



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

● Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – June 2026

Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board for the month of June 2026, as well as highlights the activities of Board Members who have been appointed to represent The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California externally, on matters relating to the district.

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- Attended a dinner event in preparation for the June 3, 2026, interstate water transfer memorandum of understanding (MOU) signing ceremony. The event brought together representatives of the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the San Diego County Water Authority, Metropolitan, and water agencies from Nevada and Arizona. The MOU establishes a collaborative framework to explore the potential for interstate water transfers that would leverage existing infrastructure to deliver water to areas within the seven-state basin, thereby supporting long-term water sustainability throughout the West.



- Participated in an inspection trip of key State Water Project and Metropolitan facilities with the Central Arizona Project leadership, including Board President Terry Goddard and General Manager Brenda Burman. I was joined by Metropolitan's Director Kurtz, General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh, and Board Executive Officer Jon Rubin. The trip featured robust and engaging discussions about potential water supply investments in California that may help Arizona cope with Colorado River shortages through exchanges that have become Metropolitan's new business model.



- Joined the swearing-in of Director Reddy Pakala, who was appointed to the Metropolitan Board to represent Calleguas Municipal Water District. Director Pakala brings more than three decades of water and wastewater experience, including serving as the director of Ventura County's Water and Sanitation Department. He succeeds Jacque McMillan, who served on Metropolitan's 38-member board since 2023. Director Pakala's extensive background across both large and small water systems will be a valuable asset as Metropolitan addresses intensifying challenges.



Delegation of Activities:

- Director Erdman attended the American Water Works Association's 2026 Annual Conference & Exposition, where he accepted the Water Research Foundation (WRF) Subscriber Impact Award on behalf of Metropolitan. The Subscriber Impact Award honors subscribing water utilities that have made notable improvements to their water treatment, delivery, or management process through the successful application of WRF funded projects.



- Congratulations to Heather Collins, Section Manager of Water Treatment Operations, for completion of a successful term as President of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Through her leadership of the nation's largest water association, she has done much to establish AWWA as the "organization of record" through professional, policy, and technical standards for the water supply community.

Director Summaries

- At the June 23, 2026, meeting of Metropolitan's Special Committee on Ag and Tribal Partnerships, Director Cynthia Kurtz reported that the Community Enhancement Collaborative (CEC) is a partnership with the Palo Verde Irrigation District to provide a little over \$8 million to small businesses, public agencies, and other community organizations for projects that support the greater Palo Verde Valley. Director Kurtz noted that the program launched last year to support and strengthen the Palo Verde Valley community as local farmers temporarily fallow part of their land to conserve water and help stabilize the Colorado River. Directors Alvarez, DeJesus, and Kurtz represent Metropolitan on the CEC board. Director Kurtz also reported that, on May 29, 2026, the CEC presented over \$315,000 in grants to the following organizations: \$35,000 to the Palo Verde Historical Museum and Society for building repairs and maintenance; \$100,000 to the Blythe Cancer Resource Center for patient care and transportation costs' and \$180,167 to the Blythe Police Department to purchase a new marine vessel for patrolling the Colorado River and river enthusiasts. Metropolitan issued a press release announcing the first-round grant recipients. <https://www.mwdh2o.com/press-releases/palo-verde-valley-community-improvement-program-announces-first-grant-recipients/>. Additional grants will be awarded in the coming months.
- Director David De Jesus reported that he attended the May 2026 ACWA Spring Conference, which was held in Sacramento. Director De Jesus noted that the conference offered good networking opportunities with many water industry professionals gathered. Director De Jesus attended updates on state water infrastructure being planned.

Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

- Continued to meet regularly with the Board leadership, the General Manager, the General Counsel, the Ethics Officer, and the General Auditor to discuss policy and organizational issues.