



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

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

Summary

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

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- Attended the Spirit of St. Mary Awards Luncheon hosted by Dignity Health St. Mary Medical Center in Long Beach, honoring Director Gloria Cordero with the prestigious Spirit of St. Mary Award. This award recognizes individuals who embody the values of human kindness in their daily lives and make a meaningful impact on the well-being of others. Her dedication, kindness, and passion have made a tremendous impact on the City of Long Beach and beyond. Former Metropolitan General Manager Ron Gastelum and Long Beach Water Department General Manager Anatole Falagan were in attendance.



- Joined the swearing-in of Director Gretchen Shepherd Romey, who was appointed to the Metropolitan Board to represent the City of San Marino. Shepherd Romey has been a San Marino City Council member since 2017 and is serving her second term as mayor. She succeeds John T. Morris, who represented San Marino on Metropolitan's 38-member Board since January 1990. Director Shepherd Romey's experience as a lawyer, civic leader, and mayor will allow her to bring to the Board a grounded perspective about regional water policy, which is welcome at this time of transformational change at Metropolitan.



- Provided remarks at Metropolitan's Wildflower Trail Naming Dedication event at Diamond Valley Lake in honor of Judy Abdo, our longtime Metropolitan board member and water conservation advocate who encouraged Southern Californians to embrace landscaping with native and drought-tolerant plants. She was thanked for her 28 distinguished years of service on Metropolitan's Board, representing the city of Santa Monica, making her legacy one of the longest-standing in the organization's history. I joined other members of the Metropolitan family, along with Judy Abdo's family, and community members, all of whom celebrated her achievements and accomplishments. Speakers included Board Vice Chair Nancy Sutley; Director Tony Fellow, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Facilities Naming; Director Mark Gold; General Manager Deven Upadhyay; Former Director Glenn Peterson; and Former Board Chair Tim Brick. Board Vice Chair Michael Camacho, Board Members Brenda Dennstedt, Cynthia Kurtz, Jeff Armstrong, and Tana McCoy were also in attendance.



- Participated with General Manager Deven Upadhyay in a roundtable discussion with stakeholders from the environmental and agricultural community, which took place in Los Banos, California.
- Served as a speaker at the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Infrastructure Symposium in Long Beach, CA. I addressed the future of water infrastructure in California with the recent adoption of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4Water). Following my speech, there was a robust discussion about climate change, the Delta Conveyance Project, Colorado River challenges, PureWater

SoCal, equity of services, leadership, and opportunities for water exchanges. I thanked my great friend, Yazdan Emrani, and the organizing committee for inviting me to return to one of the most engaging and stimulating forums about infrastructure in California.



- Attended a Pure Water Southern California tour alongside Congressional DC staff, where I had the opportunity to discuss the importance of the Colorado River to Southern California. The tour included a robust and engaging exchange of questions and discussion.
- Advocated with General Manager Deven Upadhyay and Metropolitan representatives in Sacramento for key water infrastructure and climate resilience priorities. We met with several legislative offices, including Assemblymembers Greg Wallis, Office of Pro Tem Mike McGuire, Senator Catherine Blakespear, Governor Gavin Newsom and members of his administration, as well as staff for Speaker Robert Rivas, Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, and Assemblymember Steve Bennett.

Special Activities

- Participated in the RSAC 2025 CEO Roundtable Discussion that was led by the 8th U.S. Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem. I was able to share recommendations to help the administration's efforts to deal with cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the infrastructure sector.



Announcements

Expense Reports: I received one request to approve expense reports past the 90-day submission requirement. I have the authority to waive such requests, but I will continue to report the number of such requests in future monthly reports.

Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

I continue to meet regularly to review the Board's organizational issues and coordinate activities with the Board Vice Chairs, the General Manager, and his executive team.