



● Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – July 2023

Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board during the month of July 2023 on matters relating to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's business.

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- Visited Yolo County at the invitation of regional public water suppliers, the local farming community, regional associations, and environmental stakeholders and partners. Al Montna and Nicole Van Vleck from Montna Farms, along with representatives from Northern California Water Association, Yuba County Water Agency, California Rice Commission Vice Chair, Sites Reservoir Chair, and many other local agencies along with Metropolitan Board Directors Tracy Quinn, Linda Ackerman, Jacque McMillan, and General Manager Adel Hagekhalil, Bay-Delta Initiatives Group Manager Nina Hawk, Executive Legislative Representative Jay Jefferson along with other Metropolitan staff to reflect on past partnerships and potential future collaborations.



- Visited Sacramento Delta facilities in a tour hosted by the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), where I was joined by General Manager Adel Hagekhalil, Directors Tracy Quinn, Linda Ackerman, Jacque McMillan, Tana McCoy, Bay-Delta Initiatives Group Manager Nina Hawk, and other Metropolitan staff. Delta County Supervisors Oscar Villegas, Tom Patti, Steven Ding, Mitch Mashburn, Ken Carlson, and Patrick Hume from Yolo, San Joaquin, Solano, Contra Costa, and Sacramento counties guided us and conducted a roundtable discussion. We also had the privilege of hearing from Topher Chan, a local pear farmer representing Chan Wallace Farms, who shared his perspective on pertinent issues. Additionally, we were enlightened by Chris Neudeck from Delta Cross Channel, who provided valuable insights on levees. Furthermore, Gia Moreno from Hood Community shared her perspective on the Delta and its relevance in the context of the Delta tunnel. Our delegation learned that we were the first in over a decade from Metropolitan to have an exchange with the Delta County Supervisors. Overall, this tour served as an essential platform for fostering dialogue and understanding the concerns and viewpoints of the Delta area opinion leaders and community members, which are vital to inform our future decisions and actions.



Speaking Engagements/Events

- Attended the swearing-in of longtime water professional Garry Bryant, who was appointed to represent the Foothill Municipal Water District after recently retiring from Metropolitan as a Principal Project Control Specialist. Director Bryant is a member of the Board of the Foot Hill Municipal Water District as well as Las Flores Mutual Water Company.



- Joined the swearing-in of attorney Carl E. Douglas who was appointed to the Metropolitan Board by Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass. Director Douglas has been recognized by the Los Angeles/San Francisco Daily Journal, Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, and the John M. Langston Bar Association for his courtroom successes. Director Douglas, who specializes in personal injury, civil rights, and criminal law matters, represents Los Angeles on the Board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.



- I hosted a luncheon to recognize the efforts of our board committee coordinators. General Manager Adel Hagekhalil, General Counsel Marcia Scully, Ethics Officer Able Salinas, and General Auditor Scott Suzuki joined me in expressing appreciation for the staff's dedication, hard work, and commitment. The 50 committee coordinators track board letters, follow-up items, and handle preparation for monthly committee meetings. We would not be able to operate without their dedication and hard work.



- Attended the Southern California Leadership Council, a non-partisan organization bringing business and community leaders from throughout the region focused on public policies important to Southern California, including water. Membership includes two former California Governors and over three dozen Presidents and CEOs of top Southern California companies. I was introduced as a new member and had an opportunity to update members on Metropolitan's priorities, including the Climate Adaptation Master Plan.



- Served as a speaker at the California Department of Water Resources Statewide Meeting of Water Educators in collaboration with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Municipal Water District of Orange County, West Basin Municipal Water District, and Water Energy Alliance. During my comments, I reflected on my experience overseeing student education programs on water, as well as the connection to our climate adaptation planning efforts. In addition, I answered questions from the instructor about Metropolitan's Climate Adaptation Plan for Water (CAMP4Water), workforce development, and the crucial role that education plays in achieving sustainability goals.



Delegation of Activities and Approvals

- I asked Director Dennis Erdman, Chair of the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee, to provide remarks on behalf of the Board at a check signing event at PureWater Southern California, where state officials presented an \$80 million check to Metropolitan to help advance Pure Water Southern California. The event was attended by State Assemblymembers Lisa Calderon and Mike Gipson, State Water Resources Control Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel, Carson Mayor Pro Tem Jawane Hilton, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts General Manager Robert Ferrante, Sanitation Districts Chair for District 2 Cathy Warner, Metropolitan General Manager Adel Hagekhalil, Board Director Dennis Erdman, Tana McCoy, Russell Lefevre, Carl Douglas, Art Chacon, Larry Dick, Brenda Dennstedt, along with many others.



- Board Vice Chair Michael Camacho and Director Jeffrey Armstrong, Chair of the Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities, congratulated five electricians and ten mechanics for completing eight semesters of academic study as members of Metropolitan's apprenticeship program during an event at the Apprentice Training Center, formally known as Diamond Valley Lake Visitor Center in Hemet, California.
- I approved a request for foreign travel for One Water & Stewardship Committee Chair Tracy Quinn, who will speak at the International World Water Conference in Paris, France, given her expertise in urban water management, water-use efficiency, and her leadership on our Board. Chair Quinn's comments will focus on a **study estimating residential end uses of water in Metropolitan Water District's service area.**
- Approved the Board co-sponsored Inspection Trip schedule for 2023-2024.



Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

I continue to meet regularly to review issues and coordinate activities with the Board Vice Chairs, Department heads, and Directors.

Announcements

- **Conference Attendance:** Several directors have already exceeded their conference attendance limits. I will approve above the minimum for directors requesting attendance only if there are sufficient funds

after all directors have requested the minimum conference attendance allowed. Registration has opened for the Fall '23 ACWA Conference in Indian Wells.

- **Expense Reports:** I have received numerous requests to approve expense reports past the 90-day submission requirement. I have the authority to waive such requests but will begin to report *the number* of such requests in future monthly reports.