



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

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

### Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board, as well as Board Member highlights during the month of February 2026 on matters relating to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's business.

### Monthly Activities

#### Key Activities

- I traveled with General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh, Board Vice Chair Sutley, and Metropolitan Board members, Directors Cordero, Lewitt, and Denham, to Washington, D.C., to meet with members of the United States Congress and Congressional and Administration staff to discuss Metropolitan's key priorities. Topics mostly included the Colorado River, as well as other issues critical to water reliability. We met with House Congressional Representatives Ken Calvert, Mike Levin, Laura Friedman, and Gil Cisneros. We also met with U.S. Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff and held additional meetings with House and Senate Committee staff. Thank you to Dee Zinke, Abby Schneider, and their Washington advocacy team for facilitating productive meetings in the nation's capital.



- The Southern California Water Coalition released its latest *What Matters* Water TV and Podcast episode number 27, featuring General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh and myself in a moderated discussion with Southern California Water Coalition Executive Director Charley Wilson on the challenges and opportunities shaping Southern California's water future, including Metropolitan's path forward, the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W), and the need for a long-term planning horizon to guide



infrastructure investments while maintaining affordability. <https://socalwater.org/27-is-your-tap-water-too-cheap/>

#### **Delegation of Activities:**

- While traveling on vacation abroad during the month of February, I asked Board Vice Chairs Camacho and Sutley to take my place chairing various meetings. In my absence, Board Vice Chair Camacho chaired the Board meeting on February 10, and Board Vice Chair Sutley chaired the Executive Committee meeting and the Board Budget Workshop on February 24.

#### **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.

#### **Activities and Reports by Board Representatives Appointed by the Chair:**

##### ***Colorado River Resources***

At the February 24, 2026, Subcommittee on Imported Water meeting, the agenda item on the Colorado River Board (CRB) Meeting (Item 3a) was deferred to March due to the absence of Director Gloria Cordero, Metropolitan's Lead Representative on the CRB, and Director Michael Camacho, Metropolitan's Alternate Representative.

##### ***Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority – Board Vice Chair Garza reported on the following:***

At the February 24, 2026, Subcommittee on Imported Water meeting, Board Vice Chair Juan Garza, in the absence of Director Jacque McMillan, reported on the meeting of the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors' meeting held on February 19, 2026.

The DCA Board was introduced to Ashley Partida, the DCA Human Resources Manager, and received an overview of her extensive professional background.

The DCA Board adopted a resolution amending the DCA Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Code. The updates reflect recent organizational changes and guidance from the Fair Political Practices Commission.

The DCA Board approved amendments to extend the term of the contracts to the real estate services consultant contracts with Associated Right of Way Services, Hamner, Jewell & Associates, and Bender Rosenthal.

The DCA Communications Manager announced the release of the first edition of the DCA Quarterly Newsletter and shared that translated fact sheets have now been published on the DCA website.

The Department of Water Resources Environmental Manager reported on upcoming activities, including providing oral testimony at upcoming State Water Resources Control Board hearings on changes to points of diversion and participating in hearings before the Delta Stewardship Council related to Delta Plan Consistency appeals.

Other standard manager reporting items were provided by the DCA executive director, treasurer, and general counsel.