deadline). When stress lasts for a long time, it may harm your health. There are two main types of stress:

- Acute stress** – Short-term stress that goes away quickly. This type of stress helps you manage dangerous situations by making your brain more alert, causes your muscles to tense, and increases your pulse. In the short term, these reactions are good because they can help you handle the situation.
- Chronic stress** – Stress that lasts for a longer period. This is any type of stress that goes on for weeks or months. Without managing chronic stress, you may become used to it and not realize it is a problem. When you have chronic stress your body stays alert even though there is no danger. Over time this puts you at risk for health problems including, but not limited to:
 - High blood pressure
 - Heart disease
 - Diabetes
 - Obesity
 - Depression or anxiety
 - Sex problems (e.g., impotence)

Strategies to Manage Stress

All employees will likely experience stress at work or at home however, by understanding and learning the causes or triggers of your stress, you can learn to reduce the level of stress and anxiety in your life.

Face the Cause of Your Stress. The first step in managing stress is facing it. Stress rarely goes away on its own, but focusing on the real cause gives you a chance to address it:

- Identify and challenge your negative/unhelpful thoughts.
- Focus on smaller issues that you can control.

Be Proactive. Managing your stress may require action, but the correct steps will depend on your situation.

- Be assertive and communicate clearly what you need and explain what is bothering you.
- Voice any concerns, if any, regarding your work assignments. Talk to your manager about your options.



The image shows two safety posters side-by-side. The left poster is titled 'MWD Safety Talk' and 'Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information For 10 Steps to Safety'. It lists ten safety steps: 1. Be Aware of Your Surroundings, 2. Report Any Unsafe Conditions, 3. Wear All Necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), 4. Using Tools, Equipment, and Machinery Properly, 5. Keep Your Workplace Free from Clutter, 6. Never Take Shortcuts, 7. Stay Hydrated, 8. Take Regular Breaks, 9. Practice Good Posture, and 10. Speak Up for Safety. The right poster is titled 'Five Winter Virus Prevention Tips' and lists: 1. Get Vaccinated, Boosted (and Treated), 2. Stay Home if You're Sick!, 3. Wear a Mask, 4. Wash Your Hands, and 5. Cover Your Cough or Sneeze. It also includes a QR code and the text 'Scan the QR code to see interactive links on this flyer'.

Safety Talks and Safety Poster published and posted on the IntraMet

Staff provided safe access for an arc flash study at the Skinner plant. An arc flash study examines electrical hazard potential. Staff de-energized and locked out high-voltage electrical distribution equipment to allow for the safe gathering of information pertinent to predicting electrical hazards. Information such as transformer capacities, motor horsepower, and cable lengths were entered into a software program that will inform staff of the electrical hazard potential that is present in the event of an electrical fault. The information will be printed on National Fire Protection Agency-approved labels and applied to all areas of the electrical distribution system to increase the margin of safety for plant personnel.



Staff performing high-voltage switching to accommodate arc flash data gathering at the Skinner plant

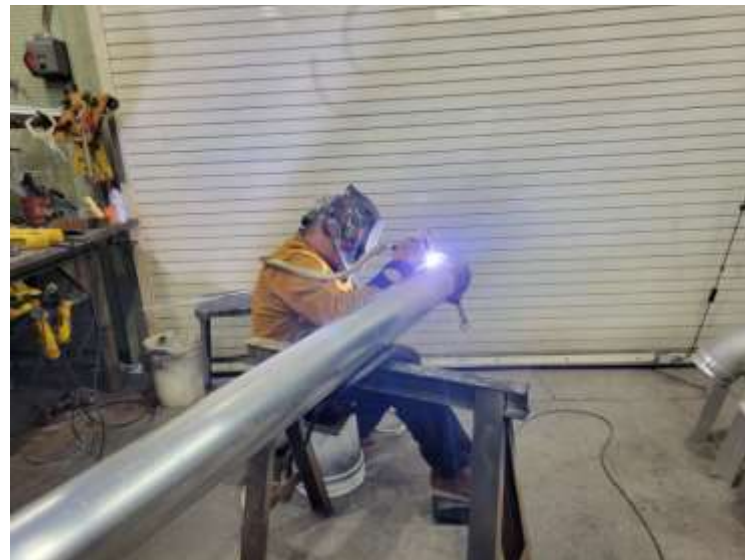
Optimize Maintenance

Flowmeters on the CRA delivery lines provide instantaneous readings to help modulate flow along the 242-mile-long aqueduct. When the flowmeters fail, staff are quickly dispatched to troubleshoot and repair.



Staff troubleshooting a flowmeter at Hinds pumping plant

Pipelines, aqueducts, and other conveyance infrastructure must often be dewatered in order to perform maintenance. Portable pumps and pipelines are constructed to ensure that the excess water is routed through proper draining areas. Drainage pipes are fabricated to accommodate dewatering the CRA in preparation for the 2023 Shutdown.



Staff fabricating a pipeline for a portable pump in preparation for the 2023 CRA Shutdown

Monitoring the operating temperatures of main pump bearings provides insight into possible issues such as misalignment, lack of lubrication, or other failures. Use of a Resistance Temperature Detector (RTD) provides accurate indication of pump bearing temperatures during operation. This month, staff performed annual calibration of the RTDs and replaced them as needed.



Staff replacing an RTD on a pump bearing at Eagle Mountain pumping plant

Staff wired a new automatic voltage regulator (AVR) panel for installation at the Red Mountain Hydroelectric Plant. The new AVR works by adjusting the generator's voltage to closely match the electrical grid, which reduces wear on the generator and increases its efficiency.



Front of AVR Panel (left) and completed wiring in the back of the panel (right) at Red Mountain HEP

This month, staff wired new transformer protection panels for the Hinds pumping plant. The protection panels include meters, switches, and relays which are fast-acting devices that send signals to open high-voltage breakers used to isolate and protect the main CRA transformers. The new protection panels were assembled and tested ahead of installation scheduled for the upcoming CRA shutdown.



Front of transformer protection panel (left) and completed wiring in the back of the panel (right) at Hinds pumping plant

Staff completed routine patrol road grading of the CRA patrol roads between the cities of San Jacinto and Indio. These patrol roads are essential for accessing structures and patrolling the conduit. Work consists of grading the roads, repairing minor erosion, and improving access to structures. These patrol roads are also used for CRA tunnel cleaning and other shutdown activities.



Motor graders performing routine grading along the CRA

Staff recently shut down the Second Lower Feeder to allow a contractor to begin installation of a steel liner in approximately two miles of the pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP). The shutdown also allowed staff to replace various leaking valves inside the Oak Street Pressure Control Structure (PCS). Once the contractor completes the relining in May 2023, this pipeline section will be disinfected, flushed, and returned to service to ensure high quality water and reliability of this critical feeder.



Staff replacing valves at Oak Street PCS

Staff replaced the aging and obsolete programmable logic controller (PLC) serving the Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) Secondary Inlet. The Secondary Inlet is a pipeline and hydraulic structure that can bring water from the Eastside Pipeline into DVL. The inlet also relieves the Eastside Pipeline from hydraulic transients and high static head. The PLC is critical to operations in that it controls flow through the structure and helps to prevent air entrained water from entering the lake.



Staff installing programmable logic controller for the Secondary Inlet at DVL

Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution

The State Water Project target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants and Lake Skinner was zero percent in January 2023. The flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from December 2021 through November 2022 for Metropolitan’s treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 599, 603, and 601 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Storms in the Castaic Lake watershed led to elevated sediment and suspended solids throughout the lake. This resulted in the highest level of source water turbidity entering one of our plants in memory—levels at one hundred times higher than normal. Staff performed several operational actions to manage this turbidity event. The actions included system changes to reduce flows at the plant to near its minimum, turning Greg Avenue pumps on to reduce Jensen demands, bringing additional basins into service to increase plant detention time, increasing chemical dosages, and monitoring lake conditions through increased water quality analysis at the plant. The Jensen Incident Command Post was also activated to ensure effective communication. Thanks to the innovative solutions staff implemented, Jensen plant continued to maintain operations that met all Metropolitan operational goals and objectives throughout this event.



Staff removing settled solids from a basin using the traveling bridge control at the Jensen plant



Staff installing traffic control barriers to protect the temporary solids handling pipeline



Staff performing jar testing to determine optimal chemical dosage at the Jensen plant



Staff reviewing installation of a temporary solids handling pipeline at the Jensen plant



Turbidity from Castaic Lake being removed during the treatment process at the Jensen plant



Satellite images of Castaic Lake showing the change from clear water in December (left) to highly turbid water (right) following the January storms

(Satellite data processed at Metropolitan's Water Quality Laboratory)

Staff removed the aged coating from the inside of a chamber that houses a large valve on San Diego Pipeline No. 5 at the Red Mountain Hydroelectric Plant (HEP). The valve was previously removed and transported to an outside shop to be refurbished. The inside of this chamber will be completely recoated to bring it to like-new condition.



Staff removing aged coating inside a chamber at Red Mountain HEP

The Mills plant is in the final testing phase of its Ozone Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) upgrade. The current PLCs were deemed to be at the end-of-service life and are being replaced by new PLCs. This upgrade will provide many years of reliable service in the operation and control of the Mills ozone system into the future.



Previous PLC control panel (left) and new Allen Bradley PLC 5000 controller (right) at the Mills plant

The backwash header piping and filter valves at the Diemer plant have been undergoing repairs after an equipment failure. Staff disconnected power and control conduits for the filter valves ahead of repair work. Staff also installed additional lighting in the area to enhance visibility.



Staff preparing for repairs of the backwash header at the Diemer plant

Staff at the Skinner plant replaced several influent valve gearboxes that had reached the end of their service life. The failing gearboxes led to shaft and gear tooth misalignments that caused frequent valve limit calibration and torque issues. These issues caused operational problems with module backwash sequences, including preventing valves from fully closing. This work presented a specific challenge in that the gears were heavily corroded and bonded onto the shafts, requiring the components to be separated using a torch.



Staff replacing an influent valve gearbox at the Skinner plant

Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response

In response to a series of severe storms that happened this month, staff used various elements of Metropolitan's Emergency Response Plan to track and coordinate response activities. The Jensen Incident Command Post was activated to track plant preparation and response to a high turbidity event caused by excessive levels of storm-related debris in Castaic Lake. Staff collected cost estimates for this incident and other storm damage cost estimates to coordinate with local officials in response to local, state, and federal emergency proclamations. This information will be used to support possible reimbursement claims to the state and federal government.

Manage the Power System

Energy costs for the CRA for the 2022–23 fiscal year are currently projected to be higher than budgeted. Current estimates on the total CRA energy cost is about \$150 million, compared with an original budget of \$102.5 million. This is due in part to recent extraordinarily high energy costs, driven by spiking natural gas prices as described earlier, and extended CRA drought operation at the eight-pump maximum, which increased the overall estimated MW-hour energy consumption for the fiscal year by about 10 to 15 percent. This additional pumping demand is met with supplemental energy purchases from the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) energy market.

Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation

On December 15, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted its Final 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality (Scoping Plan). The Scoping Plan lays out California's plan to reduce anthropogenic GHG emissions by 85 percent below 1990 levels and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045, along with meeting SB 1020's requirement that all state agencies procure 100 percent renewable energy and zero carbon energy by 2035. Staff will closely follow the rollout of the Scoping Plan's GHG reduction goals and clean energy procurement requirements.

On January 18, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers published the final rule revising the definition of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS). Staff had previously commented in support of this rulemaking that puts back into place the pre-2015 definition of WOTUS and codifies recent Supreme Court decisions. Staff will continue to monitor and engage on the issue, as EPA still plans to build upon this "foundational rule" with a second rule designed to restore longstanding protections under the Clean Water Act.

Enhance Support Infrastructure at the Desert Facilities

Staff began the conversion of a house at the Iron Mountain pumping plant to a Wellness Center. The work involves installing new recessed LED lighting, ceiling fans, and additional wiring upgrades within the new Wellness Center.



Staff installing recessed can lighting (left) and wiring a new light switch (right)

Staff continues to make progress in improving the Desert Facility infrastructure for the residents by constructing carport canopies to protect the residents' vehicles from the intense desert sunlight and heat. The work includes concrete footing placement for the anchorage of the canopies. Staff also performed electrical panel and wiring upgrades at Desert housing structures. These improvements were necessary for the reliability and safety of the facilities.



Staff tying rebar (left) and constructing concrete formwork (right) at Desert housing structures

Support and Engage with Member Agencies on Technical Matters

On January 6, staff provided a tour of the Water Quality Laboratory for directors representing Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and the City of Pasadena. Tour participants heard descriptions of the nearly 250,000 water quality tests the laboratory conducts annually for almost 400 constituents on samples gathered from throughout the treated water distribution system.

Monthly Update as of:

1/31/2023

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	5,462,000	22%
Lake Mead	7,466,000	29%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	2,297,956	65%
Shasta Lake	2,570,308	56%
San Luis Total	1,277,608	63%
San Luis CDWR	780,799	74%
Castaic Lake	185,754	57%
Silverwood Lake	64,740	86%
Lake Perris	91,715	70%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	492,600	61%
Lake Mathews	163,721	90%
Lake Skinner	42,982	98%



Hoover Dam

Information Technology

Project Highlights

Data Center Modernization and Relocation Project

As of January 2023, the Data Center Modernization and Relocation Project is substantially complete. This project involved the physical relocation of Metropolitan’s data centers (to new in-region and out-of-region facilities). The work involved highly complex cutover sequences and IT processes including the logical reconfiguration of servers, databases, applications, networks, and ancillary systems. The IT Group successfully completed all migrations involving the relocation of one computing environment to another (both physical and virtual).

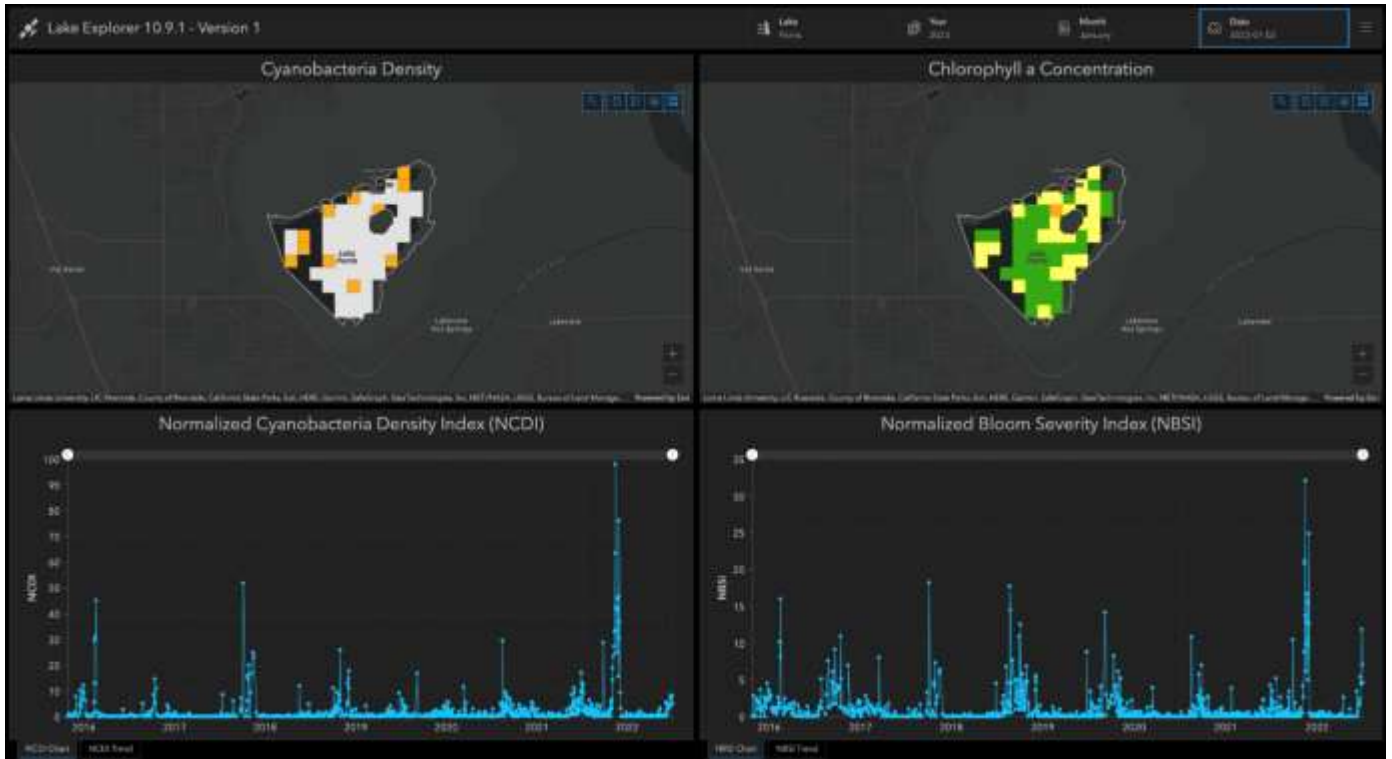
IT collaborated closely with all business users across the organization throughout this multi-year project. The success of the project reflects the support from business units across the enterprise and the close partnership during the migration and testing of enterprise systems that support Metropolitan’s day-to-day business.

Next steps include decommissioning tasks and the completion of the project closeout phase.



Automated Water Quality Monitoring using Satellite Imagery

The automated water quality monitoring project uses satellite imagery to develop a holistic picture of certain water quality parameters like cyanobacteria and chlorophyll at various Southern California lakes and reservoirs. By automating the process and creating an intuitive dashboard, we can share water quality data with teams throughout the district in near real-time. This approach not only saves staff time and money by circumventing logistical challenges, but it also provides higher quality data with much more comprehensive coverage from freely available remote sensing data.



Real Property

Project Highlights

Provide right-of-way planning, valuation, and real property acquisition support services for the protection and reliability of existing infrastructure.

A 12-month Advanced Electronic Approval/Notice to Proceed was obtained from the Bureau of Reclamation in support of the Gene Communication System Upgrade project at the Colorado River Aqueduct's (CRA) Gene Pumping Plant facility. This approval will allow Metropolitan to commence potholing and construction activities to bring high-speed, and high-quality connections in the desert to improve communications and security for continued water reliability and resiliency.

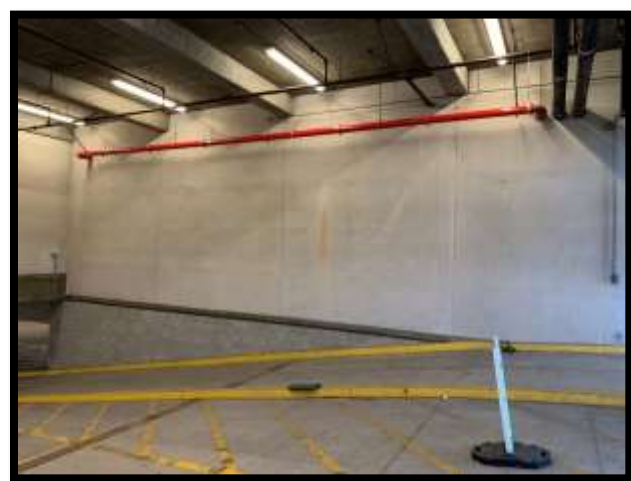
Core Business: Real Property Acquisition, Management, and Revenue Enhancement

Provide valuation, land management, and real property disposition support services for the maximum return or use of Metropolitan-owned land and facilities.

Amendment No. 1 has been processed for the University of California at Riverside (UCR) to extend its use of the Upper Salt Creek Wetlands Preserve premises for an additional twenty-two months. UCR accesses the premises to collect seeds for its botany demographic survey. Research methods, data collection and reports are shared with Metropolitan's Environmental Planning Section staff.

Efficiently maintain and operate assets not related to the treatment and distribution of water.

Urgent repairs to the fire sprinkler pipe over the east entrance ramp have been completed. Temporary repairs have been performed on the pipe in the past, and it had reached the point where a temporary repair would no longer yield satisfactory results. A burst pipe would have resulted in the loss of fire protection for the entire low rise sections of P1 and P2 parking levels. In addition, due to the pipe's location, scaffolding was required, which would have delayed repairs and potentially disrupt business operations in an emergency.



Diamond Valley Lake was stocked with over 3,000 pounds of lightning trout and rainbow trout. This fish planting event is a favorite of local and regional anglers who are regular guests of the events held at the East Marina. This is the first of several fish plants that are scheduled for this year.



District Housing Maintenance and Management.

Staff completed 35 work orders this past reporting period with 22 being the tenant-requested work requests. In addition, staff completed the preparation of 2 houses for occupancy. New staff members that are moving to both Hinds and Eagle Mountain will occupy these two houses.

Staff rolled out our new “Tenant Requested Work Order Procedure” in response to State audit findings and the corrective action plan that was developed. This new procedure allows staff to track tenant-requested work from inception to completion with updates on progress throughout the process.

Staff continues to be heavily focused on the Desert Housing and Recreation Interim Action Plan (DHRIAP) items. Our commitment to this effort has required the onboarding of additional temporary labor in order to accomplish items like the completion of the Wellness Center at Iron Mountain, assembly of carports at Gene, installation of backyard shade structures and the installation of garage air conditioning units. Priority will be on these specific projects until they are completed.

The resurfacing of the tennis courts at Gene, Iron Mountain and Hinds have been completed.



Before



After

Security

Project Highlights

Security and Emergency Response

Metropolitan security specialists proactively assessed, validated, and rapidly deployed several mobile security detection and video surveillance units to select critical infrastructure facilities. The chosen facilities have been experiencing higher incidents of attempted catalytic converter thefts or are at an elevated risk based upon recent nationwide electrical grid attacks and potential threats to public drinking water systems.

The leased trailer units contain cutting-edge video cameras, detection sensors, lighting, and remote speaker systems that are completely self-sufficient and wirelessly connected to Metropolitan's 24/7 Security Watch Center. Surveillance units can record security incidents in real-time, store video off-site, and immediately alert remote operators to crimes in progress or unauthorized intruders inside restricted operational areas.

A great example of mobile surveillance effectiveness can be attributed to the recent high-profile Los Angeles rail thefts by facilitating dozens of arrests and \$20 million in recovered railroad property by law enforcement.



Mobile security detection and video surveillance units deployed to select critical facilities

Employee Readiness for All Hazards and Emergencies

Members of Metropolitan’s Security Unit provided training to Securitas contract security personnel. Stop The Bleed, a nationally recognized bleeding control course, was taught in person, at no cost, by EMT-qualified Metropolitan Security proprietary staff at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building.

Throughout the two-hour dynamic training, security officers successfully demonstrated skill mastery in (1) applying direct pressure, (2) correctly applying tourniquets, and (3) packing wounds to potentially save a life. Course graduates received official certificates, and training feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Stop The Bleed kits have been installed in all Metropolitan fleet vehicles to enhance worker field safety, where immediate medical response could potentially be delayed. Several real-world incidents (both on and off duty), including a recent injury during the Second Lower Feeder shutdown, have validated the importance of the training and equipment, resulting in improved emergency responses and lives being saved by Metropolitan employees.



EMT-qualified security staff instruct contract security in bleeding control first aid

Finance and Administration



Finance

Maintain Strong Financial Position

Provide timely and discerning financial analyses, planning, and management to ensure that forecasted revenues are sufficient to meet planned expenses and provide a prudent level of reserves consistent with board policy.

In December, an information report was provided to the Finance and Insurance Committee on budget expenditure trend for fiscal year 2022/23 and status of new revenues and grants.

Manage risk to protect Metropolitan's assets against exposure to loss.

The Risk Management Unit completed 51 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 47 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events, and film permits.

Business Continuity

Facilitate district-wide planning and training to prepare employees and managers to effectively carry out critical roles and recover mission essential functions thus ensuring continuity of operations and resiliency in the event of a disaster.

Manage the Business Continuity Management Program in accordance with Operating Policy A-06.

- Developed online training for updating business continuity plans in the Fusion software and scheduled a series of training sessions for the planning coordinators across the district.
- Participated in a business continuity tabletop exercise at Foothill Municipal Water District to assist with their plan development.
- Participated in planning meetings to develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with FEMA requirements that would enable Metropolitan to seek grant funding for projects.
- Facilitated the quarterly Business Continuity Steering Committee meeting. A subcommittee was formed to discuss strategies to continue working during an extended power outage and a scenario rendering Metropolitan computers inaccessible.
- Participated as an evaluator for RFP 1336 (Third-Party Administrator for Liability/Property Claims).

Financial Management

Manage Metropolitan's finances in an ethical and transparent manner and provide consistent, clear, and timely financial reporting. Update Metropolitan's capital financing plans and work with rating agencies and investors to communicate Metropolitan's financial needs, strategies, and capabilities, thus ensuring that Metropolitan has cost effective access to capital markets and the ability to finance ongoing future needs. In addition, actively manage Metropolitan's short-term investment portfolio to meet ongoing liquidity needs and changing economic environments.

Record and report the financial activities of Metropolitan in a timely, accurate, and transparent manner to the Board, executive management, member agencies, and the financial community.

Finance and Administration

(continued)

- Water Transactions in December 2022 (for water delivered in October 2022) totaled 156.2 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 11.6 TAF lower than the budget of 167.8 TAF and translate to \$142.4 million in receipts for December 2022, which were \$11.2 million lower than budget of \$153.6 million.
- Year-to-date water transactions through December 2022 (for water delivered in May 2022 through October 2022) were 892.8 TAF, which was 6.7 TAF higher than the budget of 886.1 TAF. Year-to-date water receipts through December 2022 were \$830.7 million, which was \$20.1 million lower than the budget of \$850.8 million.
- In December 2022, Accounts Payable processed approximately 4,000 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$2,000 in discounts.

Prudently manage the investment of Metropolitan’s funds in accordance with policy guidelines and liquidity considerations.

As of December 31, 2022, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.4 billion; in December 2022, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 23 trades.

In December 2022, Treasury staff processed 913 disbursements by check, 18 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 126 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 80 receipts by check, 34 receipts by ACH, and 51 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

In addition, 9,132 P-Card transactions, totaling \$1.3M, were recorded in the December bank statement.

Administrative Services

Accomplishments

Throughout 2020 and 2021, Rideshare participation was greatly affected by COVID-19 and Metropolitan’s teleworking policies. Now in 2023, an average 39.6 percent of employees are enrolled in at least one Rideshare program. Of our six programs, Vanpool was affected the most by the pandemic because the entire program was terminated and all vehicles returned to the leasing agency. Today, we are proud to say that currently 32 vanpools are active across seven worksites, which includes a total of 165 participants enjoying the benefits of Rideshare’s Vanpool program. Of the 165 Vanpool participants an additional 571 participants are enjoying the benefits from either our Transit, Carpool, Electric Vehicle, Bike, or Walk programs.

Program	Total Enrollment
Bike	3
Carpool	3
Electric Vehicle (EV)	125
Transit	439
Vanpool	164
Walk	1

The Professional Services Contracting Team (PSCT) completed an acquisition in support of Information Technology to implement an enterprise-wide capital budgeting system: Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1322–Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Budgeting System Improvement. The solicitation obtained services of an experienced and qualified consultant to provide a cloud-based solution and implementation services to improve the current CIP budgeting system. The software will perform within the Microsoft O365 Ecosystem.

PSCT completed Request for Proposal No. 1321 for Cybersecurity Operations Center Co-Managed Support Services to facilitate Metropolitan’s management and maintenance of its Cybersecurity Operation Center (CSOC). The solicitation provides for 24 hours a day, seven days a week 365 days a year (24x7x365) technical support to protect Metropolitan’s information technology, operational technology, and enterprise network infrastructure.

Human Resources

HR Priorities

Partner with Metropolitan leadership to support learning, development, and adaptive workforce planning initiatives.

In January, 183 Metropolitan employees attended virtually facilitated classes, including Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Time Management, Effective Business Writing, Advanced Excel, and MS Teams.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online e-learning content platform, was accessed for such topics as Problem Solving Techniques, Negotiations Foundations, Leading Projects, and Delegating Tasks.

Seek diverse, high-quality talent, and establish partnerships to discover additional outreach opportunities that aid in staffing positions.

Recruitment successfully filled 27 positions for January. Recruitment received 11 new staffing requisitions resulting in 203 positions currently in recruitment.

The HR Group Manager concluded the recruitment process for the General Auditor position with a successful candidate selected by the Board.

HR Core Business: Provide Excellent Human Resources Services

Objective #1: Administer all HR services with efficiency and a focus on customer service excellence, consistency, and flexibility.

Constructive negotiations continue with the Supervisors' Association on a successor MOU. Staff will continue to brief the Ethics, Organization, and Personnel (EOP) Committee on the status of those talks.

Re-opener contract discussions occurred with the AFSCME bargaining unit focused on Teleworking, Recruitment, and other items.

Human Resources finalized the Department Head evaluation process by collecting feedback and ratings from 83 percent of the Board of Directors for three of the Department Heads: General Manager, General Counsel, and Ethics Officer. Results were shared with Board of Directors and individual employees. Compensation increases were also approved by the Board for the three Department Heads.

The HR Benefits Unit worked with legal staff, outside counsel, and Empower to finalize a new 5-year contract for the deferred compensation record-keeping services, which included lowering the administrative cost from 3 to 2.5 basis points effective January 1, 2023.

The HR Benefits Units also worked with legal staff, Empower, and outside consultants to finalize an agreement, procedure guide, and model notice for the administration of qualifying domestic relations court orders affecting 401(k) and 457(b) assets in divorce proceedings.

Partnered with Executive Management and board support staff to implement staff assignments and committee changes due to the change in Chair of the Board.

Finance and Administration

(continued)

HR Core Business: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations

Objective #1: Effectively administer all Human Resources policies, programs, and practices in compliance with applicable federal and state laws and Metropolitan’s Administrative Code, Operating Policies, and Memorandum of Understanding.

The HR Benefits Unit is currently administering 2022 COVID-19 Leaves through December 31, 2022. As of the end of December, 558 leaves of absence have been approved for COVID-related reasons.

The HR Benefits Unit worked with legal staff to track change Administrative Codes 6227, 6228, 6229, 6231, 6243, 6246, 6530, and 6533, affecting employee and deferred compensation plan administration to comply with new state laws effective January 1, 2023, under AB 1041 and AB 1949, as well as prior federal and state law updates. The Board approved the eight Administrative Code updates on December 13, 2022, that will be used to update the Employee Leave page over the next two months.

The HR Benefits unit worked with legal staff and Empower to update the Loan Policy Guidelines effective January 1, 2023, for the deferred compensation plans to ensure that updates approved under the SECURE and CARES Act are reflected and that options for loan repayments are clarified to help prevent defaults by participants when taking no pay leave or upon separation of service.

In January, four new workers’ compensation claims were received. Nine employees remain off work because of an industrial injury or illness. This reflects Metropolitan’s effort to accommodate injured workers, while enabling them to be productive and on the job.

In addition, staff is collaborating with other Metropolitan stakeholders to implement a new Incident Reporting and Case Management System designed by Ventiv Technology. Staff continues to work closely with our Workers’ Compensation Third-Party Administrator, TRISTAR Risk Management.

HR Metrics	June 2022	January 2023	Prior Month December 2022
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,762	1,786	1,791
Temporary Employees	37	19	22
Interns	2	1	1
Recurrents	18	18	18
Annuitants	19	22	20

	January 2023	December 2022
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	203	219
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	11	31
	January 2023	December 2022
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	7	6
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	0	2
Number of New Job Audit Requests	1	1

Finance and Administration

(continued)

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
External Hires	FY 21/22 Totals	January 2023	FISCAL YTD
Regular Employees	82	11	67
Temporary Employees	36	3	10
Interns	4	0	0
Internal Promotions	70	12	39
Management Requested Promotions	152	24	77
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	127	15	42
Employee-Requested Transfers	15	3	11

Departures

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
Chantrapanichkul	Karun	Sr IT Enterprise App Analyst	11/2/2022	Retirement	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GROUP
Scott	John	Sr Engineer	11/2/2022	Retirement	GENERAL COUNSEL
Graham	Mark	Resource Specialist	12/2/2022	Retirement	WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GRP
Haight	Michelle	Human Resources Manager I	12/10/2022	Retirement	HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP
McGee	Lydia	Pr Public Affairs Rep	12/3/2022	Retirement	DIVERSITY,EQUITY&INCLUSION
Praxidio Jr.	Job	Assoc Engineer	12/2/2022	Retirement	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP
Zavala	Olivia	Pr Class & Comp Analyst (C)	11/26/2022	Retirement	HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP
Arlt	Patricia	Special Asst to the GM	7/9/2022	Retirement	OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
Viatella	Kathryn	Executive Legislative Rep	11/5/2022	Resign/ Separated	EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
Sierras	Jason	Aqueduct Pump Specialist	11/2/2022	Resign/ Separated	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
Bond	Darren	Unit Mgr- Manufacturing Svcs	11/19/2022	Resign/ Separated	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
Decasas	Kelsey	AsstContrl/Unit Mgr-FinclRptng	11/26/2022	Resign/ Separated	FINANCE GROUP
Mosby	Jarrold	O&M Tech III	11/29/2022	Resign/ Separated	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
Serna	Samuel	O&M Tech IV	12/2/2022	Resign/ Separated	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
Tovey	Michael	Survey and Mapping Tech IV	11/25/2022	Deceased	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Tribal Outreach & Engagement

During the month of January, MWD DEI staff and members of the Native American Alaska Native Employees Association (NAANEA) met with the tribal council of the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. During this meet-and-greet introductory meeting, Metropolitan parties discussed training and apprenticeship programs at Metropolitan. The Council was appreciative of the invitation to tribal members and had requested to reach out to the local Noli Indian school to introduce workforce potentials in the water industry for native American youth.

Metropolitan members also visited the Chemehuevi reservation and met with directors of tribal agencies. The tribe's environmental agency hosted an inspection tour of Salt Cedar trees along the Colorado River shoreline. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had determined that the Salt Cedar trees are an invasive species that draws about 400 gallons of water from the Colorado River per tree per day. There are over 700 of these trees along the river shoreline and thousands within the reservation itself. There is potential for Metropolitan to partner with the tribe to extract and remove the trees located along the shoreline. This will further conserve Colorado River water for future use.

Asian American Employee Organization (AAEO) Engagement in the Wake of Monterey Park Shooting

In the wake of the Monterey Park shooting, DEI Staff partnered with our Asian American Employee Organization (AAEO) to release a statement to all employees regarding the shooting and also to host an event to commemorate Lunar New Year and the Year of The Rabbit. The Lunar New Year celebration was also attended by Chair Ortega, Adel, and other board members.

High Road Training Partnership Receives Grant Funding

Metropolitan took part in the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) application for a High Road Training Partnership (H RTP) grant program to develop the California Water, Wastewater, and Energy Workforce Development Program (CWWEDWP) and received news this week of the \$4MM funding for this partnership.



Description of Pictures from L to R: Pic collage of Lunar New Year celebration with AAEO; Members of DEI Team at Chemehuevi Reservation



External Affairs

Highlights

Adán Ortega, Jr., representing the city of San Fernando, was sworn in as chair of the Metropolitan Board of Directors. The first Latino to lead the board, he is the 20th chair in the district's history. (January 10)



Chair Adán Ortega was sworn in as Metropolitan's 20th Chair by former Metropolitan Director Sylvia Ballin

GM Hagekhalil spoke at the League of California Cities conference and met with local officials to talk about drought conditions, climate change impacts and how local communities and Metropolitan can collaborate on water supply reliability, investments, and conservation. (January 5)

Chair Ortega, Directors Dennstedt, Faessel, Morris, and Record, GM Hagekhalil, Metropolitan staff, local officials, and family members attended the facilities naming ceremony to officially dedicate the Don Galleano Overlook at Lake Matthews and the Multi-Species Reserve in honor of Lois Krieger. (January 12)



Facilities Naming Event at Lake Mathews honoring former Metropolitan Chair Krieger and Director Galleano.

Chair Ortega was among 100 influential local leaders honored by LA Waterkeeper. (January 17)

Chair Ortega and Directors Camacho, Dennstedt, Dick, Erdman, Luna, and Repenning, GM Hagekhalil, EO/AGM Upadhyay, and Metropolitan staff attended the Inland Empire Utilities Agency reception to honor new leadership and discuss collaborative work to deliver safe and reliable water. (January 20)

GM Hagekhalil spoke at the USA Water Summit to discuss Metropolitan's One Water future to create a safe, reliable, and resilient water supply. (January 25)

San Diego County Water Authority hosted a reception for Chair Ortega with community, civic, and business leaders. (January 26)



IEUA Reception Honoring Chair Ortega and Metropolitan leadership

Chair Ortega was a featured speaker at the Southern California Water Coalition quarterly lunch to highlight current initiatives on water supply and climate change. Also attending the event, which Metropolitan sponsored, were Directors De Jesus, Goldberg, Jung, and Lefevre, GM Hagekhalil, AGM/CEAO Zinke, and staff. (January 27)

Orange County Water District hosted a welcome reception for Chair Ortega. (January 31)

Legislative Services

Federal

Congressional lawmakers passed the fiscal year 2023 omnibus appropriations bill, which provides a stable level of funding for water programs; the Salton Sea Projects Improvement Act, which authorizes environmental restoration and air and water quality improvement projects in and around the Salton Sea; and the Colorado River Basin Conservation Act, which reauthorizes the Upper Basin System Conservation Pilot Program.

State

Governor Newsom's proposed 2023–24 State Budget authorizes a \$297 billion spending plan and a \$22.5 billion deficit, which include new investments for Delta levees; drought and conservation; groundwater recharge; and for the planning and permitting of new supply projects. As legislation is introduced, Metropolitan staff will identify and analyze bills of interest to the district and water industry.

Local

WRM Senior Resources Specialist Hacker provided remarks at the IEUA and Chino Basin Water Conservation District's Montclair Basins Improvement Project ribbon cutting, which received good media coverage. Metropolitan provided project funding through the Stormwater for Recharge Pilot Program. (January 19)

Metropolitan staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 51 webinars, virtual meetings, and events with community organizations, trade associations and local officials on water-specific topics.

Media and Communications

- Coordinated an interview with GM Hagekhalil for a documentary Inland Empire Utilities Agency is producing on the region's water supply challenges and local investments to build sustainable local supplies.
- Arranged an interview between ProPublica reporter Abrahm Lustgarten and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp regarding Metropolitan's water orders from Colorado River and Lower Basin use.
- Set up an interview between KNBC-TV Channel 4 News' Conan Nolan and GM Hagekhalil for KNBC News Conference public affairs show regarding winter storms and their impact on drought conditions.
- Coordinated an interview between National Public Radio/KUNC reporter Alex Hager and Metropolitan's Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp regarding the snowpack in the Colorado River, downstream implications and local conservation efforts.
- Arranged various interviews with KABC-TV Channel 7, KNBC-TV Channel 4, Fox 11, KCBS-KCAL-TV Channels 2/4/CBS2, and the Los Angeles Times with WRM managers Coffey and Polyzos regarding record winter storms and their impact on the drought and reservoir levels.
- Coordinated an interview between ABC Las Vegas and WRM's Polyzos on whether the latest storms in California could reduce Metropolitan's use of Colorado River water this year.



- Set up an interview between New York Times reporter Christopher Flavelle and EO/AGM Upadhyay on the status of Colorado River negotiations.

Press Releases

- Initial DWR snow survey following early storms
- Installation of Chair Adán Ortega, Jr. and new Directors Jacque McMillan, Jeff Armstrong, and Arturo Chacon
- Board funding of Wadsworth Pumping Plant project to reengineer Metropolitan’s water delivery system to bring water from Diamond Valley Lake to the Rialto Pipeline, serving SWP-dependent areas
- Dedication of Lake Mathews reservoir facilities in honor of former Chairwoman Lois Krieger and Director Don Galleano
- GM statement on State Water Project allocation increase to 30 percent and calling for continued conservation and investments for future reliability

Creative Design

Deployed new winter season conservation messaging related to rain barrel rebates and the need to stop irrigation during rains.

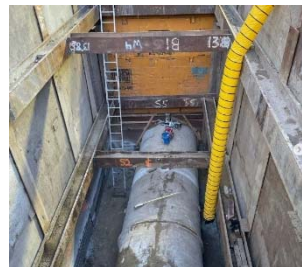
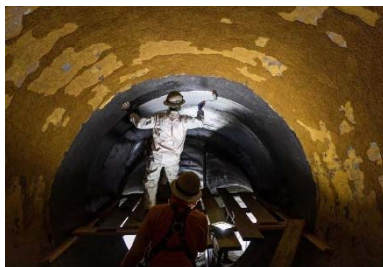
Submitted to Legislature and posted the Conservation, Recycling and Groundwater Recharge Annual Achievement Report.

Updated outreach materials for the North Hills Trails at Diamond Valley Lake, quagga inspection requirements, and booklets for Environmental Stewardship and Leadership initiatives.

Launched an outreach effort with “photos from the field” for social media “Worker’s Monday” series.



Winter advertising bridge campaign continued momentum of conservation messaging



Worker Monday posts highlight Metropolitan’s workforce and projects in a successful social media campaign

Website

Updated Board of Directors and executive management pages on mwdh2o.com to reflect leadership changes and retirements.

Generated more than 81,000 views on mwdh2o.com with careers and board pages among the most visited.

Received 23,000 views on bewaterwise.com, with turf replacement page, the This is How We Save Water campaign page, and rebates garnering the most traffic.

Social Media

Generated 18 million impressions on social media platforms and 98,000 clicks to bewaterwise.com. Reached more than 560,000 viewers on social media through rainy day messaging.

Promoted water efficiency surveys and posted revamped This is How We Save Water campaign assets.

Public Outreach and Member Services

Pure Water Southern California Activities:

- Provided Pure Water Southern California briefing to LA County Dept. of Public Health, Environmental Services Division. (January 5)
- Participated in regional recycled water communications coordination planning meeting with Council for Watershed Health. (January 10)
- Conducted tours for LADWP Water Employees' Club (January 18) and Leading Utilities of the World conference attendees (January 24).

Conducted one director inspection trip to Hoover Dam and the Colorado River Aqueduct. (January 6-8)

Member Agency managers meeting to prepare for the Board Visioning Retreat in February. (January 19)

Hosted a delegation from Brazil for a tour of Weymouth Water Treatment Plant (January 23), a delegation from Japan at Metropolitan HQ (January 30), and a Korean delegation at the Water Quality Lab (January 31).

Notified residents in Lomita regarding upcoming shutdown activities in preparation for Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation—Reach 3A. (January 4)

Briefed the Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce on Second Lower Feeder Reach 3A Relining Project. (January 10)

Notified residents and businesses regarding Sepulveda Feeder Shutdown. (January 23)

Hosted a site visit at the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant with key La Verne staff including police and fire chiefs. (January 23).

Education and Community Relations

Metropolitan staff virtually interacted with 7,600 teachers, students, and parents through community festivals and online virtual tours, scouting programs, and customized ZOOM class presentations.

Launched Discover DVL, a new field trip program for students in grades four and up to learn about Metropolitan, Diamond Valley Lake, water, and conservation. Includes education standards-based computer games and hands-on water quality experiments.



Kicked off Water Engineering 4 Good program, an online STEAM program for middle and high school students that includes engineering, water management, and social media influencer activities.

Community Partnering and Sponsorship Program

Metropolitan sponsored and participated in a "Tree Care & Water-Saving Workshop" with Tree People. (January 21)

Metropolitan sponsored support for the following events:

- 73rd Annual Los Angeles County Science and Engineering Fair
- Olivenhain MWD Open House and Drought Outreach Project
- Festival of Science and Engineering, Generation Steam



Metropolitan sponsored and staff attended the Tree People Tree Care & Water-Saving Workshop

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation



Sustainability, Resiliency, Innovation and Environmental Planning

SRI Core Activities

Pacific Institute Presentation

The SRI office invited Heather Cooley, from the Pacific Institute, to present to the One Water and Stewardship Committee on *The Untapped Potential of California’s Urban Water Supply: Water Efficiency, Water Reuse, and Stormwater Capture*. She shared opportunities for additional water supply opportunities in Metropolitan’s service area.

Sustainable Water Markets Symposium at UC Santa Barbara

The Chief SRI Officer participated on the Sustainable Water Markets Symposium panel at UC Santa Barbara. The theme was “Building Resilience and Equity in Water Market Strategies,” and efforts to operationalize resilience into water operations and programs were discussed.

American Water Summit at Los Angeles Airport

The Chief SRI Officer participated on an American Water Summit panel focused on addressing climate change in water utilities.

SRI Field Trip – Los Cerritos Wetlands

For the first time, the CSRIO connected with the Tidal Influence for a day trip to the Los Cerritos Wetlands in Seal Beach. The CSRIO explored and toured the wetlands, Zedler Marsh, where we volunteered to restore the habitat by planting California native plants. We also walked along the San Gabriel River to look for sea turtles.



Office of SRI Field Trip at Los Cerritos Wetlands in Seal Beach

Ford Lightening test drive at Weymouth with SRS

The CSRIO participated in a demonstration of LADWP’s Ford F-150 Lightning electric truck at the Jensen treatment plant. Participants drove the truck and learned more about LADWP’s experiences with ZE vehicles and equipment. LADWP also provided a demonstration of their new electric Volvo loader and excavator manufactured.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)

SRI Council Kickoff

On January 30, CSRIO and Metropolitan staff had their very first SRI Council meeting. The council members will be charged with elevating SRI initiatives within and among Metropolitan Groups, including the following

- Water System Operations
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office
- Information Technology
- Administration Services
- Water Resource Management
- Engineering Services
- External Affairs
- Human Resources
- Colorado River Resources
- Many more

Envision Brown Bag

The CSRIO partnered with ESG on its first brown bag—**Introducing Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Framework to Metropolitan**. The presentation introduced participants to the Envision framework and fostered conversations with Metropolitan’s SRIO regarding opportunities throughout the district.

Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV)

- Continued to liaison among SRI, WSO, ESG, Real Property, Finance, and Administrative Services to transition Metropolitan’s fleet to ZEVs. These efforts include facilitating and coordinating efforts to explore financing and funding options for vehicle and infrastructure procurement, the installation of dual and fast vehicle chargers for Fleet use at Union Station and working with ESG on a proposal to fast-track a minor capital project.
- Began draft of the “ZEV First” procurement policy for ZEV light duty passenger vehicles that would take effect on July 1, 2023.
- Attended CARB public hearing on proposed Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) regulation that mandates that 50 percent of purchases for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles be zero-emission beginning on January 1, 2024.
- Conducted the monthly ZEV Executive Task Force meeting that included a presentation from Southern California Edison (SCE) of their Charge Ready Transport Program. This program provides funding for ZEV infrastructure design and installation on Metropolitan properties.
- SRI has been working with WSO, ESG, Legal, and Real Property on the evaluation of SCE’s Charge Ready program option where SCE performs ZEV infrastructure design and installation at a low cost. Metropolitan also has the option to design and install the infrastructure that may be eligible for SCE rebates after project completion.

Innovation

- Started four new pilot project partnerships with WaterStart, Bay Delta, WRM, Engineering and Operations Teams—Regenerative Agriculture and Healthy Soils Projects in Bay Delta and PVID; Leak Detection and Soil Assessment Projects with Satellite Technology in Bay Delta and PVID; Electric Safety Pilot with Engineering, Operations, and our Electrical Teams.
- Kick-off of Metropolitan and WaterStart Peer 2 Peer Global Collaboration for Olympics partnering on Water Innovation Pavilion and sharing information on Water Technologies, Water Quality, Cyber Security, and other new technologies and innovations with Paris, Los Angeles, and Australian Olympics Groups and Water



Utilities. The events also include Water Agencies from around the world that have previously hosted Olympics and large events.

- Launch of new Joint Platform for WaterStart Channels for Innovation and Metropolitan’s H2O TECHCONNECT Shared Communities. The Platform Connects Water Utilities, Public Agencies, Entrepreneurs, Universities, Businesses, Non-Profits, and many other groups from around the globe. The platform provides opportunities
 - To partner on pilots
 - To discover new technologies
 - For funding
 - For workforce development
 - To share information
 - To connect with and help everyone in the community.

Environmental Planning Section

Core Business: Environmental Planning and Regulatory Compliance Support

Bay Delta Initiatives

- Attended weekly coordination meetings with Public Water Agency representatives and attended coordination meetings with DWR and regulatory permitting agencies to support development of permit applications for the Delta Conveyance Project.
- Finalized draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project and prepared documentation in support of public review distribution.

Engineering Services Group

Pure Water Southern California

- Continued preparation of technical studies and initiated Tribal Cultural Resources consultation.

Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program EIR

- Completed the 45-day public review period for the IS and Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact (EIR); received five comment letters.
- Continued Tribal Resources Consultation process in support of the Program EIR.
- Prepared a noise technical study for the Program EIR.

Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project

- Completed public review period for the IS/MND and initiated preparation of response to comments; one comment letter was received.

Construction Monitoring

- Continued construction monitoring efforts for Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Second Lower Feeder Reach 3A, Orange County Feeder Relining Reach 3, Weymouth Basins 5–8 Rehabilitation, La Verne Shops Upgrades, Weymouth Battery Energy Storage Systems, and Live Oak Reservoir Cathodic System Replacement projects.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)

External Affairs

- Participated in California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB) Natural Resources Task Force (NRTF) monthly meeting.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Office

- Participated in inaugural SRI Council kickoff meeting.

Climate Action Plan

- Continued preparation of document templates and guidelines for subsequent CEQA review for projects covered under the Climate Action Plan and for CEQA greenhouse gas analysis for future projects/activities.
- Continued to research and gather updated Scope 3 Emissions (Employee Commute/Transit—Scoping Measures EC-1 to EC-4) and Utilities Data (Waste and Wastewater)
- Continued to gather data for the natural gas equipment inventory usage within Metropolitan facilities.
- Continued CEQA review (Jensen BESS Fiber Optic Cable Installation) and construction monitoring (Skinner BESS) for projects covered under the Climate Action Plan.

Reserve Management

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Received the results of the Audubon Society’s annual Christmas Bird Count, performed in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), which identified 76 distinct bird species, including various duck species, hummingbird species, hawks, and the coastal California gnatcatcher.
- Completed seeding of native grassland species on 15 acres of the reserve north of Lake Mathews, which were subject to previous reserve management-prescribed burns or invasive species eradication.
- Continued invasive stinknet removal; approximately 95 acres have been mapped and treated to date.



View of Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve, Lake Mathews, and Estelle Mountains

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Received results of the Audubon Society’s annual Christmas Bird Count; volunteer bird watchers counted 4,934 individual birds from 113 species, demonstrating an increase from the December 2021 survey, which counted 2,762 birds with 105 different species identified.
- Conducted tamarisk removal in Tusalota Creek.
- Conducted road grading to repair damage from recent storms.



Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) at Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

Water System Operations

- Completed the public review period for the Colorado River Aqueduct Master Reclamation Plan for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties IS/MND and begin preparation of responses to comments; one comment letter was received.
- Supported pre-shutdown preparations for the February 2023 Colorado River Aqueduct shutdown through participating in WSO planning meetings, facilitating EPS/WSO coordination meetings regarding shutdown activities and schedule, conducting desert tortoise and desert biological resources training for Metropolitan staff supporting the shutdown, and mobilizing EPS staff and consultants to monitor for and advise WSO staff during critical shutdown activities.
- Provided regulatory permitting guidance and support for the urgent Foothill Feeder erosion repair caused by recent storm events.

External Document Reviews

- Reviewed six CEQA notices/documents for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.



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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