



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Water Resource Management Group

• Water Resource Management Group Activities Report January 2024

Summary

Update on Water Resource Management Activities

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

None

Detailed Report

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

On January 8, 2024, Metropolitan conducted its annual public hearing on its achievements in conservation, recycling, and groundwater recharge as required by the Metropolitan Act. During the public hearing, staff presented findings from Metropolitan's draft "Report to the State Legislature: Achievements in Conservation, Recycling, and Groundwater Recharge for Fiscal Year 2022–23," which will be submitted to the legislature by February 1. Metropolitan also invited knowledgeable individuals from the fields of water conservation and sustainability to speak. The following individuals provided comments:

- Conner Everts, Southern California Watershed Alliance
- Rosario Cortes, WateReuse California
- Caty Wagner, Sierra Club Los Angeles Chapter
- John Wuerth, Eastern Municipal Water District
- Tia Fleming, California Water Efficiency Partnership
- Don Hohman, Housing Authority, City of Los Angeles

On January 11, 2024, WRM staff held a workshop with the member agencies and local groundwater basin managers to develop a program approach for managing supplemental water supplies. This was the eighth workshop in a collaborative process that started in April 2023. As a result, staff is bringing a proposed Supplemental Water Management Program framework to the Board for information and future consideration for implementation.

Implement Regional Conservation Program

Water Resource Management (WRM) staff held a Water Efficient Landscaper Dual Certification Program class series in partnership with LADWP for 45 landscape professionals.

Date of Report: 2/7/2024

Board Report (Water Resources Management Activities Report)

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

Water Resource Management (WRM) staff participated in LA Waterkeeper’s advocacy training workshop, which included various organizations and environmental advocates, to present and discuss Metropolitan’s key demand management programs.

Staff participated in a Doheny Ocean Desalination Project partners meeting organized by the South Coast Water District (South Coast). Potential partners in the project include Laguna Beach County Water District, the City of San Clemente, Eastern Municipal Water District and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District. Metropolitan is developing a framework to facilitate local supply exchanges that would allow the inland agencies—Eastern MWD and Elsinore Valley MWD—to participate in the project. Metropolitan has also received a Local Resources Program application for the project.

Staff participated in CalDesal’s Executive and Regulatory committees in January. The meetings included finalizing the agenda for CalDesal’s annual conference, which will be held in Sacramento on February 8–9, and planning for potential upcoming State regulatory processes.

Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program

Staff reviewed Future Supply Actions Funding Program application guidelines with several member agencies and their retail agencies, including LADWP, Las Virgenes MWD, Foothill, the SDCWA, and others. Staff answered questions and provided information on the program’s Request for Proposals (RFP). Metropolitan released the RFP in December 2023, and proposals are due February 5 at 2:00 p.m. Staff anticipates entering into agreements with selected applications in the second quarter of this year.

Promote Metropolitan’s Technical Capabilities and Innovation Efforts To Advance The Understanding Of Water Resources Management.

Staff completed a Peer-2-Peer (P2P) engagement on delta island and levee management with a Dutch water board with similar responsibilities in the Netherlands. The P2P engagement with Waterschap Hollandse Delta included interviews with key staff, research into core competencies, and a concluding workshop. The topics discussed included managing delta levees under climate change, environmental challenges and the promise of regenerative agriculture. Staff implemented the engagement through a P2P innovation agreement with Arcadis. Arcadis delivered a final report and presentation with an implementation road map. A second round of workshops is planned.

Staff toured the Navy’s Port Hueneme Desalination Test Facility in Ventura County and viewed a pilot test of an offshore desalination buoy under development. The Navy tests seawater desalination equipment for all branches of the military at the facility. It also collaborates with companies to test new technologies. Staff toured a pilot test skid developed by the Santa Barbara-based company Sea Well, pictured below. Staff also met with the Sea Well team afterward for a briefing on their approach and technology. Metropolitan’s seawater desalination study will investigate the potential for Sea Well and other offshore desalination technologies in Southern California.