



External Affairs Group

- External Affairs Monthly Activities Report for June 2024

Summary

This report provides a summary of External Affairs’ group activities for June 2024

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Highlights

Chief of Staff Mortada and staff welcomed the Embassy of Spain, U.S. Trade Commissioner, and Board of Directors for the Andalucía, Spain, Agricultural Cooperative. (June 3)

Metropolitan sponsored and GM Hagekhalil and Chief of Staff Mortada attended the Andres y Maria Cardenas Family Foundation Scholar event. (June 8)

Chair Ortega, GM Hagekhalil, AGM Upadhyay, and Chief SRI Officer Crosson presented to Foothill MWD board (June 4), Western Water Board (June 5) and the Beverly Hills City Council. (June 13)



Metropolitan’s leadership continued its visits to member agencies. Shown here at Foothill Municipal Water District and Western Water.

Metropolitan sponsored and staff attended the Central City Association Annual Treasures of Los Angeles event, commemorating the organization’s 100th anniversary. (June 5)

Metropolitan attended the Inland Empire Utilities Agency’s exploratory boring and monitoring wells groundbreaking ceremony. The project will provide data to advance local efforts to produce and store more purified recycled water. (June 10)



Groundbreaking ceremony at Inland Empire Utilities Agency

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Metropolitan staff, including Asst. Group Manager for Treatment and Water Quality and incoming AWWA president Heather Collins, participated in the ACE24/AWWA conference including supporting California-Nevada Section with a sponsored reception, presentations on Pure Water Southern California, and tours of Weymouth and Diemer



Tour of Weymouth Plant for conference attendees and group photo of Metropolitan staff at ACE24/AWWA

Treatment Plants. Staff also coordinated presentations/discussions for a World Bank delegation with officials from Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Lesotho, Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Jamaica, and Paraguay, and provided a tour of Weymouth for Korean Water and Wastewater Works Association. (June 11-14)



In partnership with Western Water and the San Diego County Water Authority, Metropolitan provided an inspection tour of the Santa Rosa Ecological Preserve, Wadsworth Pumping Plant at Diamond Valley Lake, and the Western Science Center for community leaders and stakeholders. (June 10)



Metropolitan GM Hagekhalil participated in Singapore Int'l Water Week, providing updates to a global audience on strategies to adapt to climate change, infrastructure investments, CAMP4W, and Pure Water Southern California. (June 18-22)

Community leaders participated in an inspection trip of Diamond Valley Lake, the surrounding ecological reserve and the Western Science Center

Metropolitan sponsored and Director Douglas and Chief of Staff Mortada attended a Los Angeles Area

Chamber of Commerce reception welcoming new Los Angeles Department of Water and Power GM Jannise Quiñones. (June 26)

Metropolitan hosted and sponsored the BizFed Institute Water Resilience Forum, which featured DWR Director Nemeth as the keynote speaker. AGM Zinke provided welcome remarks and Bay-Delta Initiatives Group Manager Hawk participated in a panel discussion. (June 26)

Federal

The House Natural Resources committee advanced two Metropolitan-supported bills by unanimous consent:

- The Help Hoover Dam Act, H.R. 7776, allows the Bureau of Reclamation to tap into funds paid by Hoover power contractors for operations, maintenance, repair, and clean-up work at Hoover Dam.
- The Colorado River Salinity Control Fix Act, H.R. 7872, increases the federal cost share for salinity control projects. Both bills now await a vote by the House of Representatives.

State

Metropolitan partnered with Delta Counties Coalition, sending a letter to Legislative leaders supporting the inclusion of \$250 million in the proposed climate bond for the Delta Levee Maintenance Subvention Program.

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Metropolitan continues to advocate for passage of legislation to place a climate resilience bond on the November ballot with adequate funding for water infrastructure.

Following a legal challenge by the California Legislature, the California Supreme Court has opined that Initiative 1935, the Taxpayer Protection and Accountability Act, shall not move forward on the November 2024 ballot.

The Legislature passed and sent to the Governor a \$211 billion budget for FY 2024/25. The proposed budget restores funding to support implementation of the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes, which is a priority for the Newsom Administration.

Significant progress has been made on water rights policy bills, with changes to two legislative proposals:

- AB 460 (Bauer-Kahan) would have given the State Board authority to issue injunctive relief orders for regulatory violations. The bill now is limited to simply increasing fines and fees for violations of board regulations or curtailment orders. With this change, Metropolitan has taken a “support” position.
- AB 1337 (Wicks) would have expanded the State Board’s authority to issue curtailment orders, but the author will not move the bill forward this legislative session. Metropolitan had an “oppose” position.

Local

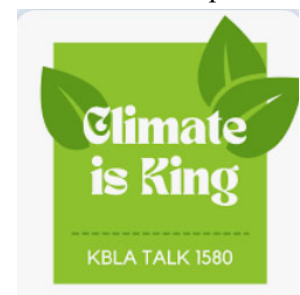
Interim GM Upadhyay joined representatives from LA Department of Water and Power and LA City Sanitation to provide a quarterly recycled water update to the Los Angeles City Council Energy & Environment Committee. (June 28)

This month, Metropolitan staff presented, monitored, and participated in 70 webinars, meetings, and events with community organizations and trade associations, board members, and federal or state elected officials including:

- United Chamber of Commerce Small Business Breakfast honoring San Fernando businesses.
- Western Riverside Council of Governments’ annual General Assembly.

Media and Communications

- Coordinated interview between KNX-AM radio and GM Adel Hagekhalil on the recently announced federal funding for Pure Water Southern California.
- Arranged separate interviews between Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp and The Nevadan reporter Casey Harrison on the potential partnership with Nevada and Arizona for Pure Water Southern California project and Circle of Blue reporter Brett Walton on the latest Lower Basin water use report.
- Coordinated interviews between Chair Ortega and LA Times reporter Ian James, Politico reporter Camille von Kaenel, and KNX reporter Karen Adams regarding board action to place GM Hagekhalil on administrative leave.
- Arranged tour of Pure Water Southern California and interview with External Affairs’ Team Manager Soni with Courthouse News reporter Ed Pettersson.
- Set up interview with External Affairs’ Soni and KBLA-AM Talk Radio on Pure Water Southern California for the station’s Climate Justice Campaign.



Press Releases

- New directors representing Las Virgenes, Central Basin joining Metropolitan board
- Board decision to place general manager on administrative leave
- Statement from Chair Ortega. Clarifying the Board’s decision to put general manager on administrative leave



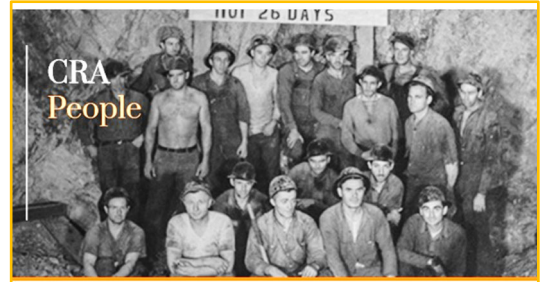
Commemorative 2024 Water Quality Report

Creative Design

- Produced Annual Water Quality Report with special insert commemorating 50th anniversary of Metropolitan’s Water Quality Lab.
- Displayed START exhibit in headquarters rotunda to elevate the district’s vision and values.
- Issued first e-newsletter about Webb Tract projects.
- Collaborated with ACWA on a targeted digital marketing campaign to increase public awareness of the district’s investments to bring new water sources to State Water Project-dependent areas.
- Videotaped GM introduction to district’s Workplace Violence Prevention training and Chief DEI Officer Thomas on DEI initiatives.

Website

- Received 70,000 visits to mwdh2o.com with careers and the Board of Directors pages the most visited.
- Generated 21,000 visits to bewaterwise.com, with pages on turf replacement, native plants profiles and a watering calculator receiving the most traffic.
- Worked with IT to migrate the IntraMet site servers to new servers, which included testing pages and links to confirm programs, content and functionality.
- Expanded content on the Securing Our Imported Supplies section with information on the Delta.
- Added new photo galleries to the Our Story page to spotlight the history of the Colorado River Aqueduct and construction, surveying and people.
- Posted a new homepage feature on the One Water Awards.



New content highlighting employees who worked on the CRA has been posted on mwdh2o.com

Social Media

- Featured photos of the Rachel Carson Tunnel Boring Machine and Wadsworth Bypass projects
- Produced Instagram reel of a drill by employees at the Eagle Rock Emergency Operations Center
- Supported BEA celebration of Juneteenth and Pride @Met’s participation in San Fernando Pride March



Social Media Posts for June 2024, highlighting the Apprentice Program, BEA Juneteenth celebration and Pride @Met outreach

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- For Father's Day, showcased employees Keegan Clemens and Derek Lee who recently spoke at their respective children's career day programs, highlighting their dedication at work and inside the classroom.
- In recognition of World Environment Day, produced an Instagram reel featuring Facilities Management's Sr. Administrative Analyst Donayre on the district's sustainability efforts.
- Continued the 50th anniversary celebration of the Water Quality Section by featuring extraordinary journeys of three Metropolitan employees.



Highlighting Metropolitan's Derek Lee and Keegan Clemens on Fathers Day

Community Outreach

- Met with city of Mission Viejo on relining of the Allen-McColloch Pipeline, Package 4; Notified homes and businesses for street restoration associated with Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B; Met with LA Council District 14 staff on encroachments and addressed Upper Feeder encroachments with residents.
- Hosted meetings on CAMP4W with Council for Watershed Health and ReDesign LA Partners. (June 5)
- Sponsored East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice Fighting for Life Celebration (June 6)
- Provided tours of Garvey Reservoir for Monterey Park City Council (June 10, 13) and presented on reservoir improvements to City Council. (June 18)
- Provided Community Partnering grants for Paradise Hills Native Garden and Long Beach Utilities Watershed Mural.
- Conducted five director inspection trips to the State Water Project, Hoover Dam, the Colorado River Aqueduct, and local infrastructure.

Education

- Conducted a workshop in South Gate for Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge (June 1); Water Journeys field trips for Venice High (June 3) and Algin Sutton Recreation Center (June 26); and tour of Three Valleys MWD Plant for University of La Verne REACH program. (June 20)
- Virtually visited science classes at Garfield High in San Diego and Haynes Charter School in West Valley to share information on Metropolitan, water conservation, and careers in water.
- Provided conservation and education booth at safety fairs at Lake Mathews (June 6) and DVL (June 26).



SouthgatePark Troop 468 participated in a workshop for the Boy Scouts of America Soil & Water Conservation Merit Badge. Scouts took part in a discussion and hands-on learning to complete the seven required badge elements.

Pure Water Southern California

- Provided tours for LACSD's Industry Advisory Council (June 4), Courthouse News (June 20), LA County Public Works (June 24), and International Right of Way Association (June 25).
- Provided program overview and updates for Long Beach Unified School District (June 4), Valley Industry and Commerce Association (June 6), Warren Facility Citizens Advisory Committee (June 18).
- Met with city of Whittier to discuss program and conveyance system (June 17).
- Staffed information tables on Pure Water Southern California and conservation at Lakewood Concert in the Park (June 27) and Samoan Heritage Festival (June 29).