



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Committee Item INFORMATION

Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee

5/11/2026 Subcommittee Meeting

6a

Subject

2026 Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Shutdown Review

Executive Summary

This report provides operational highlights for the 2026 CRA shutdown, including the planning and coordinating process, preventative maintenance, corrective maintenance, capital improvements, and staff logistics. The 2026 CRA shutdown occurred from January 27 to March 1, 2026.

Following completion of the 2026 CRA shutdown, Metropolitan is well positioned to continue reliable operations through targeted shutdown maintenance and refurbishment completed during this shutdown window.

Fiscal Impact

Not applicable

Applicable Policy

Not applicable

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

Not applicable

Details and Background

Background

The Colorado River Aqueduct is a 242-mile-long canal system that relies on a series of five pump plants, 309 miles of high voltage transmission systems, and 15 maintenance teams. The system conveys water resources from the Colorado River on the California/Arizona border to the Lake Matthews Reservoir, located in Riverside, California. The 2026 CRA shutdown occurred from January 27 to March 1, 2026.

Maintenance of CRA systems is performed 365 days per year, but once per year the CRA is fully shut down to zero flow and dewatered for approximately 30 days for more extensive maintenance opportunities, including in areas that are submerged or otherwise inaccessible when the system is in operation. Staff from throughout the District are mobilized to perform a wide variety of work along the CRA and in the Eastern Conveyance and Distribution Region, such as: tunnel cleaning, canal liner inspections and repairs, silt and sedimentation removal, control gate maintenance, repairs, and calibrations, blasting and coating of wetted surfaces, and high voltage transmission system maintenance.



JR Rhoads
Group Manager, Conveyance &
Distribution

5/7/2026

Date



Shivaji Deshmukh
General Manager

5/7/2026

Date