



General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of October 2023



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Message from the General Manager

In Lancaster, I was filled with pride and hope as I watched water flow into the High Desert Water Bank.

Board Chair Ortega and the MWD team stood alongside our partners at the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency to celebrate the completion of the first stage of this important project. The collaboration between our two agencies will provide Metropolitan with underground storage capacity of 280,000 acre-feet of water—about the size of Castaic Lake.

At more than \$200 million, the Water Bank is Metropolitan’s largest investment in groundwater storage to date. When operating at full capacity, it will offer Metropolitan the ability to draw up to 70,000 acre-feet in a dry year. That’s enough water to serve the annual needs of 210,000 households.

Meanwhile, Metropolitan and its member agencies have been hard at work to devise a program that can expand the use of local aquifers to store surplus water during wet years. The task is both complicated and urgent, as our available surface storage fills up after record breaking wet weather and as forecasters suggest El Nino rains are headed our way.

The dramatic weather whiplash of the last couple years is part of the climate reality we face, which will add ever greater stresses on our water supplies in the years ahead. To chart our course into this future, we’ve undertaken the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water to evaluate and scope investments that will build our regional resilience.

Many projects, like the Water Bank, will take years to plan and construct, yet we must remain agile to respond to changes upon us already. We must simultaneously develop strategies for next year and the next 20 years.

Among these strategies, groundwater storage offers immediate capacity as well as future potential. The challenges are many—technical, legal, and financial—but between Metropolitan and our member agencies, we have the industry’s best minds focused on the opportunity. I’m confident that, if we work in partnership, we can make the most of the critical resource that is right beneath our feet.

We are one

Adel



“The best way to predict your future is to create it.”

***- Peter Drucker,
Educator, Business
Consultant, and Author***



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 to fulfill Metropolitan's Mission.

The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office reported an average case closure rate of 58 business days for the third quarter (July-September 2023), meeting its commitment to conduct prompt, thorough and fair investigations.

The EEO Office conducted the second of three trainings scheduled this year on EEO's complaint and investigative process, ("EEO Investigations 101") to provide employees with an overview of the EEO Office, the complaint intake process, and its investigative guidelines. The goal of this training series is to ensure that Metropolitan employees know how to file an EEO complaint, have a better understanding of the complaint process and their rights and responsibilities in the workplace, and are more aware of the support offered by the EEO Office

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Chief Liji Thomas presented a proposed Vision Statement and Values to the recent gathering of 300 managers and solicited their feedback. The proposed values are Safety, Trust, Accountability, Respect and Teamwork. The Vision Statement and Values will be presented to the Board in Q1 2024 followed by further communication with employees and implementation. Additionally, evaluation of the National Safety Council's (NSC) proposed "Safety Vision" continued, and staff is working with NSC to finalize the vision and prioritize safety initiatives.

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.

Metropolitan welcomes new Human Resources Group Manager Mark Brower! The executive office and staff from across the organization have been actively helping to onboard Mark and are identifying ways to support his success.

The Metropolitan Management University held session #7 covering Communication Skills (assertive communication and handling conflict constructively). Staff facilitated team- and skill-building for Laboratory Support in Water Quality.

To help reduce the time it takes to recruit staff, we have brought on additional temporary staff, contracted with an external recruiting firm, and are preparing proposed changes to the hiring manual, which will be shared with the bargaining units.

We are taking a number of steps to support more effective recruitment, ensuring that we cast the net wide and leverage our strategic partnerships to build the pipeline that continues to attract the best talent. For example, we are working with external partners to host a Q&A/resume writing workshop for potential applicants to the apprenticeship program; we developed a recruitment video that highlights our diverse talent; and we have applied for grant funding for the WETT (Water Education and Training for the Trades) program to reduce traditional barriers to the apprenticeship program (we expect a decision on our grant application in November).

Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model

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

Staff presented the Pure Water Southern California cost recovery alternatives at the October FAIRP Committee meeting.

The Board's Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee considered expert and member agency advice about affordability strategies, as the District confronts the need to invest in system-wide climate adaptation and to achieve greater resilience in the face of growing variability in weather and our imported supplies.

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.

In October, the Centralized Grants Management Office launched the Certified Grants Administrator training program, a series of six training sessions. Part one hosted over 60 Metropolitan and member agency staff who learned the basic components of applying for a grant and about Metropolitan's grant tracking software eCivis.

With persistent outreach and advocacy from Metropolitan, the CA Department of Water Resources and the US Bureau of Reclamation executed a cost-sharing agreement for seismic upgrades at Sisk Dam that ensures a more equitable cost distribution for the State Water Project. The final arrangement significantly saves Metropolitan and its ratepayers nearly \$200 million, driving down the estimated cost-share from \$236 million to \$42 million.

Adapt to changing climate and water resources

Provide each member agency access to an equivalent level of water supply reliability through the development of a Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) that integrates water resource, financial and climate adaptation planning.

The CAMP4W core team has been preparing for the November meeting of the new Joint Task Force, to continue progress in developing a Climate Decision Making Framework and draft evaluative criteria that will assess climate adaptation projects and programs for possible implementation.

Metropolitan is making rapid progress on early-action drought projects, and we convened a planning workshop (#10) with all member agencies to update ongoing actions and receive feedback. The progressive design-build method expedites the development of pump stations at two existing pressure control structures, enabling greater deliveries of Colorado River water to the western portion of the State Water Project exclusive area. During October, staff evaluated bids to construct a surge protection facility to safeguard existing infrastructure when moving water from Diamond Valley Lake to the eastern portion of the SWP exclusive area.

Metropolitan and the member agencies are collaborating to develop a new framework for groundwater/reservoir storage when Metropolitan cannot capture all available supplies; we continue to workshop this with member agencies and expect to bring an item for Board action in Q1 2024.

Metropolitan and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) celebrated the first milestone of the High Desert Water Bank, Metropolitan's largest investment in groundwater storage to date. The event marked the completion of the project's first phase, giving Metropolitan the ability to take advantage of this wet year and store 12,000 AF in 2023. When completed, the Water Bank will allow Metropolitan to store up to 280,000 AF of State Water Project supplies in the Antelope Valley groundwater basin. In 2027, when the project is expected to be fully operational, Metropolitan will have the ability to store or withdraw up to 70,000 AF in any given year. This project not only improves our reliability by being able to capture more supplies in wet years but also reduces our dependency on imported supplies in dry years.

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.

Assembly Bill 1572, the Metropolitan co-sponsored bill banning the irrigation of non-functional turf with potable water, was signed by the Governor into law on October 14, 2023.

Metropolitan's Board approved a \$50,000 sponsorship of Climate Mayors to facilitate a working group of mayors throughout the Colorado River Basin to work together on water use efficiency and conservation commitments.

Metropolitan is working collaboratively to expedite Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) and is extending its environmental analyses to allow for the possible incorporation of flows from the City of LA's Operation NEXT/Hyperion 2035 project. An updated schedule was shared with the PWSC subcommittee on September 26, and a more detailed draft construction-sequencing plan will be available soon. The online date is still 2032, and we continue to pursue opportunities for the early delivery of water. Integration and early deliver are the foci of our convening the Water Reuse Collaborative, 11 agencies in the vicinity of the PWSC plant, which met again in October. The discussion included a presentation by Long Beach Utilities on how the City's plans incorporate demand for water from PWSC.

A revised draft of state Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) regulations was released, with changes made to respond to the collaborative—and effective—testimony and comments in which Metropolitan played a leading role. Comments on the revisions are due noon, Nov. 6.

Climate Action Plan implementation advanced with the development of a preliminary “roadmap” for our transition to zero-emission vehicles; this will be shared with the Board in January at EOT Committee. Staff is also assessing commute emissions and engaging with partners to explore innovations for reducing power use, costs and GHG emissions related to Pure Water.

Metropolitan's Board approved amending the Capital Investment Plan to include the multi-benefit landscape project on Webb Tract, which earlier this year received a \$21M grant from the Delta Conservancy. The Board also authorized professional service agreements for design, environmental documentation, permit applications, and scientific monitoring. Following development work, two eddy covariant stations which will be used to calculate and validate the emissions reductions anticipated by wetlands and rice farming.

Science staff submitted a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Applied Science Grants to fund a two-year project that would develop publicly accessible datasets. These datasets would support improved water management planning, assessment of flow operations, and evaluate effects on fish and wildlife.

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

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

While further internal review is still needed, staff reached a significant milestone by completing an initial assessment of all Capital Investment Plan projects according to overall risk and value. This sizeable effort will help Metropolitan prioritize limited resources and can support the two-year and ten-year budget plans under development.

Cybersecurity staff began onboarding and training interim support staff, reviewed and updated Metropolitan's Cyber Incident Response plan, and initiated the annual Cybersecurity Awareness Training Campaign.

Eight dam emergency action plans have been completed, with only two still awaiting approval by Cal OES. Two additional plans are substantially complete and will be submitted to the state by the end of 2023.

In addition to participating District-wide in the Great Shake Out earthquake-response simulation, staff conducted a Regional Seismic Resilience Task Force meeting with representatives from DWR and LADWP to plan for upcoming activities.

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

Toward establishing the Enterprise Contract Management system, contract negotiations with the recommended vendor are substantially complete, and a contract award will be considered by the Board in November.

Toward the sustainability of CIP projects, La Verne Water Quality Lab Upgrade has been identified as a potential candidate for LEED certification.

Two of Metropolitan's master specification sections have been updated, in alignment with the Climate Action Plan, to require the contractor to provide greenhouse gas monitoring information.

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.

Progress is being made for further CAMP4W outreach, through a new video, fact sheets and coordination with member agencies.

Staff developed a set of best practices for communicating public engagement and input for relevant items in front of the Board, which are being considered for inclusion in a set of improvements in Q1 2024.

Having previously completed and reported on our assessment of the Community Partnership Program, External Affairs is considering its first larger CPP sponsorship, more strategically linked with our SRI initiatives; and staff will report on progress in the coming weeks.

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

Work on this goal is continuing with more multilingual resources for outreach and support for grant opportunities to expand Metropolitan's programs. A press event on November 14 will highlight new conservation funds for turf replacement and direct install of water saving fixtures in disadvantaged communities.

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

On October 18, the Administrative Services Section held an All-Hands Luncheon to show appreciation for the hard work of section staff and provide an opportunity for engagement. Katano Kasaine, Assistant GM/CFO offered opening remarks and reiterated the value of coming together to connect, share updates, ask questions, and celebrate successes. Adam Benson, Finance Group Manager, and Mark Brower, HR Director, were also introduced to the team. While everyone welcomed new employees section-wide, employees with over 30 years of service received special applause for their longstanding commitment and dedication to Metropolitan. Cuauhtemoc “Moty” Torres, Administrative Services Section Manager, and staff look forward to offering more opportunities for employee engagement throughout the year.

Bay-Delta Initiatives

At the upcoming Sites Authority Board meeting scheduled for Friday, November 17, 2023, it is anticipated that the Final Sites Reservoir Environmental Impact Report and corresponding California Environmental Quality Act actions will be certified. Check the Sites Reservoir website [here](#) for details regarding this upcoming historic meeting. In anticipation of the certification, the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board authorized the Executive Director to post the required public notices in accordance with SB149 if the Governor certifies that the Sites Reservoir Project is a SB149-eligible infrastructure project.

Chief Financial Officer

Business Continuity conducted the district-wide annual ShakeOut earthquake drill on October 19, 2023. The purpose of this drill was to promote earthquake preparedness. Key activities included practicing drop, cover, and hold on, an earthquake preparedness presentation facilitated by the American Red Cross, and a display of security and emergency equipment and vehicles.

Colorado River

In late October, the Bureau of Reclamation issued a Revised Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Revised DSEIS) for short-term Colorado River operations. The Revised DSEIS analyzed three action alternatives and selected the Lower Basin Plan to conserve an additional 3 million acre-feet of water through 2026 as the preferred alternative. Comments on the Revised DEIS are due December 11. Metropolitan plans to provide comments supporting the Lower Basin Plan.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

On October 21, 2023, in collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Business Outreach, and External Affairs along with employee staff attended the 2023 Taste of Soul located in the Crenshaw District. Together Metropolitan advocates the message on conservation, business outreach, and workforce development.

Engineering Services

In October, substantial progress was achieved on several major construction contracts that will ensure water supply reliability and have a combined construction value of more than \$220 million. The projects include the \$93.8 million contract to rehabilitate four treatment basins and replace half the filter valves at the F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant, the \$68.8 million contract to steel line a portion of the Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe on the Second Lower Feeder, and the \$59.5 million contract to cross underneath the I-215 Freeway to complete the Perris Valley Pipeline. All three contracts are on track to be completed as scheduled and within budget. Construction is also proceeding on 35 other water supply reliability and system rehabilitation projects within the Capital Investment Plan with contract amounts ranging from approximately \$0.11 million to \$32.8 million.

External Affairs

Chairman Ortega, Directors Dennstedt, McMillan, Morris, Peterson, and Seckel, AGM Hagekhalil, Metropolitan staff, and officials from the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency celebrated the completion of the first phase of the High Desert Water Bank, Metropolitan's largest-ever investment in groundwater storage. Media coverage included LA Times, Southern California News Group, Antelope Valley Press, KABC-7, KFI-AM, KNX-AM, and KPPC/LAist. (October 23)

Human Resources

In October, 290 Metropolitan employees attended virtually facilitated classes including Time Management, Customer Service Skills, Visio, and Personal Security Awareness.

Information Technology

The latest replacement of enhanced microphone hardware for our second floor committee rooms has been installed. This technology offers an exceptionally user-friendly experience, allowing for easy adjustments and ensuring that every participant's voice is heard with clarity.

Security Management

Security robotics is an exciting new area in critical infrastructure protection.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

In recent updates, the Chief SRI Officer presented a \$50k sponsorship for Climate Mayors, which will support the Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group's efforts to enhance the river's supply and usage through initiatives like turf replacement and water reuse. The Board approved the sponsorship. The SRI Office also played a crucial role in organizing panels related to affordability for the Board Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee as part of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W). Furthermore, a panel discussed carbon-neutral water systems and how to measure carbon reduction. A management retreat introduced project evaluation and decision support tools, enhancing decision-making processes. Additionally, SRI is working on sustainability and resilience policies, collaborating with the Responsible Purchasing Network, conducting surveys on employee commutes and electric vehicles, and facilitating the transition to zero-emission vehicles. The Centralized Grants Management Office updated the grant procedures and offered training sessions.

Water Resource Management

Water Resource Management continues to participate in and support ongoing discussions with California, the Upper Basin, and Lower Basin partners developing post-2026 reservoir operation guidelines. These guidelines will significantly influence Metropolitan's future supply of Colorado River water. In addition to the efforts to secure access to sufficient Colorado River supplies, the team continues to explore methods to reduce Metropolitan's dependency on imported supplies in dry years. In addition to the ongoing implementation of regional conservation program activities, on October 23, 2023, Metropolitan and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency celebrated the first milestone of the High Desert Water Bank. This partnership enhances our water supply reliability by enabling the capture of additional supplies in wet years for use in dry years.

Water System Operations

Metropolitan staff assisted Coachella Valley Water District in repairing facilities damaged by Tropical Storm Hilary, enabling water deliveries to resume for groundwater replenishment to CVWD and Desert Water Agency. Shortly after, staff discovered high water levels near a protective berm downstream of the CRA water release into the Whitewater River. This condition resulted from new flow patterns created by the tropical storm. Staff urgently responded with heavy construction equipment to redirect the 230 cfs delivery away from the potential breach area, allowing berm improvements to proceed while water deliveries continued. Deliveries will be returning to their pre-storm level of 700 cfs in early November, completing an important response by operations staff to effectively manage supplies and storage this year.



“Seeing this project unfold from a concept to an approved program and finally to constructed facilities has been a remarkable experience due to the hard work of many involved. I look forward to its continued success and full operation.”

***Tracy Abundez, Resource Specialist,
Supply Acquisition Team***

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In October 2023, officials from Metropolitan and the Antelope Valley East-Kern Water Agency (AVEK) gathered to celebrate the opening of the High Desert Water Bank, a groundwater recharge and recovery project which improves Metropolitan’s water supply reliability in dry years. The Program is a partnership in which AVEK is constructing and operating the facilities, and Metropolitan is providing funding and has first priority right to use of the facilities. The Program was approved by Metropolitan’s Board in 2019 and currently has an estimated capital cost of \$211M. Once fully operational, it will allow Metropolitan to manage up to 70,000 acre-feet per year of its State Water Project (SWP) supplies with a total storage capacity of 280,000 AF within the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin.

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

The Program will enhance Metropolitan’s water supply reliability by increasing dry-year storage capacity and operational flexibility. It will nearly double the total direct pump-back capability of current SWP groundwater storage programs and provide emergency reliability to SWP Dependent Areas located along the East Branch of the California Aqueduct. In addition, a future project could provide reliability to SWP Dependent Areas located along the West Branch of the California Aqueduct.

MEMORABLE MOMENT

Since its approval in 2019, the Program has evolved and the strong relationship between AVEK and Metropolitan staff has allowed for great success despite the many challenges that were presented. Staff credits close coordination and collaboration with AVEK for the success in describing and obtaining approval from Metropolitan’s Board for the several changes that resulted in an increase of \$80M in project costs. This board action in September 2023 could not have been possible without a strong team effort from AVEK staff and many Metropolitan staff.

Water Resources and Engineering

Water Resource Management



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

Staff participated in meetings and workshops with California, Lower Basin, and Upper Basin partners to continue developing a Basin States alternative for operating Lakes Mead and Powell after 2026, once the current operational guidelines (the 2007 Interim Guidelines) expire. The post-2026 reservoir operation guidelines will significantly influence Metropolitan's future supply of Colorado River water. Meetings included a gathering of technical modeling teams from Metropolitan, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and the Central Arizona Project in Las Vegas; a workshop in Las Vegas with the Colorado River Board of California (CRB) and representatives from California agencies holding rights to water from the Colorado River (the Quechan Tribe, Imperial Irrigation District, Palo Verde Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, and Metropolitan); and a three-day meeting of Lower and Upper Basin States principals in Midway, Utah.

Staff attended a meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Topics discussed included (1) proposed language for the 2023 federal Farm Bill to reduce the state cost-share requirement from 30 percent to roughly 15 percent for salinity control funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which would reduce the existing Salinity Control Program (Program) funding deficit; (2) an update on the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR's) Request for Information (RFI) from private industry representatives to solicit new alternatives for the long-term replacement of the Paradox Valley Unit (PVU); (3) the final draft 2023 "Triennial Review," in which the Forum communicates to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) an assessment of the sufficiency of existing water quality criteria for salinity on the Lower Colorado River; and (4) updates from key federal agencies involved in the Program, including USBR, NRCS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Implement Regional Conservation Program

Presented at the WaterSmart Innovations conference on a range of topics including Metropolitan's household water use study, public agency turf program, and non-functional turf efforts.

Held Water Efficient Landscaper Dual Certification Program workshops in partnership with CLCA and Chino Basin Water Conservation District for 50 landscape professionals.

Held Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance training classes in Mission Viejo and Monrovia which each had 20 participants.

Explore Opportunities to Leverage Metropolitan's SWP and Colorado River Supplies and Storage Assets

On October 23, 2023, Metropolitan and Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) celebrated the first milestone of the High Desert Water Bank (HDWB), Metropolitan's largest investment in groundwater storage. The event marked the completion of the project's first phase, giving Metropolitan the ability to take advantage of this

Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

wet year and store 12,000 AF in 2023. When completed, the HDWB, a partnership between the two agencies, will allow Metropolitan to store up to 280,000 acre-feet (AF) of State Water Project supplies in the Antelope Valley groundwater basin. In 2027, when the project is expected to be fully operational, Metropolitan will have the ability to store or withdraw up to 70,000 AF in any given year. During dry years, the water withdrawn from storage will be extracted and delivered to Metropolitan through the California Aqueduct for use in its service area. This project not only improves our reliability by being able to capture more supplies in wet years for use in dry years but also reduces our dependency on Colorado River supplies in dry years

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

Staff participated as a member of the Western Water Drought Task Force at its meeting on October 17. Staff gave a presentation on Southern California's regional water supply conditions and outlook, which had improved dramatically for Water Year 2022–2023.

The Water Utilities Climate Alliance (WUCA) held its annual General Manager's Meeting in Coronado, California on October 25. WUCA comprises twelve of the largest water utilities across the United States that work to provide leadership and collaborate on climate change issues affecting the nation's water agencies. General Manager Adel Hagekhalil attended the meeting along with staff representatives. The general managers of the WUCA water utilities approved the 2024 WUCA work plan and budget and participated in a round table discussion that highlighted past experiences with securing federal funding and climate adaptation projects.

Staff attended the California Water Plan (CWP) Update 2023 Plenary Meeting in Roseville, hosted by DWR on October 3–4, 2023. At this meeting, DWR discussed the contents of the recently released Public Review Draft (PRD) and took feedback from in-person and virtual attendees. During the 30-day comment period, staff from various groups at Metropolitan reviewed the PRD and submitted comments aimed at clarifying the information and recommended actions contained in the draft CWP. Staff also coordinated with ACWA in developing feedback to DWR that will help inform the final CWP. DWR is planning to release the final CWP Update 2023 by the end of the year.

Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program

Staff from WRM and Engineering delivered presentations on the Pure Water Southern California Project, Metropolitan's seawater desalination activities, and dam safety to representatives from Morocco and Jordan. General Manager Adel Hagekhalil welcomed and addressed the delegation. Both countries are investing billions of dollars in climate-resilient resources such as desalination projects and pipeline infrastructure. Staff discussed the many benefits of communal water districts compared with government agencies.

Position Metropolitan As A Leader In Open Water Data.

Staff participated in several California Water Data Collaborative committee meetings in October and completed planning for a "Data for Lunch" webinar scheduled for noon on November 16. The webinar will feature Metropolitan's AGM Deven Upadhyay leading a panel on urban water data reporting with state agency representatives. A link to the webinar will be shared with the member agencies and other interested stakeholders shortly. Streamline approvals for future Sacramento Valley water transfers.

Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

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

Staff hosted a briefing on peer agency workforce development practices delivered by Booky Oren GWT (BOGWT). The briefing included practices from water agencies across the country and internationally. The best practices included implementing tours for internal staff for all aspects of a utility and using building information management (BIM) and other software as succession planning aids. The briefing was delivered through Metropolitan Peer-2-Peer innovation agreement with BOGWT. Staff from Human Resources, Operations, Water Resource Management, and the Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation Office attended the briefing. Additional information on workforce development and HR practices is available on BOGWT's k2i platform, which is available to all Metropolitan employees and accessible through IntraMet and at this link: <https://www.k2iplatform.com/>

Water Resources and Engineering

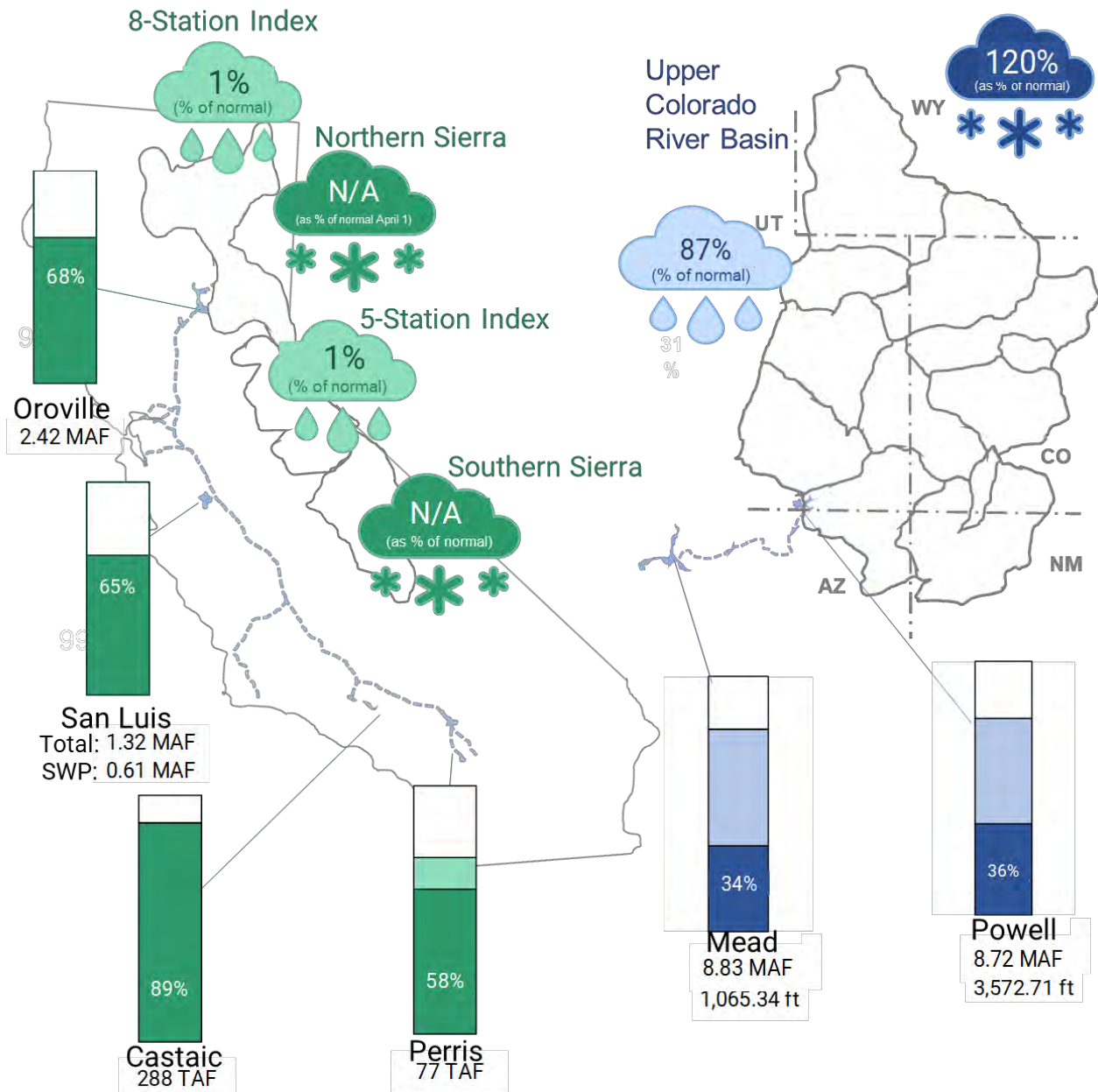
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State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A- 100% - 1,911,500 acre-feet

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions - 686,000 acre-feet



Water Year 2023-2024
As of: 10/31/2023

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

Bay-Delta Initiatives

Core Functions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for a public review that ended on December 16, 2022. The Final EIR is expected at the end of 2023. It will include responses to all substantive comments on the Draft EIR and edits to the Draft EIR, as appropriate, to respond to the comments.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, released a draft Environmental Impact Statement to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act for a public review that ended on March 16, 2023. USACE is in the process of developing responses to the comments received.

Delta Conveyance related Joint Powers Authorities

Comprehensive updates regarding ongoing and required Tribal consultation and public communication and outreach efforts to advance the Delta Conveyance Project were presented to the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled October 19 meeting. Localized fact sheets surrounding the relevance of the State Water Project are being created, and the geotargeted social media campaign has reached over 50,000 Californians in the State Water Project area.

The October 19 regularly scheduled Delta Conveyance Finance Authority meeting was cancelled.

Sites Reservoir

At the joint Sites Project Authority Board and Sites Reservoir Committee Meeting on October 20, the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board approved actions related to the Amendment 3 Work Plan Update including an extension of the work plan to December 31, 2025, an overall program baseline schedule that would support a projected seven-year substantial construction completion, which is currently projected in 2032, and an update to the priorities. The annual budget for fiscal year 2024 and the cash call amount for fiscal year 2024 were also approved as part of the Amendment 3 Work Plan Update.

At the upcoming Joint Reservoir Committee and Sites Authority Board meeting scheduled for Friday, November 17, 2023, it is anticipated that the Final EIR and corresponding CEQA actions will be certified. Check the Sites Reservoir website [here](#) for details regarding this upcoming historic meeting. In anticipation of the certification, the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board authorized the Executive Director to post the required public notices in accordance with SB149 if the Governor certifies that the Sites Reservoir Project is an SB149-eligible infrastructure project.

Science Activities

Science staff submitted a proposal to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Applied Science Grants for fiscal year (FY) 2023 to fund a two-year project that would develop publicly accessible datasets. These datasets would support improved water management planning, assessment of flow operations, and evaluate effects on fish and wildlife.

To progress the Floating Wetlands Pond Study, staff is evaluating options for relocating tules from a nursery location on Bouldin Island to an existing impoundment on Bouldin Island. The Floating Wetlands Pond Study will be a practical evaluation of the benefits of using native plants from the Delta as a tool in habitat restoration. The results of this study will allow Metropolitan to determine relative benefits of investing in this novel restoration tool.

Staff is participating in a Department of Fish and Wildlife Zooplankton Monitoring Review effort for evaluating the effects of management actions on zooplankton. Zooplankton are a vital prey for listed species. Determining how best to improve zooplankton densities is important for the management of listed species.

Delta Island Activities

Staff responded to a magnitude 4.2 earthquake centered near Brannan Island on October 18. In coordination with Reclamation District staff, all 56 miles of levees on Metropolitan's four islands were inspected within one hour. No seismic damage was reported on Metropolitan's Islands. Additionally, real-time data from the Bouldin Island Seismic Instrumentation & Monitoring Pilot Project was evaluated in the minutes following the seismic event.

Metropolitan's Board of Directors approved amending the Capital Investment Plan for FY 2022/23 and 2023/24 to include the development of a multi-benefit landscape project on Webb Tract. The Board also authorized professional service agreements for design, preparation of environmental documentation, permit applications, and scientific monitoring.

Staff hosted the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy Board tour on Webb Tract. The tour highlighted Metropolitan's project planning in the Delta, including the Delta Conservancy grant-funded Webb Tract Landscape Mosaic Project.

Bay-Delta Staff participated in a panel on subsidence during the Delta Independent Science Board's October meeting. The panel provided an overview of current land inundation practices and experiments in the Delta. Staff provided information on the current practices and ongoing studies on Metropolitan's Delta Islands.

Other Activities

Bay-Delta Resources staff, along with Chair Adán Ortega, Jr., and Board Directors Lefevre, Luna, and McCoy attended the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area Celebration in Yolo County. This celebration recognized Metropolitan's role in the partnership that led to the recently completed project.

Colorado River Resources

Reclamation supports Lower Basin Water Conservation Proposal

In response to record low storage levels in Lake Powell and Lake Mead in the summer of 2022, Reclamation began a process to amend the Colorado River Interim Guidelines through 2026 in the event conditions continued to be dry and additional shortages were needed to protect critical infrastructure at Lakes Powell and Mead. The draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) that analyzed the options was completed in spring of 2023. Two action items were included in the document: one that implemented additional shortages by the priority system and another that shared shortages equally among contractors. None of the Lower Basin States supported either alternative; therefore, in May of 2023, the Lower Basin States came up with their own proposal. That proposal was based on two important factors: first, the much-improved conditions due to the wet winter of 2022-23, and second, the availability of \$4 billion for western drought relief provided by the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The Lower Basin States proposed using IRA funds and existing Intentionally Created Surplus programs to conserve an additional 3 million acre-feet of water through 2026, on top of the existing shortage requirements under the 2007 Guidelines. The Lower Basin submitted that plan to Reclamation in May 2023, with support from the Upper Basin, requesting Reclamation to consider their alternative in the development of the SEIS. Reclamation agreed to suspend the process while it evaluated the Lower Basin Proposal.

On October 27, Reclamation issued a Revised DSEIS that included the two original alternatives, along with the Lower Basin Plan. The document concluded that the Lower Basin Plan was the most effective option and dropped the original two alternatives from further consideration. Reclamation is soliciting comments on the Revised DSEIS, with comments due on December 11. Reclamation plans to issue a Final SEIS in early 2024, followed by a Record of Decision approving the new plan. The Lower Basin States are ahead of the proposed water conservation schedule, with record low water use in 2023. The Lower Basin states are projected to use 5.8 million acre-feet of water this year, which is 1.7 million acre-feet less than its allocation under the 1922 Colorado River Compact. Metropolitan plans to submit comments to Reclamation supporting the Lower Basin Plan, along with highlighting specific interests our region may have in this process. Staff will provide an overview of the Revised SEIS at the November 13 One Water and Stewardship Committee meeting.

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:

- **Lake Mathews Wastewater Replacement**—This project consists of replacing the existing septic tank system with a wastewater collection system at Lake Mathews. The new wastewater system connects to a nearby off-site Western Municipal Water District main wastewater line. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract for the final stage in October 2021. The contractor continues to seal up the accessways and will be connecting the buildings to the new system. Construction is approximately 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in February 2024.
- **La Verne Shops Building Completion—Stage 4**—This project will complete the La Verne Shops building improvements and install Metropolitan-furnished shop equipment. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract in May 2022. The contractor continued installing reinforcing steel for new concrete equipment pads; installing electrical conduits for branch circuits; excavating for new electrical ductbank; and performing wall repair and resurfacing of shop exterior. Construction is approximately 67 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2024.
- **Orange County Feeder Lining Repairs**—This project replaces the deteriorated internal lining along an 11-mile portion of the Orange County Feeder within the cities of Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, and Newport Beach. Rehabilitation is proceeding in three stages. Construction of Stages 1 and 2 are complete. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract for the third and final stage in April 2022. The contractor completed applying mortar lining and the pipeline was returned to service in August 2023. Site restoration is approximately 75 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 2023, which will complete construction of this project.
- **Rialto Pipeline Rehabilitation**—This project replaces a 35-foot-long, 121.5-inch diameter section of welded steel pipe on the Rialto Pipeline in the city of Upland, where the mortar lining has failed. This project also replaces the deteriorating pipe spool and isolation valve at the CB-11 service connection. Final design is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in December 2023.



Lake Mathews Wastewater Replacement—
Interior coating prep in wastewater access-hole at new Valve Storage Building

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 be refurbished under this 20-year program. Recent activities include the following:

- **Sepulveda Feeder CFRP Urgent Relining**—This project rehabilitates three deteriorated Sepulveda Feeder PCCP segments in the Van Nuys, Sherman Oaks, and Brentwood neighborhoods of the City of Los Angeles using carbon fiber reinforced polymer lining. Metropolitan’s Board awarded a construction contract in August 2023. Sitework is scheduled to begin in February 2023 and be completed in April 2024. Metropolitan has received noise variances and is pursuing other necessary permits before construction.
- **Second Lower Feeder Valves**—This procurement contract provides 13 conical plug valves for the Second Lower Feeder PCCP rehabilitation. Metropolitan’s Board awarded a procurement contract for the valves in December 2018. Seven valves have been delivered as of March 2023. The eighth and ninth valves will ship from Yokohama, Japan, in November 2023, and are scheduled to arrive in the Port of Long Beach in early December 2023. The tenth valve is scheduled to be shipped in January 2024. The eleventh and twelfth valves are scheduled to be shipped by October 2024. Fabrication of the final valve will be completed in late 2024, and delivery is projected for early-2025.
- **Sepulveda Feeder Reach 2**—This project enhances distribution system reliability by rehabilitating PCCP segments of the Sepulveda Feeder. Reach 2 spans 3.9 miles through several cities including the cities of Torrance and Los Angeles. Final design is approximately 92 percent complete and is planned to be complete by November 2023.
- **Calabasas Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates the Calabasas Feeder, which is approximately 9 miles long, and delivers treated water from the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant to the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village, and to areas of unincorporated western Los Angeles County. Preliminary design is 61 percent complete and scheduled to be complete in May 2024.

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

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

- **Gene Communication System Upgrade**—This project will construct a new fiber optic cable line from Parker Dam to Gene Pumping Plant. The new line is predominantly located within Metropolitan fee property on new power poles with a small underground portion of the alignment within the Bureau of Reclamation's property. Final design was completed in July 2023 and a board action is scheduled for November 2023 to award a construction contract.
- **CRA Storage Buildings**—This project furnishes and installs storage buildings at Hinds, Eagle Mountain, and Iron Mountain pumping plants. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract in July 2023, and the Notice to Proceed was sent to the contractor in September 2023. The contractor is preparing submittals for review. Construction is anticipated to be completed in January 2026.
- **Flow Level Monitoring Stations**—This project will install 12 flow monitoring stations at remote locations along the Colorado River Aqueduct. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract in May 2023. The contractor is preparing to mobilize to the site and is preparing submittals for review. Construction is 5 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in July 2024.
- **Freda Siphon Seals**—This project consists of installing internal seals at over 80 locations along the Freda Siphon to address existing cracks and leaks. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract in September 2023. The Notice to Proceed was sent to the Contractor in October 2023. Construction is scheduled to be complete in May 2024.
- **CRA Erosion Control**—This project will install erosion control features at 19 conduit locations along the CRA that are vulnerable to erosion during storm events. Preliminary design is 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in December 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.

- **Perris Valley Pipeline**—This project will complete construction of the Perris Valley Pipeline and provide service connections to Eastern and Western Municipal Water Districts. This project installs 3,000 linear feet of tunnel which crosses the Interstate 215 freeway. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract in January 2023. The contractor has finished installing support-of-excavation secant piles and begun excavation for the first of four 30-feet deep and 40-feet diameter shafts that are needed to construct the crossing. Construction is 21 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in early 2025.
- **Badlands Tunnel Surge Protection**—In conjunction with three other projects, this project enhances water supply reliability in the Rialto Pipeline service area by enabling water to be pumped from the Wadsworth Pumping Plant forebay to Rialto Pipeline by way of the Inland Feeder. This project installs a new hydraulic surge tank at the south portal of the tunnel, which will protect the Inland Feeder from hydraulic transients when pumping water from DVL to the Rialto Pipeline through the Inland Feeder. Final design is complete, and board award of a construction contract is scheduled for November 2023.

- **Inland Feeder-Rialto Pipeline Intertie**—In conjunction with three other projects, this project enhances water supply reliability in the Rialto Pipeline service area by enabling water to be pumped from the Wadsworth Pumping Plant forebay to Rialto Pipeline by way of the Inland Feeder. This project installs an interconnection pipeline and isolation valve structure between the Inland Feeder and Rialto Pipeline. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract in September 2023. Construction is scheduled to be complete in March 2025.
- **Wadsworth Pumping Plant Bypass**—In conjunction with three other projects, this project enhances water supply reliability in the Rialto Pipeline service area by enabling water to be pumped from the Wadsworth Pumping Plant forebay to Rialto Pipeline by way of the Inland Feeder. This project installs a bypass pipeline and an isolation valve to interconnect the Wadsworth Pumping Plant with the Eastside Pipeline. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract in January 2023. Construction of the valve structure and relocation of utilities in area is underway. Construction is approximately 16 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in May 2024.
- **Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Stations**—This project installs new pump stations at the existing Venice and Sepulveda Canyon pressure control facilities, providing the ability to reverse flow in the Sepulveda Feeder and deliver water from the Central Pool to portions of the Jensen plant exclusive area. This project uses a progressive design-build (PDB) project delivery method. The Board awarded a Phase 1 design-build services agreement in September 2023. The contractor started project planning with a kickoff meeting held in October 2023. Design and Operations staff have begun reviewing initial planning submittals to support upcoming work. The contractor and Metropolitan are coordinating with both Southern California Edison and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power on upgrades to the incoming power service at both locations. Phase 1, which includes site investigation, design to the 70 percent level, environmental planning, and preparation of long-lead-item procurement documents, is scheduled to be complete in September 2024.

Treatment Plant Reliability Program

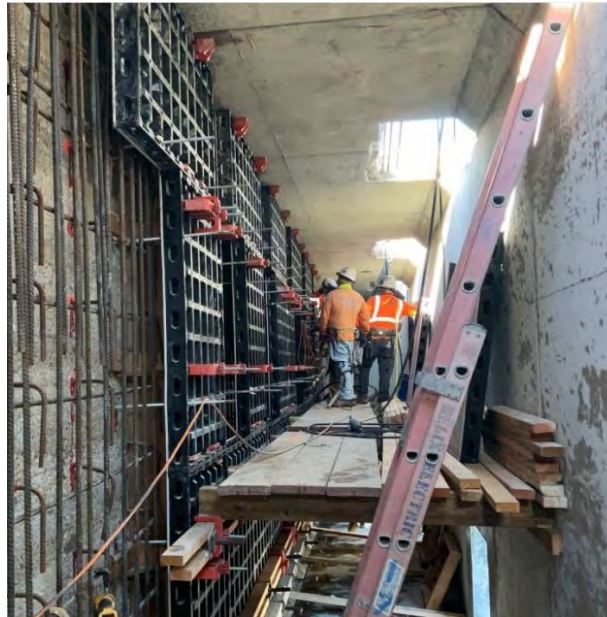
This program was initiated to maintain reliability and improve the operating efficiency of Metropolitan's water treatment plants through specific improvement projects. Recent activities include the following:

- **Weymouth Basins 5–8 and Filter Building No. 2 Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates major mechanical and structural components of Basins 5–8 and Filter Building No. 2 at the Weymouth plant, including the flocculation/sedimentation equipment, sludge pumps, baffle boards, and walls, launders, inlet gates, and outlet drop gates. Rehabilitation work also includes seismic upgrades of basin walls and inlet channel, hazardous material abatement, and replacement of filter valves and actuators in Filter Building No. 2. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract in May 2022. The contractor continued planned work under the first quarter-plant outage, including installation of filter valves, piping, and electrical components in Filter Building No. 2; construction of new concrete walls, steel catwalks; and installation of new mechanical piping and electrical conduits in Basins 7 and 8. Construction is 50 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in May 2025.
- **Mills Electrical Upgrades**—This project upgrades the electrical system with dual power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practice, improve plant reliability, and enhance worker safety. Stage 1 construction is complete, and a construction contract for Stage 2 improvements was awarded in November 2021. Stage 2 improvements will add a second incoming 12 kV service from Riverside Public Utilities, reconfigure the existing 4160-volt switchgear, and replace the standby generator switchgear and the emergency generator programmable logic controller. The contractor completed construction of the new switchyard and installation of structural steel members, a new sump pump system, and a new battery system in the ORP Switchgear building. Construction is 40 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2025.

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- **Jensen Ozone PSUs Replacement**—This project rehabilitates the ozone generation system at the Jensen plant by replacing four existing ozone power supply units (PSUs) and four sets of generator dielectrics. The project also makes required modifications to the associated electrical, control, and cooling water systems. Metropolitan’s Board awarded a construction contract in June 2022. All PSUs and dielectrics have been manufactured and delivered. Installation of two PSUs is complete and dielectrics for two ozone generators have been replaced. The contractor has initiated work on cooling water system modifications and continued with the coordination study for start-up testing of the newly installed PSUs. Construction is 51 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in April 2024.



Weymouth Basins 5–8 and Filter Building No. 2 Rehabilitation
—Influent channel steel reinforcement and concrete forms



Weymouth Basins 5–8 and Filter Building No. 2 Rehabilitation—
Basin 7 slide gate wall overlays

System Reliability Program

The System Reliability Program consists of projects to improve or modify facilities located throughout Metropolitan's service area to use 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. Metropolitan's Board awarded the third and final contract in December 2022. The contractor completed fabrication and receipt of bollard bases and stainless-steel covers and began installation of the ornamental fence within the courtyard. Construction is 45 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in March 2024.
- **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 Metropolitan's Headquarters Building provide detection, notification, and control of building functions so that occupants and visitors can safely exit in the event of a fire. Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract in August 2020. The contractor continued addressing Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) correction list items and began final testing and sign-off of the fire alarm and smoke control systems by the LAFD and Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety. Construction is 98 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in December 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 consultant continued providing submittals, performing equipment verification, and developing control narratives and a training plan. The pilot phase is approximately 45 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in March 2024. The system upgrades at the Mills plant are scheduled to be complete in April 2026.
- **Foothill Hydroelectric Plant and Control Building Seismic Upgrade**—This project strengthens the Foothill Hydroelectric Plant and Control Building to withstand a significant earthquake, by removing and replacing the roofing system; adding encasements to enlarge and strengthen concrete columns; and reinforcing shallow foundations. A construction contract was awarded in April 2023. The contractor continued performing abatement activities on the building's roof, demolition of existing exhaust fans, and installation of structural steel roof plates. Construction is 25 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed in December 2024.



Headquarters Building Fire Alarm and Smoke Control System Upgrades –
Restorative painting in Level 1 Elevator area

Pure Water Southern California

The Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) Program is a large-regional recycled water project that will provide a new source of safe and reliable drinking water for Southern California. The PWSC currently is working in three areas: demonstration testing, environmental planning, and design. The PWSC will produce 150 mgd of purified water from an advanced water treatment plant (AWP) in Carson California to be used for indirect potable reuse (IPR) and direct potable reuse (DPR) with the first deliveries by 2030 and completion by 2035.

- **Demonstration Testing:** Demonstration testing began in 2019 with N-only tertiary membrane bioreactor (tMBR) testing completed in 2021, secondary MBR testing completed in 2023, and a summary report is being prepared. The demo plant will be taken offline in November 2023 to perform maintenance and modifications, with nitrification tMBR optimization testing scheduled to begin in early 2024. Test plans are being prepared to guide the future testing. The name of the demo plant will be changed to the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center and dedicated at the site on Thursday, November 2, 2023.
- **Environmental Planning:** The Environmental Planning Phase began in 2020 with the goal of preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for approval in 2025. The draft EIR is currently scheduled for publication in early 2025. Staff continues to finalize the project description, performing additional technical studies, incorporating changes to the program because of inclusion of the LADWP Operation NEXT pipe upsizing, and developing text for the draft EIR.
- **Conveyance Pipeline Design:** The program's backbone conveyance system consists of over 40 miles of pipeline. Metropolitan's Board authorized consulting agreements for preliminary design in March 2023.
 - **Reach 1**—This reach is approximately six miles long and runs through the city of Carson. Current work includes potholing and geotechnical work. Preliminary design is 16 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by mid-2024.
 - **Reach 2**—This reach is approximately 8 miles long and runs through the cities of Long Beach and Lakewood. Current work includes scheduling and obtaining permits for potholing and geotechnical work. Preliminary design is 5 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by late-2024.

Value Engineering



San Diego Canal at Lake Skinner Inlet

In October, Engineering conducted a Value Engineering workshop for the San Diego Canal Radial Gates Rehabilitation capital project. Two radial gates are the subject of this project. One radial gate is located at the Lake Skinner Inlet Channel and is critical to serve member agency demands and bypass Lake Skinner during certain operational conditions. The second gate is located at the Casa Loma Canal Turnout Structure and is used to control flows into the San Diego Canal. Both gates are epoxy-coated carbon steel and, after 50 and 64 years of service, respectively, have reached the end of their useful lives.

The Value Engineering workshop was conducted to identify value alternatives to improve this project. The VE Team included Metropolitan and consultant project and design staff, WSO managers and staff, and outside subject matter experts. The team considered the planned project scope of work and, through the value engineering process, identified more than 40 alternatives and design suggestions for Metropolitan to consider. The alternatives included alternate gate designs, materials and coatings, operational safety improvements, and concepts to reduce construction cost. Many of the design suggestions were developed from Engineering's Lessons Learned Program, designed to improve how capital projects are delivered by learning from experience. The project team will consider all the alternatives and suggestions for incorporation into the project design.

Protecting the Public and Metropolitan's Assets

Engineering Services continued to develop state-mandated Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for Metropolitan's state-regulated dams to help ensure long-term public safety. In October, the EAPs for Gene Wash Dam and Copper Basin Dam were officially approved by the Cal OES. The EAPs for Lake Mathews, Lake Skinner, and Skinner Finished Water Reservoir are currently under review by the Cal OES, and the outreach effort for the Garvey Reservoir and Palos Verdes Reservoir EAPs is substantially complete, with an anticipated completion and submittal date of December 2023.

Engineering's Mentoring Program

Engineering's Mentoring Program celebrated completion of its 11th year as a formalized program within the group to foster staff development and enhance career progression. In October, the 2023 mentoring cohort celebrated its culmination ceremony after six months of activities, which included StrengthsFinder assessments, flash mentoring, a

Water Resources and Engineering

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session on building better bridges to enhance communication, an alumni panel of recent retirees and experienced staff sharing experiences and career path advice, and a professional hack-a-thon to enhance efficiency. The 2023 cohort consisted of 27 mentor/mentee pairs. Since its inception, the mentoring program has included a total of 281 participants.



Engineering Mentoring Program culmination ceremony on October 17, 2023, with Chief Engineer/Group Manager John Bednarski and program coordinator Zary Lahouti

Engineering's Career Launch Program

In October, Engineering Services held the first meeting for the 11th cohort of the Career Launch Program. The current cohort includes 21 new staff that have been in the group for less than one year. Engineering Services uses the program to link new staff to Metropolitan's mission and Engineering's role within the organization, communicate expectations, inspire professional development, and foster leadership in an effort to enhance the onboarding process for new staff. Managers and subject-matter experts will present relevant topics to the cohort over a 6-month period and a site visit will be coordinated to acquaint staff with district facilities.



Career Launch Kickoff Session on October 25, 2023

Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)



Career Launch Kickoff Session with General Manager Adel Hagekhalil
welcoming Engineering's new hires



Career Launch Session with Assistant Group Manager Mai Hattar
introducing guiding principles and career paths

Safety, Security and Protection

Project Highlights

Security and Emergency Management

Security and Emergency Response

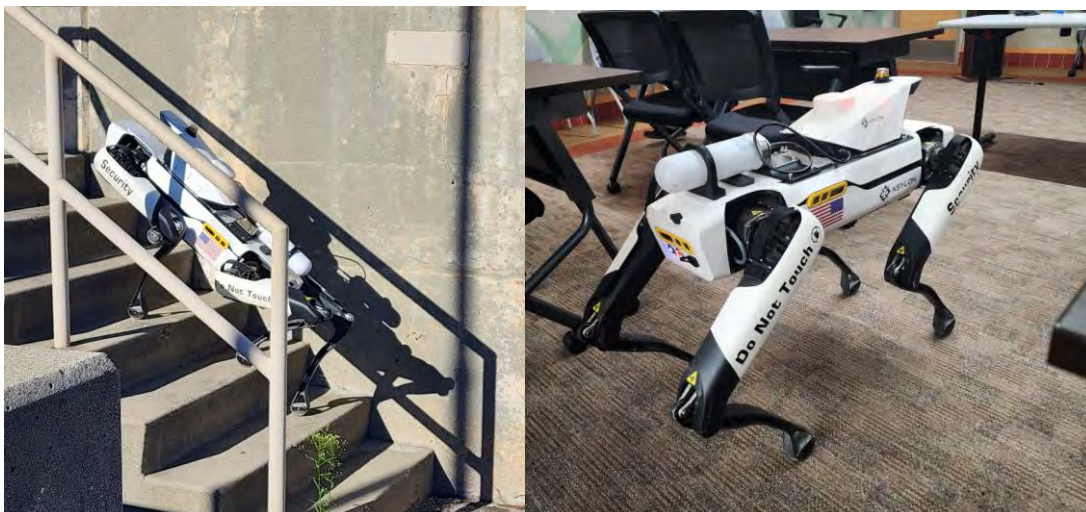
Boston Dynamics and Asylon, Inc. recently partnered to develop a unique DroneDog system using advanced geospatial technology, artificial intelligence (AI), specialized hardware, and cutting-edge software. The system exclusively pairs an aerial drone with “Spot,” a security ground robot dog identified as a quadruped unmanned ground vehicle (Q-UGV). Spot’s legs and life-like movement allow it to easily climb stairs, travel over uneven terrain, re-right itself, and remain upright even if purposely kicked.

In October, the Security and Emergency Management Unit and Weymouth Water Treatment Plant staff viewed a live demonstration with Spot the security robot dog. During the demonstration, Spot made its way through Weymouth’s facility interior, traversed uneven ground, navigated curbs, climbed multiple stairs (forward and backwards), and even climb into a large diameter pipe.

Spot’s amazing capabilities include:

- Live video monitoring
- Semi-autonomous preprogrammed patrol routes
- 20X optical zoom
- Infrared (thermal) vision
- Automated set-and-forget charging with over 1-hour battery operation between charges
- Remote speakers

Security robotics is an exciting new area in critical infrastructure protection and augments traditional security officer capabilities by automating security perimeter patrols, responding to potentially dangerous hazards, and detecting anomalies or threats from both the air and ground simultaneously—a potential gamechanger.



A live demonstration was held at Weymouth with Spot the security robot dog

Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

(continued)

Security and Emergency Response

On Thursday, October 19, staff participated in the Great California ShakeOut, a state-wide earthquake exercise which allows all California residents to practice Duck, Cover, and Hold-on drills and take action to prepare for the next large earthquake.

Metropolitan staff took this opportunity to exercise some essential response tools.

- All employees received Met-Alert emergency notifications calls and emails. Met-Alert is an application that allows staff to immediately receive critical information when there is an emergency.
- Employees were able to log on and hear a live earthquake preparedness presentation by the American Red Cross from the Metropolitan Headquarters Building.
- Security and Emergency Management Unit staff demonstrated some of their response capabilities and various Security vehicles and Emergency Management's rapid response vehicle, which can support Metropolitan staff sent to Fire and Police command posts or act as immediate Metropolitan Incident Command Post (ICP) for developing emergencies such as wildfires or floods.



Emergency Management Program Manager, Ian Whyte, demonstrating some of the systems in the rapid response vehicle

Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

(continued)



An example of an alternate Metropolitan ICP



Metropolitan's Business Continuity Program Manager, Jill Frater, demonstrating the proper Duck, Cover and Hold-on technique during this year's ShakeOut exercise

Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

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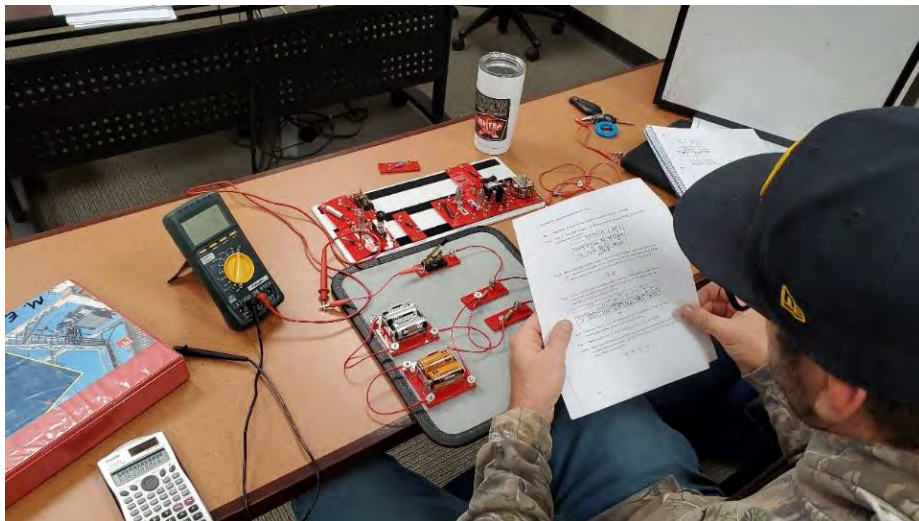
Safety, Regulatory and Training

The Apprentice and Technical Training Unit develops and trains Metropolitan staff. The Unit is part of the Safety, Regulatory, and Training Section and comprises Metropolitan's Apprenticeship Programs and the Safety and Technical Training Team.

Apprenticeship Programs prepare apprentices to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, the Class of 2026 electricians and the Desert Electrical Cross Training students completed midterm exams for the second period of instructions. These comprehensive exams included written and practical assessments aimed at assessing their grasp of fundamental concepts such as the sources and characteristics of electricity and the definitions of amps, volts, and ohms. In the practical examination, the students were tasked with the design and construction of circuits based on provided resistors and circuit parameters to hone the skills necessary for diagnosing and repairing electrical components during daily fieldwork.

The Class of 2027 mechanics and electricians completed their probationary period and are now formally registered as apprentices with the Division of Apprenticeship Standards. This milestone brings them one step closer to becoming highly skilled tradespeople, achieving certification as journeymen recognized by the State of California.

The Safety and Technical Training Team provides environmental, health, and safety training to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local regulatory agency requirements and Metropolitan policies and procedures. This month, Training staff conducted a total of 34 in-person classes, benefiting 290 students on 19 distinct safety topics. This unwavering commitment to continuous education and development underscores Metropolitan's dedication to maintaining the highest safety and regulatory standards.



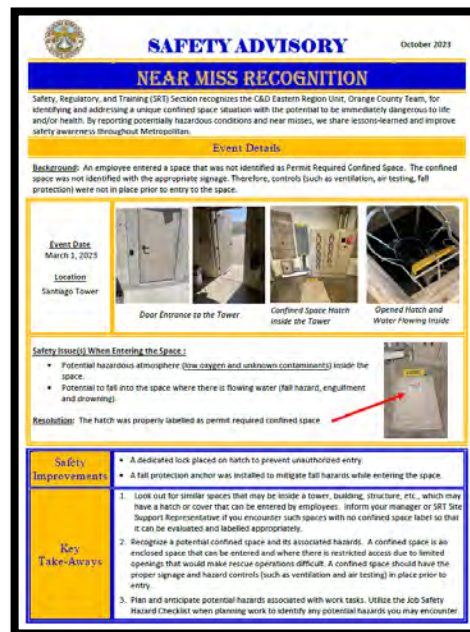
Class of 2026 Apprentice completing the practical midterm exam

Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

(continued)

Enhance Worker Safety

The Safety, Regulatory, and Training Section (SRT) conducted a comprehensive investigation of a near miss incident that occurred at Santiago Lateral Tower. The investigation resulted in implementing corrective actions and the development of a Near Miss Safety Advisory. This Safety Advisory provides critical information for identifying and addressing unique hazards in confined spaces and key take-aways to heighten employees' awareness of similar scenarios requiring detailed planning for safe entry. Encouraging near miss reporting is valuable to share lessons-learned and improve safety awareness throughout Metropolitan.



Safety Advisory – Near Miss Recognition posted on the IntraMet

SRT continued working with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to process Metropolitan's permit application for a plasma arc cutting system at the Weymouth Manufacturing Services Unit Fabrication Shop. Staff conducted detailed research into historical SCAQMD permitting processed to justify Metropolitan's recommendations for maximum cut allowances without source test requirements. Staff continued to work with SCAQMD to emphasize the need for consistent permitting practices to ensure the ability to meet future project timelines.

Operations



Water System Operations

Core Business Objectives

Develop New Solutions to Enhance Operational and Business Processes

At the Perris Pressure Control Structure, staff installed new fiber optic equipment as part of the Fiber Communications upgrade project. Staff removed outdated and unnecessary components while installing the new electrical conduits, receptacles, and equipment to enhance the infrastructure's communication reliability.



Staff installing new communications equipment at Perris PCS

Prepare Employees for New Opportunities

This month, the Class of 2027 mechanics and electricians in Metropolitan's Apprenticeship Program completed their probationary period and are now formally registered as apprentices with the Division of Apprenticeship Standards. This milestone brings these apprentices one step closer to becoming highly skilled tradespeople, ultimately achieving certification as journeymen recognized by the State of California.

Provide Reliable Water Deliveries

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 135,700 acre-feet (AF) for October with an average of 4,400 AF per day, which was about 100 AF per day higher than in September. In addition, Metropolitan delivered 23,500 AF to Cyclic and Conjunctive Use Programs. Treated water deliveries were 4,400 AF higher than September for a total of 65,300 AF, or 48 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) pumped a total of 45,200 AF in October. Repairs have been made to both the Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District recharge facilities and the Whitewater River conveyance system. Metropolitan maintained a three-pump flow along the CRA for most of the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 3,800 AF per day, totaling about

118,800 AF for the month. The target SWP blend is about 80 percent for the Weymouth Plant, 35 percent for the Diemer Plant, and 50 percent for the Skinner Plant.

As deliveries to Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District resumed this month, staff found high water levels along a berm that protects an adjacent road and neighboring property and there was potential for a breach to form. The location was about a quarter mile downstream of where the CRA water is released into the Whitewater River for delivery. This issue was a result of a new flow paths in the river created by storm flows from Tropical Storm Hilary. Staff urgently responded with heavy construction equipment and rerouted the 230 cubic feet per second (cfs) discharge water away from the potential breach area. This allowed improvements to the berm to proceed while water deliveries continue.



Staff excavating along the Whitewater River



CRA deliveries to Whitewater River successfully re-routed

Staff completed a shutdown of the Inland Feeder in early October to help optimize system flexibility for Eastern Municipal Water District. The shutdown provided access to a contractor to the pipeline to tie in a new 42" service connection in the city of San Jacinto. This new connection will be labeled EM-25 and provides a reliable source of high-quality water to the member agency.



Staff removing flanges during dewatering process of the Inland Feeder

The La Verne Shops received a request to refurbish multiple sets of industrial water filters. These filters are used to screen out quagga mussels during shutdown activities. The filters were abrasively blasted, assessed, and coated.



As-received set of quagga filters received (left) and prepping for abrasive blast of filters (right)

Operations

(continued)



Abrasive blast in process (left) and post blast assessment (right)



Application of intermediate coating (left and right)



Filters with finished coating (left) and fully refurbished filter (right)

Operations

(continued)

The La Verne Shops received a request to refurbish and manufacture several components in support of the emergency response to a leak on the Compton Lateral. The Shops refurbished a boiler plate used for access to the pipeline, fabricated a repair band, and modified an elliptical companion flange to aid in future dewatering efforts.



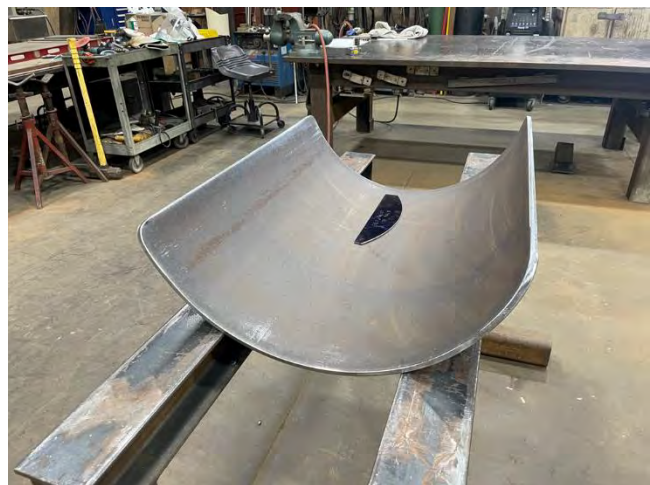
As-received boiler plate and elliptical flange (left) and boiler plate in blasting process (right)



Completed boiler plate and accessories (left) and elliptical flange prepping for initial blasting and welding (right)



Welding completed on elliptical flange (left) and completed abrasive blasting (right)



Application of finished coating (left) and manufactured repair plate (right)

Manage Water Reserves

The 100 percent State Water Project (SWP) allocation when combined with Colorado River supplies provides the region with more water supply than demands, allowing a significant increase in storage in 2023. Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles and operational objectives with an emphasis to position SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent area. This month, Metropolitan restarted and slowly increased deliveries to Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District after necessary repairs were completed. With the higher SWP allocation and low regional demands, Metropolitan is working to maximize its use of Table A supplies this year. This month, staff also continued working with member agencies to manage supplies through the Cyclic and Cyclic Cost Offset Programs.

Support the Pure Water Southern California Program

During October, staff continued new supply development by continuing operations and testing at the Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) demonstration plant. Staff supported treatability studies to evaluate the effects of raw

water augmentation with advanced treated water. Staff also supported chlorine decay and ozonation bench-scale tests conducted at a consultant laboratory in Pasadena. These bench-scale studies will help inform the design of direct potable reuse pilot treatment trains.

A paper titled “Science-based pathogen treatment requirements for direct potable reuse” was published on October 20 in the journal, *Environmental Science: Water Research & Technology*. The work was partly supported by Metropolitan with funding from the Future Supply Actions Funding Program, and staff participated in the technical workgroup for the project and was included as co-author on the paper.

On October 5, staff provided a tour of the PWSC demonstration plant to delegates from the Korea Institute for Water Technology Certification and described each step of the advanced water treatment process.



Staff describing the membrane bioreactor treatment process to an international group visiting the PWSC demonstration plant

Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner

Energy markets in October 2023 reflected the transition from mild fall conditions to the beginning of the winter heating season with an upward trend in energy prices. Natural gas prices in mid-October bumped up into the \$10-12 per Metric Million British Thermal Unit (MMBtu), with electricity prices in the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) market following suit, trending upwards into the \$100 per megawatt-hours (MWh) range.

CRA pumping remained relatively low, keeping the net impact of higher energy price forecasts minimal. CRA pumping costs for October were about \$5.2 million. The CRA energy cost budget for fiscal year 2023/24 is \$82.6 million; the current cost forecast is significantly lower at \$62 million, because of reduced pumping and lower forward cost curves. December is forecast to be the highest cost month in fiscal year 2023/24 at about \$12 million, because of a forecast increase to five-pump flow, higher energy prices, and low United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) generation output.

Daily generation output from Metropolitan’s small hydroelectric plants (HEPs) averaged around 30 MW during the month of October, for a total energy output of about 22,000 MWh. Metropolitan’s solar facilities totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity generated approximately 1,000 MWh in October 2023.

Ensure Water Quality Compliance, Worker Safety, and Environmental Protection

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during September 2023.

On October 31, Metropolitan hosted its regular quarterly meeting with staff from the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water. Discussion topics included updates on regulations, capital projects, the design and build process for the Sepulveda Feeder project, ongoing nitrification in parts of the distribution system, and general water quality and system updates.

Metropolitan received two certificates of recognition from the Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD). One certificate recognized Metropolitan's Weymouth Treatment Plant and one recognized Palos Verdes Reservoir Conveyance and Distribution for complying with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and LACSD industrial wastewater discharge limits and requirements for 2022. This is a shared achievement of the Safety, Regulatory and Training Section, Water System Operations, and Engineering Services staff, who collaborate closely to ensure all discharges meet these requirements.



Certificate of Recognition from Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

Staff continues to work on a capital project to replace electrical breaker panels that have outdated grounding. The new breaker panels will improve employee safety and ensure electrical code compliance.



Staff replacing outdated electrical panel at Diemer plant

Proper lighting is critical for safe operations. Staff at the Gene pumping plant have installed new high-efficiency fixtures and bulbs around the facility, which will increase safety and efficiency.



Upgraded lighting at the Gene pumping plant

Optimize Maintenance

Staff recently cleaned and inspected several out-of-service water treatment basins at the Jensen plant. The basins have been in continuous service since a 2022 high turbidity event, resulting in the accumulation of material that the standard removal process could not remove. Working alongside contractors, staff thoroughly cleaned the basins and returned them to service.



Staff and contractors cleaning and removing materials from a basin at the Jensen plant

The East and West 230kV transmission lines convey power over 75 miles from Hoover Dam, south to the Camino sub-station. These lines traverse rough desert terrain and can be difficult to access; having parallel lines increases reliability by providing redundancy. Staff were notified that a static line splice had failed on a remote portion of the 230kV East Camino Line. The static lines are installed above the energized transmission lines and protects the system from lightning strikes. Appropriate notifications were sent, switching was performed to remove the East Camino line from service, and repairs were successfully completed.



Broken static line (left) and staff splicing the static line (right) on the 230kV CRA transmission system

The broken static line on the 230kV transmission line demonstrated the importance of maintaining access roads in the most remote portion of the system. The terrain in these areas continually change because of environmental factors such as wind and heavy rains. Ensuring that roads are accessible for critical infrastructure is vital to ensuring system reliability.



Staff repairs an access road along the 230kV CRA transmission system

The five CRA pumping plants use microfiltration units to supply domestic water to the respective facilities. Regular maintenance is required to ensure that safe, high-quality, potable water is available on site. The membrane filters are regularly tested and replaced as needed.



Staff replaces membranes for the domestic water system at a CRA pumping plant

Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution

The State Water Project (SWP) target blends entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants were 80 and 35 percent, respectively, during October. The Mills plant switched from a blend of Silverwood Lake and Lake Perris water to solely Silverwood Lake water on October 5, because alkalinity in the East Branch SWP increased above a target level of 60 milligrams per liter (mg/L). The SWP blend target entering Lake Skinner fluctuated to accommodate multiple operational needs and to maximize water delivery from the SWP. It was approximately 60 percent in early October and was lowered to 50 percent mid-month. The SWP blend leaving Lake Skinner was relatively stable at 55 and 65 percent.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from August 2022 through July 2023 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 503, 511, and 583 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff continued to adjust treatment and distribution operations to control nitrification in the distribution system, along with flushing at key locations to maintain water quality. Nitrification was generally under control in the Orange County area by the end of October. However, some parts of the Central Pool distribution system still had elevated nitrite levels and flushing continued at a few sites to maintain water quality. The treatment plants maintained increased plant effluent pH and total chlorine targets of 2.70 to 2.75 mg/L to help manage nitrification. Extensive monitoring continued throughout the distribution system. Overall, conditions have significantly improved,

highlighting the dedication and collaboration of Metropolitan staff in ensuring delivery of reliable, high-quality water supplies.

Staff installed a new fluorosilicic acid (FSA) diffuser into the Skinner finished water reservoir (FWR) influent channel. This diffuser uses vinyl tubing instead of steel to prevent corrosion. The tubing is inserted into a stainless-steel pipe that penetrates the FWR influent channel to the injection site. This improvement allows the chemical to be safely and reliably diffused into the channel without contacting any structural materials that may prematurely corrode.



Staff installing non-corrosive FSA injection diffuser for the Skinner FWR

Staff completed the removal of dried solids from Lagoon 2 for the Jensen plant. The lagoons are located east of the Jensen plant on the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's property. Metropolitan uses four lagoons to manage its residual solids from the treatment process at the Jensen plant. Staff removed approximately 400 cubic yards of dried sludge and placed it in the approved lay-down area to be hauled away by a contractor.



Loader and dump truck loading solids (left) and unloading at the staging area (right)

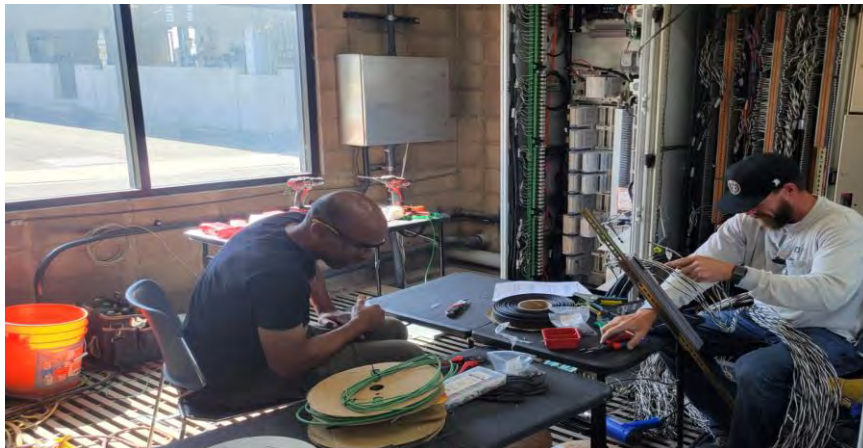
Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution

Staff assisted with the Wi-Fi Upgrade capital project. Staff surveyed the Diemer plant maintenance facility to determine optimal locations for the Wi-Fi equipment to provide best coverage.



Staff working on the Wi-Fi Upgrade Project at the Diemer plant

Staff began the installation phase of the district-wide Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Replacement capital project at the Mills plant. Once installation is complete, a six-month operational testing and validation period will begin. The testing will ensure system reliability and prove the new hardware and software to be compatible with existing processes at the Mills plant. After the testing period, the equipment will be evaluated on its performance and potential to be integrated district-wide.



Staff land wires for installation of new remote terminal unit (RTU)

Staff retrofitted the pressure relief piping for the Palos Verdes Feeder (PVF) located at the Palos Verdes Reservoir in preparation for a contractor to install a new bypass line. Staff modified the relief piping that normally discharged into the reservoir to include a slip-on flange, vacuum valve, and air release. This modification is essential in preparing for the bypass line that will connect the PVF to the Second Lower Feeder (SLF) to provide uninterrupted supply to the

downstream service connections. The new bypass line will allow for several scheduled SLF shutdowns to install new steel liners as part of the Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Rehabilitation Program.



Staff welding flange to the relief piping at Palos Verdes

As part of the rehabilitation of the Orange County Feeder, staff completed upgrades to a blow-off structure located at Upper Newport Bay to comply with current State Water Resource Control Board regulations. Staff replaced corroded piping and valves and increased the height of a concrete structure by five feet to protect the infrastructure from fluctuating tide levels.



Staff preparing to pump concrete (left) to increase structure height (right)



Staff installing blow-off riser (left) and completing structure handrail and cover installation (right)

Protect Source Water Quality

On October 11, staff joined representatives from the California Department of Water Resources and other State Water Contractors for the annual Municipal Water Quality Investigations meeting held at the California Natural Resources Headquarters in Sacramento. Participants discussed current water quality studies, including the impact of flood flows into the State Water Project, distribution of the potential toxin-producing cyanobacterial species *Microcystis* across the Stockton Deepwater Shipping Channel, tracking of harmful algal blooms in San Luis Reservoir, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) occurrence in the State Water Project, and salinity in the Delta region.

Examine and Mitigate Adverse Water Quality Outcomes

Eastern Municipal Water District reported temporary consumer odor complaints following Metropolitan's operational changes on the Santa Ana Valley Pipeline and startup of the Perris hydroelectric plant. As part of this operation, raw water was released from Lake Perris for about 19 hours, and likely carried stagnant water from the Lake Perris Pressure Control Structure to the Lakeview Pipeline. A sulfurous odor in the stagnant water was likely the cause of the odor complaints. Following a source water change back to Silverwood Lake, a small continuous flow from Lake Perris was initiated to keep the pipeline between the lake outlet tower and the pressure control structure refreshed to minimize further water quality issues.

Manage the Power System

Metropolitan staff responded to a Request for Information (RFI) from the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) pertaining to a North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standard. This reliability standard addresses physical security of Bulk Electric System (BES) cyber assets.

Metropolitan also issued revised NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Delegation Process and Authority documents to reflect changes in staff titles due to recent organizational changes. Clear delegation of authority for implementation and approval of physical and cybersecurity standards are a NERC CIP requirement.

Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation

On October 5, Cal/OSHA published a second 15-Day Notice of Modifications to the Lead Standards for general industry and construction. The proposal lowers the Permissible Exposure Level (PEL) for lead from 50 to 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, lowers the Action Level (AL) from 30 to 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and increases the need for blood lead level (BLL) testing when an employee's BLL is at or above 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. The key updates in the latest revision include new exceptions to medical surveillance/blood lead testing requirements, and updates specifications on types of personal protective equipment (PPE) required. Comments are due October 25. Staff will work with Phylmar Regulatory Roundtable on addressing concerns on the recently proposed amendments.

On October 9, Governor Newsom signed AB 1594 (Garcia)—Medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities. The bill, co-sponsored by California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), modifies California Resources Board's (CARB) recently adopted Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) rule, which generally requires all fleet owners to purchase zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) starting in 2024. AB 1594 allows water districts, among others, to access four key existing accommodations in the rule: 1) the Daily Usage Exemption, 2) the ZEV Purchase Exemption, 3) the Site Electrification Delay, and 4) the Infrastructure Construction Delay. Staff is determining how best to implement the ACF's requirements for Metropolitan's medium- and heavy-duty vehicles

On October 12, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) withdrew its cybersecurity memorandum that directed Safe Drinking Water Act state primacy agencies to assess cybersecurity resilience of public water systems as part of either the sanitary survey process or other state programs. EPA now asks states to "voluntarily" review public water system cybersecurity programs. Staff worked with American Water Works Association (AWWA) to express its concerns that the Sanitary Survey Program was not the right tool to address cybersecurity issues and that many state primacy agencies have neither the resources nor technical expertise to evaluate and address cybersecurity issues and safeguard the sensitive information.

On October 19, staff presented an update to the Safe Drinking Water Act Committee of the AWWA's California-Nevada Section on the Division of Drinking Water's proposed update of the notification level (NL) and response level (RL) for manganese in treated drinking water. The update will reduce the manganese NL from 500 to 20 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$) and the RL from 5,000 to 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ and could potentially trigger increased monitoring, reporting, and public notification requirements that would affect public water systems throughout the state, including Metropolitan. The update is expected in Spring 2024.

Staff worked with the Section's Water Utility Council to provide written comments from a coalition of associations (California Water Association, California Municipal Utilities Association, and the Association of California Water Agencies) on the State Water Board's draft Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook. The revision considered over 1,200 comments from various stakeholders and represents a collaborative approach to developing a technically sound guidance document. The Water Board intends to adopt the updated handbook by the end of 2023.

Ensure Accurate Billing Infrastructure

Skinner plant staff replaced enclosure for remote terminal unit (RTU) SKN023 with a new, larger enclosure to allow easier access to components and improve the layout of the electronics. The RTU provides communication to relay the water flow data that is used for billing the agency's service connection. This improvement will increase accessibility for technicians to troubleshoot issues more easily and ultimately reduce the downtime when the RTU maintenance is performed.



Staff upgrading RTU enclosure used for relaying distribution system flow data

The Water Information System (WINS) 2.0 Project is currently in the development phase. Recent milestones include the completion of software development for the Meter Maintenance Module and Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) Module. Next steps include completion of IT migration work, followed by functional testing by Operations and CFO staff. The purpose of this is to allow end-users to validate functionalities, features, and provide feedback before the development of the remaining software modules.

Support and Engage with Member Agencies on Technical Matters

An update on PFAS regulations and ongoing litigation against PFAS manufacturers was provided to Calleguas Municipal Water District and their member purveyors on October 26.

Operations

(continued)

Monthly Update as of:

10/31/2023

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	8,723,925	36%
Lake Mead	8,833,000	34%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	2,421,822	68%
Shasta Lake	3,146,471	69%
San Luis Total	1,323,121	65%
San Luis CDWR	608,431	57%
Castaic Lake	287,879	89%
Silverwood Lake	67,955	91%
Lake Perris	76,808	58%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	692,177	85%
Lake Mathews	160,050	88%
Lake Skinner	36,999	84%



Hoover Dam

Information Technology

Project Highlights

Maximo Upgrade

The Maximo 7.6.1.3 Upgrade Project was initiated in June 2022 to maintain IBM support, apply more frequent Maximo upgrades, resolve defects and known issues, and to prepare for the move to Maximo Application Suite 8.

The Maximo 7.6.1.3 Upgrade Project was split into two phases: Maximo User Interface (UI) Upgrade and Maximo Technology Upgrade. This approach provided early exposure and adoption of the new UI and reduced the complexity of the project by implementing application server upgrade tasks after the UI was in place. The phased project approach also mitigated risks associated with performing both UI and application upgrade tasks concurrently.

The Maximo application is now up to date, and IT is on the path to move to Maximo Application Suite 8. In addition, a “win-win” was achieved by including some high-priority Maximo customizations to help streamline system processes and fulfill asset management objectives in accordance with WSO request while fulfilling IT objectives to keep the system updated.

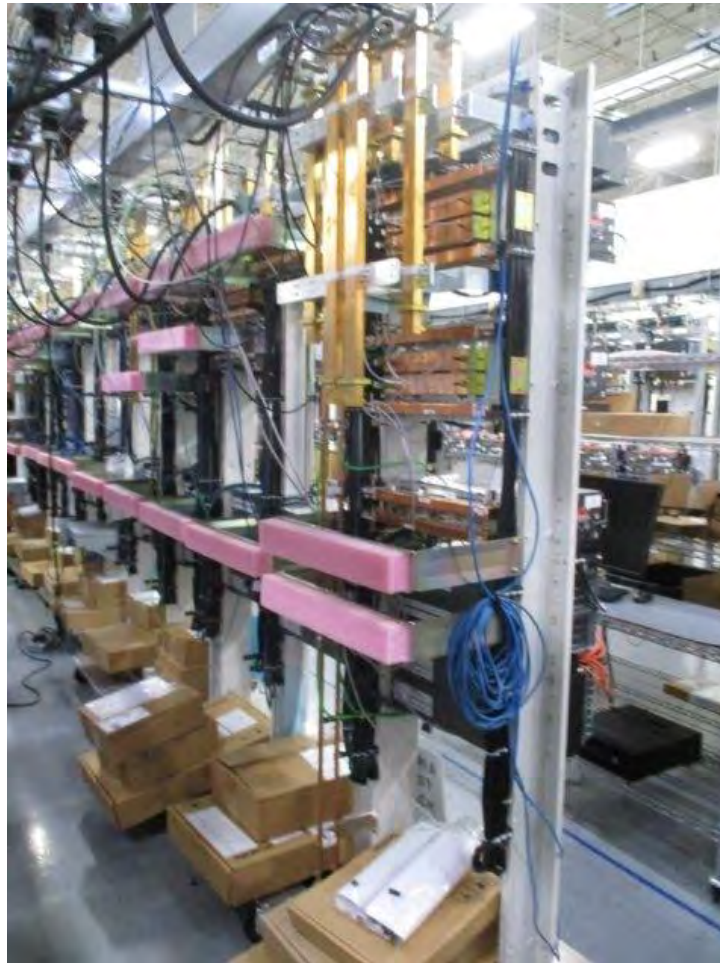
Special thanks to IT infrastructure teams, the IT project manager, WSO stakeholders such as the Maintenance Engineering Team (MET), IT Maximo support staff, and supporting IT management for their diligent efforts and support throughout this challenging project.

Nokia Customer Witness Test – Desert Microwave Upgrade

The Nokia customer witness test was successfully completed for the Desert Microwave Tower project. The factory witness test occurred in Texas, at a designated Nokia factory facility, where all relevant equipment was staged, tested, and witnessed in accordance with preapproved acceptance procedures before acceptance forms were formally signed.

The design of the desert microwave project was completed after extensive review with Nokia, Metropolitan, and the owner’s engineer assessing compliance of Nokia Design with the Metropolitan Microwave Technical Specification.

The district’s existing microwave radio network includes 55 transmission paths throughout Southern California. The network transports data and communications from our distribution and conveyance systems to various district facilities such as the Operations Control Center in Eagle Rock and Headquarters in Downtown Los Angeles. The desert portion of the network consists of 28 microwave paths, and most are beyond their useful life with new paths planned.



Back side of microwave racks and network equipment

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 September an information report was provided to the Finance, Audit, Insurance, and Real Property Committee on the Mid-cycle Biennial Budget Review.

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 57 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.

- Business Continuity Plan updates and management approvals were completed for Administrative Services.
- Conducted the district-wide annual ShakeOut earthquake drill on October 19, 2023. The purpose of this drill was to promote earthquake preparedness. Key activities included practicing drop, cover, and hold on, an earthquake preparedness presentation facilitated by the American Red Cross, and a display of security and emergency equipment and vehicles.
- Continued working with the Fusion software vendor to make updates to the guided workflows.
- In conjunction with the core planning team, continued working on the district-wide Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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 staff presented board information reports on the 2023 Long-Range Finance Plan Needs Assessment at the September 12th FAIRP Committee and September 26 Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling Subcommittee. The presentations focused on explaining the methodology and insights gleaned from Finance's analysis of the rate impacts of scenarios used in the 2020 IRP Needs Assessment. Moreover, Finance staff clarified the range of



funding and financing tools available to Metropolitan when addressing the capital investments required to meet the projected resource supply gaps under four primary scenarios.

- Water Transactions for September 2023 (for water delivered in July 2023) totaled 113.4 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 34.8 TAF lower than the budget of 148.2 TAF and translates to \$114.7 million in receipts for September 2023, which was \$35.8 million lower than the budget of \$150.5 million.
- Year-to-date water transactions through September 2023 (for water delivered in May 2023 through July 2023) were 296.6 TAF, which 109.0 TAF lower than the budget of 405.6 TAF. Year-to-date water receipts through September 2023 were \$308.8 million, which was \$111.3 million lower than the budget of \$420.1 million.
- In September 2023, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,600 vendor invoices for payment.

Update capital financing plans and work with rating agencies and investors to communicate financial needs and capabilities, ensure cost-effective access to capital markets, and maintain long-term bond ratings of AA or better.

Debt Management staff released an RFQ for bond underwriters to assist in the execution of bond capital financings in CY 2024.

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

As of September 30, 2023, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.1 billion; the total September earnings were \$4.0 million, and the effective rate of return was 4.37 percent.

Treasury staff managed daily cash flow to cover Metropolitan's operational expenditures and to invest excess funds.

In September 2023, Metropolitan's portfolio manager executed six trades. Treasury staff completed the following transactions:

- 29 Dreyfus Cash Management Fund transactions
- 21 CAMP Investment Pool transactions
- \$51.2 million in Metropolitan's bond and SWAP payments
- 1,080 disbursements by check, 21 by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 107 by wire transfer
- 66 receipts by check, 28 by ACH, and 55 by incoming wires and bank transfers

In addition, Treasury staff processed 18 professional services invoice payment requests totaling \$712,000.

Furthermore, 8,984 P-One Card transactions, totaling \$1.6 million, recorded in the September bank statement were monitored by the P-One Card Administrator.

Administrative Services

Accomplishments

Professional Services Contracting Team Updates

During the month of October, the Professional Services Contracting Team (PSCT) completed the following transactions in support of Metropolitan's initiatives:

Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1349—Oracle Enterprise Business Suite Module Implementation Services (Procurement Module)

This solicitation acquired implementation services for the Procurement module compatible with Metropolitan's existing Oracle Enterprise Business Suite (EBS V12.2.6). This module will provide contract management functionality and support best practices in administering construction, public works, and specialized engineering contracts for Metropolitan's entire supply chain.

Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1355—Mills and Jensen Water Treatment Plants Traveling Bridge Rehabilitation Preliminary Design Services

Metropolitan initiated a project to rehabilitate the traveling bridges' solids removal equipment and controls at the Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant ("Mills Plant") and the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant ("Jensen Plant"). These bridges provide solids removal from the sedimentation basins. In support of this project, this solicitation acquired the services of an experienced and qualified consultant to perform preliminary design for the rehabilitation work at Mills Plant Modules 3 and 4 and Jensen Plant Modules 2 and 3. This project will rehabilitate, upgrade, and improve infrastructure reliability.

Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1344—Window Application and Server Upgrade

Metropolitan required the services of a consultant to provide tools and solutions to move legacy applications running on older operating systems to a newer more current Windows Application Operating System.

Request for Qualification (RFQ) No. 1353—Ventilation System Evaluations & Grade D Breathing Air Services

This solicitation established a list of pre-qualified, on call respondents to provide Industrial Ventilation Systems Evaluations and Grade D Breathing Air Testing to ensure compliance with Cal/OSHA, the American Council of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards, and other regulatory agencies.

Administrative Services Section Holds All-Hands Luncheon

On October 18, the Administrative Services Section held an All-Hands Luncheon to show appreciation for the hard work of section staff and provide an opportunity for engagement. Katano Kasaine, Assistant GM/CFO offered opening remarks and reiterated the value of coming together to connect, share updates, ask questions, and celebrate successes. Adam Benson, Finance Group Manager, and Mark Brower, HR Director, were also introduced to the team. While everyone welcomed new employees section-wide, employees with over 30 years of service received special applause for their longstanding commitment and dedication to Metropolitan. Cuauhtemoc "Moty" Torres, Administrative Services Section Manager, and staff look forward to offering more opportunities for employee engagement throughout the year.

Finance and Administration

(continued)



Human Resources

HR Priorities

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

In October, 290 Metropolitan employees attended virtually facilitated classes including Time Management, Customer Service Skills, Visio, and Personal Security Awareness.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online e-learning content platform, was accessed for such topics as Excel Analytics, Generative AI, Servant Leadership, Learning to be Promotable, and Interviewing Skills.

The Organizational Development & Training Unit (OD&T) facilitated a team building for the Laboratory Support Team focusing on Communication & Self-Awareness for 15 team members.

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

The Recruitment team successfully filled 23 positions during the month of October and have 35 recruitments in final stages. Recruitment received new staffing requisitions for 41 positions, resulting in 211 positions currently in recruitment.

HR Core Business: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations

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.

In October, six new workers' compensation claims were received. Two employees are currently 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. Staff continues to address accommodations, coordinate treatment, and work closely with our Workers' Compensation Third-Party Administrator, Tristar Risk Management.

HR Metrics	June 2023	October 2023	Prior Month September 2023
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,779	1,796	1,785
Temporary Employees	25	38	38
Interns	0	1	1
Recurrents	18	18	18
Annuitants	24	25	25

Finance and Administration

(continued)

	October 2023	September 2023
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	211	193
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	41	14
	October 2023	September 2023
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	14	13
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	2	0
Number of New Job Audit Requests	3	0

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 22/23 Totals</u>	<u>October 2023</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	116	14	42
Temporary Employees	36	5	24
Interns	0	0	1
Internal Promotions	72	1	24
Management Requested Promotions	149	12	53
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	98	3	24
Employee-Requested Transfers	19	3	8

Departures

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
Castro	David	Team Mgr-Design Support	9/2/2023	Retirement - Service	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP
Thompson	Manon	O&M Tech IV	7/28/2023	Retirement - Service	CONVEYANCE & DISTRIBUTION GROUP
Grow	Miranda	Wtr Trtment Plant Operator II	8/26/2023	Separation	TREATMENT & WATER QUALITY GROUP

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Tribal Outreach & Engagement

On October 6, 2023, Tribal Outreach and Engagement Staff met with the Pechanga Education Center to discuss and plan the formation of an internship or job shadowing program for tribal members who have completed training certifications or undergraduate degrees that are potentially applicable in the water industry. One degree that was discussed was Construction Management.

On October 19, 2023, Tribal Outreach and Engagement Staff met with Soboba Utility staff to discuss the plans for the Noli School, a K–12 American Indian school under Soboba to have a job review tour at the Diamond Valley Lake. The tour also included faculty and staff. The tour was a workforce development tool to spark career interest in the water industry

Business Outreach & Community Engagement

On October 4, 2023, Business Outreach staff attended the BuildOUT CA's Kick-Off Construction Inclusion Week reception.

On October 4, 2023, Business Outreach attended the SBDC & Emerald Cities E-Contractor Academy: Inland Empire. Staff participated in the E-Contractor Training Program (Seminar 4), which is designed to prepare small business contractors to compete and perform in MWD CIP projects. An academy celebration included the entire cohort.

On October 5, 2023, Business Outreach staff attended Asian American Architects/Engineers Association 45th Annual Awards Banquet in Los Angeles.

On October 10, 2023, Business Outreach staff participated in the virtual LACCD Bootcamp Metropolitan Overview.

On October 13, 2023, Business Outreach staff attended and exhibited at the 3rd Small Business Expo – National APEX at the Escondido Performing Arts Center. In Celebration of APEX Accelerators—The San Diego, Orange, and Imperial APEX Accelerator stands as a beacon of support and expertise for local businesses aspiring to succeed in the realm of government contracting. From new opportunities to funding options, featuring, support and lending, procurement, and networking.

On October 14, 2023, Business Outreach staff attended the Hispanic Coalition of Small Business: Hispanic Heritage Month Latina Awards in San Bernardino, CA.

On October 18, 2023, Business Outreach staff participated in the LA Chamber Procurement Fair at the LA Trade Tech.

On October 19, 2023, Business Outreach staff attended the Asian Business Association—Orange County BizMatch and participated in the Business Matchmaking event where businesses engage in a one-on-one session with procurement "Buyers & Primes."

On October 20, 2023, Business Outreach staff attended the SoCal Business Development 2023 in partnership with the Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in Long Beach, CA. The event included a panel discussion that covered topics on contracting with these government organizations, how small businesses can make themselves more competitive, and a question-and-answer session. The conference also featured a procurement matchmaking session designed to bring together business owners with corporate and government procurement representatives.

Finance and Administration

(continued)

On October 21, 2023, in collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Business Outreach, and External Affairs, along with employee staff, attended the 2023 Taste of Soul located in the Crenshaw District. Together, Metropolitan advocates the message on conservation, business outreach, and workforce development.



On October 25, 2023, Business Outreach staff attended the National Veterans Chamber of Commerce and participated in the “Pitch to Buyers and Lenders” in Temecula, CA. A new opportunity to connect one-on-one with diverse and qualified small business suppliers in a wide variety of industries.

On October 26, 2023, Business Outreach staff attended the Annual Latina BizCon and Procurement matchmaking session with the National Latina Business Women Association—Inland Empire (NLBWA-IE). The NLBWA-IE provides the IE Latina and Small Business community an opportunity to meet and engage with supplier diversity.



External Affairs

Highlights

Metropolitan hosted an event with Sustainable Conservation, an organization that advances the stewardship of water and other natural resources. Chair Ortega and California DWR Director Nemeth spoke at the event about some of the actions and steps necessary to successfully adapt to climate change. (October 2)

GM Hagekhalil spoke on building a resilient future at WEFTEC, the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference. (October 3)

The Voice of San Diego's Politifest event featured GM Hagekhalil on two panels to discuss the history, future challenges, and ongoing partnerships that are essential to address Colorado River issues. (October 7)

GM Hagekhalil spoke on Building Water Resilience in an Era of Climate Change at the Águas do Tejo Atlântico Innovation Pathway 2023 EXPO. (October 10)



DWR Director Nemeth discusses climate change adaptation strategies



QSA 20th Anniversary Celebration with MWD Board

Chair Ortega and board members joined GM Hagekhalil and staff to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Quantification Settlement Agreement. (October 10)

Chair Ortega spoke and Directors McMillan, Phan, Garza, Faessel, Erdman, and Dick, GM Hagekhalil, AGM Dee Zinke, and staff attended the Orange County Water Summit. (October 13)

Director Morris and GM Hagekhalil attended the National Water Research Institute Clarke Prize Award Ceremony, which honors the best and brightest contributors to water science and technology. (October 21)

Chairman Ortega, Directors Dennstedt, McMillan, Morris, Peterson, and Seckel, GM Hagekhalil, Metropolitan staff, and officials from the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency celebrated the completion of the first phase of the High Desert Water Bank, Metropolitan's largest ever investment in groundwater storage. (October 23)

GM Hagekhalil was a featured speaker at the AMWA Executive Management Conference, sharing insights on issues affecting utility leaders nationally. (October 23)

Chair Ortega spoke and Directors Lefevre, Luna, and McCoy and staff attended the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Project Celebration with state and local officials. Metropolitan helped fund the project which provides benefits to wildlife, agriculture, flood protection, biodiversity, and ecosystem restoration. (October 26)



MWD and AVEK Officials at High Desert Water Bank; Chair Ortega at Yolo Bypass Habitat Project; Directors McCoy, Luna, Lefevre with Chair Ortega

GM Hagekhalil provided the keynote address, One People, One Planet, One Water, and SRI Chief Crosson spoke at the World Water Tech conference. (October 25–26)

Staff attended the 100th anniversary celebration of the Palo Verde Irrigation District in Blythe. (October 26)

GM Hagekhalil, COO Upadhyay, Engineering Group Manager Bednarski, and staff attended the Centennial celebration of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District. (October 26)



Metropolitan staff attended separate events to celebrate the Centennials for LA County Sanitation Districts and the Palo Verde Irrigation District

Legislative Services

Federal

Metropolitan staff worked with member agencies to provide comments on Senator Padilla's draft bill to extend the Department of Health and Human Services Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. Staff also continues to advocate for funding for the program as part of the FY 2024 appropriations process.

Director Luna and staff attended and Metropolitan sponsored the Pacoima Beautiful Environmental Justice Awards event, which honored Senator Padilla. (October 12)

State

Governor Newsom signed AB 1572 (D-Friedman), a bill co-sponsored by Metropolitan to prohibit irrigation of non-functional turf on commercial and industrial facilities. Other legislation enacted into law includes SB 389 (D-Allen), which provides the Water Board more authority to investigate water rights, SB 659 (D-Ashby) to develop plans for enhancing groundwater recharge, and SB 706 (D-Caballero) and AB 400 (D-Rubio) that expand authority for the use of progressive design-build.

The State Water Board released its draft report and began a series of public workshops and hearings on proposals to update and implement the Bay-Delta Plan and manage flows in the Delta.

Chair Ortega and Directors Lefevre, Luna, and McCoy, met with Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Executive Director Bradner and DWR Tribal Policy Advisor Agustinez.

Local

Metropolitan partnered with Western Municipal Water District to host a Community Leaders' Water Briefing with State Senator Roth (D-Riverside,) and Assemblymember Cervantes (D-Corona). Chair Ortega welcomed the audience of approximately 80 community leaders. (October 20).



Community Leader Briefing Participants

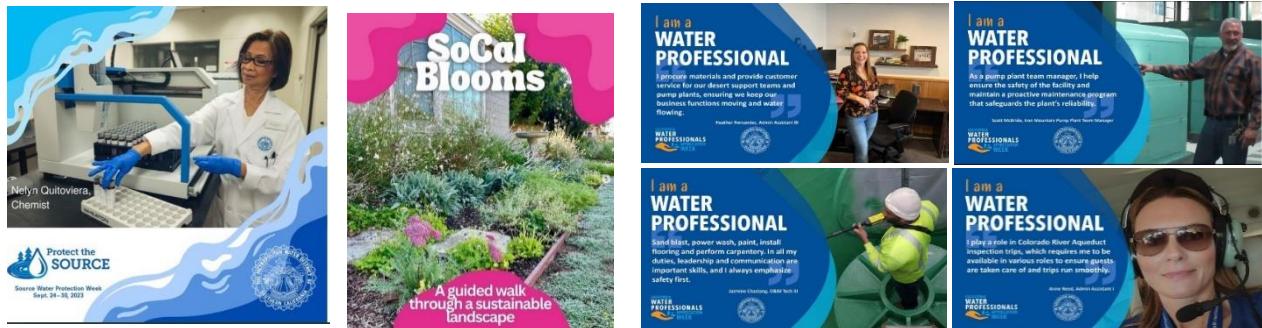
Chief of Bay-Delta Resources Hawk provided the keynote at the Three Valleys Municipal Water District Fall Leadership Breakfast and spoke to local government representatives, chambers, and regional water agencies about key projects and programs for the Bay-Delta. (October 26)

Metropolitan staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 62 webinars, virtual meetings, and events this month with community organizations, trade associations, and local officials on water-specific topics.

Media and Communications

- Organized live-streamed media event for the High Desert Water Bank, which was covered by the Los Angeles Times, Antelope Valley Press, KFI-AM, KNX-AM, KPCC-FM 89.3/LAist, and KABC-TV.
- Arranged an interview between Los Angeles Times editorial board writer Robert Greene and AGM Upadhyay on new direct potable reuse regulations and how DPR fits into the district's development strategy for the Pure Water Southern California regional recycled water program.
- Produced new videos of Angel City Football Club players Ali Riley and Jasmyne Spencer for social media influencer series. Taped footage of designer Katie Zamprioli and actor Kyle MacLauchlan for next series of influencer posts.

Social Media



- Showcased several Metropolitan employees for Source Water Protection Week.
- Introduced the SoCal Blooms series, highlighting gardens that feature California Friendly and native plants. The first post in the series outperformed all other content across social media platforms.
- Featured four field employees who help Metropolitan protect the district's source waters during AWWA's Source Water Protection Week and highlighted six field employees for California Water Professionals Week.
- Produced a video showcasing student art from the 2023 Water is Life calendar for Imagine A Day Without Water.
- Recognized Clean Air Day with a feature on the district's work in regenerative agriculture.





Website

- Updated content for the district's Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4 Water) Program; repurposed Climate Action Plan content on website to increase visibility; and produced a new homepage story on the Water Quality Report.
- Generated more than 50,000 visits to mwdh2o.com, with careers, job postings, and Board of Directors the most popular destinations.

- Received 428,000 views on bewaterwise.com with turf replacement, rebates, and California Friendly plant profiles the most visited.

Press Releases

- Statement by GM Hagekhalil on Governor Newsom signing AB 1572
- Joint news release with Save our Water on free Water Use Savings Program and a grant to the Garden School Foundation
- Statement on the passing of Senator Dianne Feinstein
- Statement on the passing of San Fernando City Councilmember Cindy Montanez
- Opening of the High Desert Water Bank

Pure Water Southern California

Demonstration Plant tours with representatives of the City of Daegu and the Korea Institute for Water Technology (October 5), general public (October 7), Carson Leadership Group (October 19), Eisenhower Fellow program participants (October 24), and guests of LACSD Centennial Event (October 26)

Presentations to San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (October 3), Reclamation Operations Team (October 3), and business development delegation representing the Middle East (October 6)

Meetings with Sacred Places Institute (October 10), Long Beach (October 16), East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (October 17), and Union Pacific (October 25); Member Agency Outreach Workgroup (October 4), WaterStart (October 19), and visit to Groundwater Replenishment System (October 3)

Hosted exhibit booth at West Basin MWD Water Harvest community event (October 14)

Community Partnering and Sponsorship Program



MWD's exhibit at Taste of Soul featured conservation information, educational activities and workforce development outreach



Earlier photo of Chair Ortega and San Fernando City Councilmember Cindy Montanez at MWD Headquarters

Metropolitan provided the sponsorships to help support the following events and programs in October:

San Diego Coastkeeper Seaside Soiree; LA County Delegation Foundation; CORO Crystal awards; Long Beach Camerata Singers: The Worth of Water event; LA Waterkeeper: Making Waves; Orange County Coastkeeper; Taste of Soul Family Festival; and Mujeres De La Tierra's Día De Los Muertos

Community Partnering Program sponsorships were awarded to Rivers and Lands Conservancy, Boys and Girls Club of Brea-Placentia-Yorba Linda, and City of Walnut's Waterwise Workshops for Seniors.

Other Outreach Activities

- Provided three director inspection trips to the State Water Project and Hoover Dam/Colorado River Aqueduct
- Provided a tour of Weymouth for Cal Poly Pomona Architecture students and a tour of Diamond Valley Lake for the Anaheim Public Utilities Board
- Supported the draft Environmental Impact Report meeting for La Verne Projects
- Notified residents in Los Angeles of flushing activities on the Culver City Feeder
- Notified homes in Orange County of shutdown activities on the Allen McColloch Pipeline
- Notified West Basin and their retail agency LA County Waterworks' customers about connection change to prepare for Sepulveda Feeder Urgent Relining
- Notified residents and businesses of upcoming shutdown activities on the Santa Monica Feeder
- Presented to the Encino Neighborhood Council regarding the Sepulveda Feeder Urgent Repair

Education and Community Relations

Metropolitan staff interacted with more than 1,600 teachers, students, and adults through in-person and online meetings and events this month.

- Launched the 2024 Water Engineering 4 Good online STEAM competition for middle and high school students. Program will continue through the school year with a final competition and awards ceremony in the spring.
- Met with Los Angeles Trade Technology professors and water industry professionals to discuss and plan workforce development programs.
- Director McCoy spoke at the California Association of Black School Educators conference. Metropolitan sponsored the event and co-hosted a table with DWR to share information and resources about water education programs. (October 19–21)
- Attended the California Association of Science Educators conference. (October 20)



Director McCoy spoke at the California Association of Black School Educators conference and MWD staffed an exhibit booth

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation



Sustainability, Resilience, Innovation, Environmental Planning, and Land Management

SRI Core Activities

One Water and Stewardship Committee

The Chief SRI Officer presented the authorization of a \$50k sponsorship for Climate Mayors. The Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group aims to work alongside water users in the Basin to advance initiatives such as turf replacement, water reuse, and recycling programs, all geared toward aligning the river's supply and usage. This financial sponsorship of \$50k signifies Metropolitan's commitment as a partner in backing projects that will alleviate pressure on the Colorado River, showcasing the District's leadership in addressing climate change. The Board officially approved the sponsorship for Climate Mayors.

Member Agency CAMP4W Meeting

The Office of SRI, member agencies, Board of Directors—including Chair Ortega gave an update on the CAMP4W Joint Task Force. Chair Ortega outlined the pressing objectives and the intricacies to be addressed, encompassing a thorough examination of climate-related scenario planning. Chair Ortega finalized that the establishment of the decision-making framework should be finalized by the second or third quarter of 2024. Additionally, the staff deliberated on the Cost Recovery Options and Business Model for Pure Water Southern California.

USGBC-LA Thought Leadership Series: The Cost of Water

The Chief SRI Officer participated on a panel at the USGBC-LA Thought Leadership Series: The Cost of Water in Los Angeles. A thorough exploration of the interdependencies between energy, water, and carbon, with a focus on identifying strategies for enhancing their combined efficiency. Additionally, an examination of the complex policy and funding factors related to the energy efficiency of water usage, investigating their impact on critical areas like water recycling, storage, and associated projects.



Equity, Inclusion and Affordability Committee Panel on Affordability

The SRI office coordinated with groups across the district to organize this month's *Panel on Affordability* for the Board Equity, Inclusion and Affordability Committee. The second in a series of four panels was in response to the Board's request for affordability discussions to inform the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) process.

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

(continued)

These panels are designed to expand on initial CAMP4W thematic statements on affordability for the development of evaluative criteria that will guide a CAMP4W decision-making framework. This month's panel included representatives from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Eastern Municipal Water District, representatives from small water agencies, and environmental justice organizations who spoke on household affordability as well as providing perspectives on what Metropolitan's role should be in advocating for a state-wide low-income rate assistance (LIRA) program.

Panel Discussion: "Decarbonizing Water: Building Planet-Friendly Water Systems" at World Water Tech

The Chief SRI Officer participated on a panel at the World Water Tech in Los Angeles. The panel deliberated on the substantial advancements in achieving carbon-neutral water systems. Measuring and quantifying carbon reduction within water systems can be accomplished through a range of measurement techniques, and emerging technologies will have a crucial role in this effort. Furthermore, state and federal officials can encourage a stronger focus on carbon neutrality by implementing supportive policies, and we may witness increased emphasis on regulatory changes in the future.

Molten Niguel's H2O for HOAs

The Chief SRI Officer gave the keynote address to over 200 representatives from HOAs and water agencies from south Orange County. Her talk provided background on climate impacts to the region, the need for climate adaptation, and strategies that can be implemented by HOAs.

CAMP4W Executive Retreat

The Chief SRI Officer and staff took part in a full-day executive management retreat. During the retreat, project evaluation and decision support tools were presented to streamline the decision-making process, particularly in the context of adaptive management. The comprehensive tool workflow is designed to collect project data and assess projects, allowing for prioritization based on a defined value set. The tool also considers the comparative analysis of project impacts. Furthermore, the tool has the capability to assess project alignment with budget, schedule, and potential rate implications.



SRI Council Lunch & Learn

This month's SRI Lunch & Learn provided Metropolitan groups with the opportunity to provide updates on progress toward their sustainability, resilience, and/or innovation goals. In the seven months since the staff was first introduced to the SRI Council, a great deal of progress has been made in waste management, Envision sustainable infrastructure training, expanding zero-emission fleet, sustainable procurement, and other initiatives.



Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

(continued)

Sustainability Operating Policy

SRI is developing a new operating policy that governs Metropolitan's commitment to sustainability and resilience. The policy supports the Climate Action Plan and the CAMP4W.

Sustainable Procurement Operating Policy

SRI is entering an agreement with the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) to revise Metropolitan's current procurement operating policy (G-05) to include sustainable purchase practices. The consultant will also work with SRI and the Administrative Services Section to revise Metropolitan's procurement manual to support the updated policy.

Sustainability/Rideshare Survey

SRI partnered with Administrative Services to develop a survey and memo that will be sent to employees in November. The survey will collect data on employee commutes and interest in electric vehicles and charging at Metropolitan facilities. The survey will also be used to gather Scope 3 Emissions data in support of the Climate Action Plan implementation phase.

Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Transition

SRI continues to serve as the liaison in the Metropolitan-wide effort to transition from internal combustion engine vehicles to ZEVs. The ZEV Executive Task Force met on October 25, 2023, to discuss the next steps needed to continue the transition.

Centralized Grants Management Office

The Centralized Grants Management Office (CGMO) continues its efforts to establish updated procedures for grant applications and management of grants, and the development of an up-to-date agency-wide dashboard. During the month of October, the CGMO presented at the group managers meeting and will continue to receive input through upcoming group meetings. In late October, the GCMO supported Bay Delta Initiatives staff with a \$390,000 WaterSmart Applied Sciences grant application.

Two training sessions were provided to Metropolitan and member agency staff. The training was co-hosted with Metropolitan's consultant Witt O'Brien's to introduce Metropolitan's CGMO and provide a high-level overview of grants management basics along with best practices for vetting, preparing, and applying for funding. General use and application of eCivis grants management software, as it relates to key grant procedures, was also presented. This training is the first of six trainings required of staff interested in being a Grants Coordinator for their respective groups.



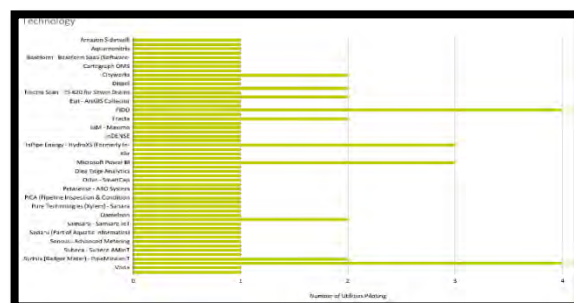
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Applying	\$24,339,493
Submitted	\$3,500,000
Awarded	\$187,450,000
Total	\$215,289,493

Pilot Activity

Western Water, NorCal, Pacific Northwest Regions | 2022-2023

-
- Top Piloted Technology Areas**
- | Technology Area | Percentage |
|---|------------|
| Lean Definition and Maintenance Use Phase | 23.96% |
| Asset Data Collection, Management, and CMMS | 17.66% |
| Enterprise Data Management and Sub-Monitoring | 10.44% |
| Machine Condition Assessment | 7.40% |
- Technology Purpose of Piloted Technologies**
- | Purpose | Percentage |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Sensors & Monitoring | 16.9% |
| Logistics Processes | 32.4% |
| Simulation & Maintenance | 17.9% |
| Inspection | 8.9% |
| Component & Process Management | 14.3% |
| Energy & Environmental | 3.8% |

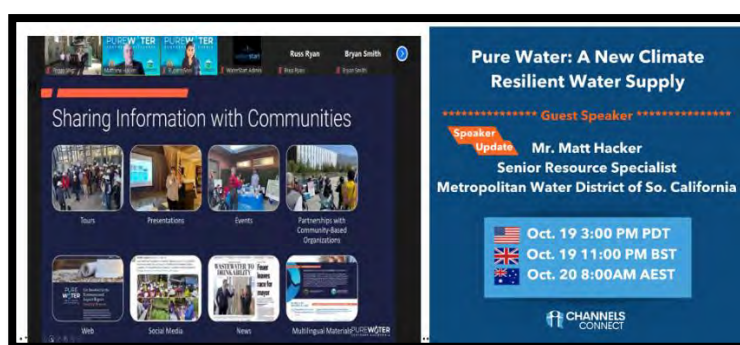


Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

(continued)

Global Peer to Peer Engagement with WaterStart featuring Metropolitan's Pure Water

As a member of WaterStart, Metropolitan's Member Benefits include Peer-to-Peer-facilitated discussions and presentations among members and sharing new technologies or discoveries that can benefit all members and the water industry. WaterStart's partnership with SRI Innovation includes Channels Connect, which featured Metropolitan's Rupam Soni and Matt Hacker giving a presentation on Pure Water: A New Climate Resilient Water Supply. Attendees included WaterStart Global Members from Australia, England, Europe, and across the US with over 77 participants. Many Metropolitan employees attended the presentation as well as invited guests from member agencies and partnering water agencies. Following the presentation, the group engaged in Q & A and discussion, sharing ideas and developing partnerships in innovation.



Environmental Planning Section

Core Business: Environmental Planning and Regulatory Compliance Support

Bay Delta Initiatives

Delta Conveyance Project

- Completed preparation of response to comments for the draft environmental impact report (EIR) for cultural resources and tribal cultural resources impacts on behalf of Public Water Agencies.
- Continued coordination with the California Department of Water Resources for ongoing permitting effort on behalf of Public Water Agencies.

Webb Tract Multi-Benefit Mosaic Landscape Project

- Reviewed draft biological survey reports prepared in support of future California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation.
- Following authorization by the Board of Directors in October, began working with Contracting Services staff to prepare and execute a professional services agreement for CEQA and regulatory permitting support.

Engineering Services Group

Etiwanda Pipeline Relining Project

- Completed construction monitoring and began preparation of the final Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) documentation for CEQA compliance.

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

(continued)

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Rehabilitation Program

- Continued oversight of project construction monitoring and mitigation compliance for PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B.
- Continued construction monitoring for Lake Mathews Valve Storage Building.

Perris Valley Pipeline

- Conducted bi-weekly construction monitoring.

Pure Water Southern California

- Continued tribal cultural resource consultation and preparation of technical studies in support of draft EIR.
- Prepared for internal review a sample resource section for use as a template for the draft EIR sections.
- Provided research for and input to responses to requests about the EIR from the Board of Directors.
- Reviewed project modifications for incorporation into the draft EIR.

Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements

- At the request of the City of La Verne, facilitated a public meeting on October 4 to provide information on the Draft Program EIR during the public review period. Environmental Planning staff facilitated the meeting, prepared the presentation and meeting materials, and presented on the CEQA process and EIR.



Staff Presents at the Public Meeting on the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Draft Program EIR

Design Review

- Continued design review for the Lake Skinner Outlet Tower Seismic Upgrade, Delta Island Instrumentation Phase 5, Weymouth Hazardous Waste Storage, Weymouth Asphalt Rehabilitation, and Rialto Feeder Mortar Lining projects.

Construction Monitoring

- Continued construction monitoring for multiple projects along the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA).

External Affairs Group

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

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

(continued)

Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Office

- Provided environmental planning support for two Zero-Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) projects.
- Continued monitoring for operational noise impacts for the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project to comply with the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Program EIR MMRP.
- Continued to assist in Scope 3 Emissions data collection in support of the CAP implementation phase, including developing an electronic system to capture contractor's construction emissions, an employee commute survey, and a data management system to capture utilities data (waste, wastewater, and water use).

Water System Operations Group

- Conducted biological resource surveys in compliance with regulatory permits authorizing annual maintenance activities at Upper Feeder Santa Ana River bridge.
- Prepared permit applications and obtained regulatory agency authorizations for several urgent repair projects resulting from Tropical Storm Hillary storm damage in late August. Projects are located along the CRA, including two projects on the Whitewater River, and the Foothill Feeder.

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Compliance

- Continued coordination with the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) staff for approval of the Financial Assurances Cost Estimate and the first annual inspection of Metropolitan's borrow sites.
- Conducted first annual inspections of Metropolitan's borrow sites with Water System Operations (WSO) and SMGB staff.

Reserve Management

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Installed fencing along the property line of a Lake Mathews Reserve parcel south of Cajalco Road.
- Removed invasive Russian thistle that sprouted following summer rains.
- In coordination with CalFire, conducted a prescribed burn on approximately 200 acres of reserve land along El Sobrante Road. Prescribed burns are a management tool used to maintain habitat for species covered by the Lake Mathews Habitat Conservation Plan. The burns reduce excessive fuels that could be a threat to sensitive habitat within the reserve, Metropolitan infrastructure, and surrounding private properties.
- Conducted security patrols throughout the reserve to prevent trespassing, vandalism, poaching, and theft and to ensure the protection of the reserve's natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Conducted mowing and weed whipping for fire suppression and habitat management.
- Continued seed collection and propagation of native plants for future restoration projects.
- The Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center was open on Saturdays and the Reserve Interpreter hosted a birding event.
- Conducted security patrols throughout the reserve to prevent trespassing, vandalism, poaching, and theft and to ensure the protection of the Reserve's natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment.

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

(continued)

External Document Reviews

- Reviewed and commented on one external project and prepared a comment letter.

Real Property Support

- Provided CEQA analysis and determination in support of one real property agreement.

Water Resource Management

- Provided CEQA analysis in support of the Las Virgenes Pure Water Project (Local Resources Program).

Land Management

Annexations

Metropolitan has received \$200,612.50 in fees this month for the 112nd Fringe Area Annexation, which had been approved by board resolution 9343, dated April 11, 2023.



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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