



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Water Resource Management Group

- **Water Resource Management January Activities**

Summary

The Water Resource Management Group January 2025 Monthly Activities

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Ensure Access to Sufficient Water Supplies to Operate a Full Colorado River Aqueduct in Times of Drought

After Board approval, Metropolitan staff completed and executed three Bucket 2 agreements under Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program. These agreements include our Antelope Valley-East Kern High Desert Water Bank Project, our Commercial Industrial & Institutional Turf Replacement Program, and Leak Detection and Repair efforts focused on disadvantaged communities. In combination, Metropolitan will receive up to \$186 million in funding through September 30, 2031, to implement these projects. In exchange, Metropolitan would create up to 269,296 acre-feet of system conservation water in Lake Mead. These projects will yield long-term reductions in demand for Colorado River water, and these demand reductions will continue after all agreement terms have been met. Long-term reductions in demand will improve our ability to manage our water supply under post-2026 operations, which could include potential supply reductions. Metropolitan and other Colorado River water users would also benefit from increased Lake Mead elevation associated with the system water creation. *Strategic Priority 2.2.3 "Secure Inflation Reduction Act funding that supports Colorado River water use objectives."*

Staff led a Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group in St. George, Utah from January 14-16, 2025, with participants from the United States Bureau of Reclamation, United States Geological Survey, and Upper and Lower Basin state agencies and water districts. Topics covered during this three-day meeting included discussions on the Paradox Valley Unit, Habitat Replacement Program, Salinity Control Fix Act, the Salinity Economic Impact Model, and a fiscal year 24/25 funding update among others. *Strategic Priority 3.2.1 "Advance multiple strategies toward sustainable Colorado River supplies toward broad agreement in long-term compact negotiations."*

Ensure reliable State Water Project (SWP)

The Board authorized the General Manager to execute a renewal of two agreements to continue Metropolitan's participation and funding in the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Program (MWQI). The Municipal Water Quality Investigations Agreement and the Municipal Water Quality Investigations Specific Project Agreement will both be renewed for an additional three-year term of 2026-2028. Metropolitan anticipates signing both agreements within the next three months. Metropolitan's share of the MWQI Program costs is based on our SWP Table A allotment, and Metropolitan's maximum annual cost under both agreements is \$2.1 million per year. *Strategic Priority 4: "Protect public health, the regional economy, and Metropolitan's assets."*

Date of Report: February 10, 2025

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Implement Local Resource Program

Staff worked with Legal to finalize a Local Resource Program Agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the Los Angeles Groundwater Replenishment Project for up to 19,500 acre-feet per year of potable recycled water through groundwater replenishment in the San Fernando Valley. *Strategic Priority 3.2 “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.”*

Support Development of Pure Water Southern California Program

Staff coordinated negotiations of \$125.4 million Large Scale Water Recycling Program grant agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for planning and design of Pure Water Southern California (PWSC). The team was able to work with Reclamation to allow the use of pre-award costs, get a three-year performance period starting 1/10/25, and obligate \$125.4 million with an initial release of \$55 million and the remaining \$70 million as we secure additional non-federal cost match. Reclamation has also requested Metropolitan to consider sharing a copy of the PWSC Feasibility Study as an example for other projects. *Strategic Priority 3.2.5 “Expedite the Pure Water Southern California project.”*

Implement Regional Conservation Program

Agreements for Bucket 2 United States Bureau of Reclamation grants have been finalized. Staff will work with the vendor to determine the work necessary to implement the grant into the Regional Conservation Program. *Strategic Priority 3.2.8 “Increase outdoor water use efficiency.”*

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

On January 13, 2025, 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 on findings from Metropolitan’s draft “Report to the State Legislature: Achievements in Conservation, Recycling, and Groundwater Recharge for Fiscal Year 2023-2024” which will be submitted to the Legislature by February 1st. Metropolitan also invited knowledgeable individuals from the fields of water conservation and sustainability to speak. The following individuals provided comments:

- Conner Everts of Southern California Watershed Alliance
- Charming Evelyn of Sierra Club
- Tia Fleming of California Water Energy Partnership
- Drew Berenc of Northrop Grumman
- Bob Gehan of Post 43/American Legion
- Parker Cohn of Brentwood Country Club

Strategic Priority 3.2: 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

Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program

On January 7, 2025, Metropolitan and Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) entered into a Future Supply Actions (FSA) Funding Program agreement for the OceanWell Pilot Study. Under this agreement, Metropolitan will provide not-to-exceed funding of \$500,000 to fund a pilot study to validate the OceanWell submerged reverse osmosis (SRO) technology. The pilot study of OceanWell’s novel SRO technology will occur at the Las Virgenes Reservoir in Westlake Village. LVMWD will serve as the test site host and assist OceanWell with the installation, operation, servicing, and maintenance of the SRO system. This agreement is the fourth of seven to be fully executed under the fourth round of FSA Funding Program. *Strategic Priority 5.1: “Grow and*

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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.”