



Board Report

● Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – December 2025

Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board, as well as Board Member highlights during the month of December 2025 on matters relating to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's business.

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

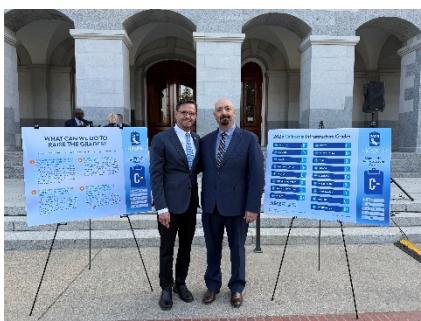
- Throughout December, we continued our site visits to introduce General Manager Designate Deshmukh to the workforce at Metropolitan facilities. Directors Erdman, Katz, Bryant, and I joined Deshmukh at various locations throughout the month. Early in December, we visited Jensen, Eagle Rock, and Soto. Mid-month, we traveled to Weymouth, Gene, Intake, Iron, Eagle, and Hinds. Finally, we wrapped up December with stops at Mills and Lake Mathews. Our visits were staggered, allowing us to connect with teams across multiple sites at different times.
- Joined the swearing-in of Director Randall Crane, who was appointed to the Metropolitan Board to represent the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC). Director Crane is a professor emeritus at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, where he has studied water governance, infrastructure planning, transportation, and the economic development challenges faced by cities. Through his career, he has advised the World Bank and several countries on water access, environmental governance, and regional infrastructure planning. He succeeds Larry Dick, who served on Metropolitan's 38-member board since 2003. Larry Dick was MWDOC's longest-tenured Metropolitan representative.



- I recorded a video for Metropolitan's 2026 "Being Waterwise Is..." Student Art Calendar Recognition Event that took place on December 11, 2025. I provided a welcome and congratulatory remark to honor all the participants and winners. Out of 2,000 entries received from 18 participating Member Agencies and 15 Retail Agencies, 39 artists spanning from kindergarten to high school were featured in the 2025 calendar. Attendees at the event included teachers, school administrators, family members, water education coordinators, and Directors from member and retail agencies. The artwork is displayed in the Metropolitan Rotunda and will later travel to participating agencies throughout the year. The cover art is by Lucas Barreto, a 4th grader at Longley Way Elementary School, representing Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District.



- I participated as a featured speaker at the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Region 9 announcement of their latest California Infrastructure Report Card in Sacramento, held on the Capitol steps. I addressed the ongoing need for sustained investment in water infrastructure. This quadrennial assessment evaluates the condition of the state's critical infrastructure, much of which is challenged by funding shortfalls, deferred maintenance, and the urgent need for modernization. Developed as a public service, the report leverages engineer-led analysis and school-style letter grades to clearly convey California's infrastructure needs to the public and policymakers.



- Following the December Board meeting, the Metropolitan Board, along with Member Agencies and staff, honored our General Manager, Deven Upadhyay, in celebration of his retirement. Deven has been a dedicated and creative leader whose decades of service and commitment leave a lasting impact on Metropolitan's mission and culture. He was deeply committed to supporting employees, fostering a respectful and inclusive work environment, and ensuring that staff felt valued and empowered. Deven's legacy of public service and people-centered leadership will continue to inspire the organization for years to come.



- Attended the 2025 Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, alongside Metropolitan Board Directors and Metropolitan staff. Participated in substantive discussions and connected with water leaders from across the region, strengthening partnerships and advancing collaborative relationships within the water industry.

