



Water Resource Management Group

• Water Resource Management February Activities

Summary

The Water Resource Management Group, February 2026 Activities as of February 17, 2026

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Execute the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) Implementation Strategy to Integrate Climate Adaptation District-Wide

Metropolitan staff sponsored CalDesal's annual conference, which was held in Sacramento from February 11-13. CalDesal uses membership dues and sponsorships to fund legislative and regulatory actions, outreach, white papers, and related activities for seawater desalination, brackish groundwater desalination, and salinity management. CalDesal is Metropolitan's primary vehicle for addressing state desalination issues and plays a vital role in preserving desalination as an option for Southern California's diversified resource portfolio. Staff participated in the conference and associated meetings with stakeholders and regulators before the conference.

Metropolitan also sponsored the Multi-State Salinity Coalition's (MSSC) Salinity Summit held in Las Vegas from February 24-27. Sponsorship of the Summit strengthens contacts with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and Colorado River Basin stakeholders. Staff also benefit from updates on current salinity control and brine management strategies. Staff participated in MSSC's board meeting during the summit.

Metropolitan staff participated in meetings with member agency and retail staff to advance the Doheny Desalination Project in Orange County and Las Virgenes' potential offshore desalination project near Malibu.

On February 11th, Metropolitan, in partnership with SoCalGas and led by the Green Gardens Group, hosted a virtual landscape professional class for 85 attendees on "Fire-Ready Landscapes: What We are Doing Now."

Provide Organizational Stability and Deliver Operational Excellence

Metropolitan staff chaired a three-day meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) Work Group, held at the Municipal Water District of Orange County headquarters. Topics discussed included: (1) the salinity sections of the post-2026 Draft Environmental Impact Statement recently issued by USBR, (2) the draft 2026 "Triennial Review" document, in which the Forum communicates to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency an assessment of the sufficiency of existing water quality criteria for salinity on the Lower Colorado River, (3) a report that ongoing operation of the

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Paradox Valley Unit at two-thirds capacity has yielded no unusual seismic or well pressure results, (4) planning for a Notice of Funding Opportunity in 2026 or 2027 to provide funding from the USBR for salinity control projects in the Colorado River Basin, and (5) updates from key federal agencies involved in the salinity control program, including the USBR, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Geological Survey. The work of the Forum reduces the salinity of Metropolitan's Colorado River water supply.

On February 3, 2026, Metropolitan received approval from USBR on its Calendar Year 2026 Extraordinary Conservation (EC) Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) Plan of Creation. Metropolitan is approved to create up to 450,000 acre-feet of EC ICS from a set of eight different activities that are described in Exhibits to the Lower Colorado River Basin Intentionally Created Surplus Forbearance Agreement and the Lower Basin Drought Contingency Operations. While 450,000 acre-feet exceeds the remaining accumulation space available to Metropolitan, approval of this plan preserves flexibility if additional accumulation capabilities emerge.

Metropolitan staff attended a two-day Colorado River Climate and Hydrology Workgroup meeting in Salt Lake City. Participants include both water managers from across the Colorado River Basin and folks from the academic community. A wide range of topics were discussed, including ongoing study updates, new research in water supply forecasts, a variety of sub-seasonal to seasonal precipitation outlooks, and forecast concepts that could be evaluated in a testbed to see if they provide forecast improvements that could be operationalized.

Metropolitan staff reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead. This DEIS is part of a National Environmental Policy Act process that will provide federal environmental compliance for operations on the Colorado River starting in 2027. No Preferred Alternative was selected in the DEIS, providing space for a Seven Basin State consensus alternative to be included in the final document.

Metropolitan staff submitted an annual accounting letter to the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). This letter documents both the water that Metropolitan has stored on behalf of SNWA and the existing return commitment of 330,225 acre-feet.

In compliance with the Metropolitan Water District Act, the final 2026 Annual Report on Achievements in Conservation, Recycling, and Groundwater Recharge was submitted to the California State Legislature on January 30, 2026. A copy of the final report will be transmitted to the Board and employees. You may also find this report on the Metropolitan website: <https://www.mwdh2o.com> by going to the site menu, 'Find a Document', and searching for "2026 Annual Achievement Report". This report was prepared by the Water Resource Management Group, in coordination with staff across the organization, and reflects the collective efforts of Metropolitan and its member agencies. We thank all staff whose work underlies the achievements highlighted in this year's report.

During February 2026, Metropolitan posted the Public Review Draft of its 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and updated the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) on its website. Metropolitan also provided notice on its website and to the cities and counties in its service area of its upcoming public hearing of the UWMP and WSCP to be held on April 13, 2026, as part of Metropolitan's One Water and Adaptation Board Committee meeting. The draft UWMP and WSCP were prepared in compliance with the UWMP Act and California Water Code. Comments received by April 13 will be considered for the final documents anticipated for board approval action in May 2026.