



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## Group

### • Water Resource Management May and June Activities

#### Summary

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The Water Resource Management Group May and June 2025 Activities

#### Purpose

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Informational

#### Detailed Report

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##### **Collaborate with Member Agencies, Water Agencies, and Associations, and Provide Leadership for Policy Development, Advocacy, Outreach, and Education**

Staff participated in the Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA)'s annual spring meeting held on May 6-7 in New York City. Guest speakers presented on drought, wildfires, and other growing challenges. Members gave updates on current projects, including the Decision-Making Under Deep Uncertainty project in collaboration with The Water Institute, and discussed future work on the updated 2026-2031 strategic plan. Additionally, WUCA staff discussed the planning for the fall meeting in Austin, Texas. Metropolitan serves as the fiscal agent for WUCA.

On May 19, staff hosted a coordination workshop with the member agencies as part of its interagency collaboration for Metropolitan's 2025 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), which will be due to the State by July 1, 2026. Technical collaboration with member agencies in support of the 2025 UWMP commenced in April with the launch of the Annual Local Production Survey for calendar year 2025 to collect local supply data. Metropolitan staff have begun drafting and updating the 2025 UWMP.

*Strategic Priority 5.1: "Grow and deepen collaboration and relationships among member agencies, interested parties, and leaders on the issues most important to them and toward mutual and/or regional benefits."*

##### **Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program**

On May 1, Metropolitan and the Inland Empire Utilities Agency entered into a Future Supply Actions (FSA) Funding Program agreement for the Chino Basin Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Facility Study. Under this agreement, Metropolitan will provide not-to-exceed funding of \$401,500 to fund an approximately 100 gallons per minute Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Facility for the Chino Basin Program. The Demonstration Facility will conduct tests on microfiltration, high-recovery reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet advanced oxidation processes, mirroring the treatment processes of the future full-scale advanced water purification demonstration facility. This agreement is the fifth of seven to be fully executed under the third round of the FSA Funding Program.

On June 11, 2025, Metropolitan and the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (in partnership with Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Western Municipal Water District, and Jurupa Community Services District) entered into an FSA agreement for identifying and removing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) used in a Well Drilling Study. Under this agreement, Metropolitan will provide funding not to exceed \$298,000 to fund a study investigating the link between widely used well drilling products like muds and annular seals and PFAS contamination in groundwater wells. The study proposes analyzing drilling mud products and water samples for

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PFAS, conducting bench-scale tests on PFAS-producing drilling products' short-term impacts, and piloting chemical well rehabilitation to assess PFAS reduction effectiveness.

*Strategic Priority 5.1: “Grow and deepen collaboration and relationships among member agencies, interested parties, and leaders on the issues most important to them and toward mutual and/or regional benefits.”*

### **Improve Succession Planning and Staff Development**

Several WRM staff have participated in the recent Employee Inspection Trips of the Colorado River Aqueduct. These inspection trips have facilitated a better understanding and appreciation for MWD’s operations and infrastructure. They have also provided opportunities for WRM staff to engage with other MWD employees, building a stronger internal network and regard for the variety of roles across the District.

*Strategic Priority #1: “Empower the workforce and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.”*



WRM staff on the Copper Basin Dam during a recent Employee Inspection Trip. L to R: James Morgutia, Noosha Razavian, Areeba Syed, Larry Lai, and Jennifer Massoll

### **Implement Regional Conservation Program**

On May 21, 2025, Metropolitan Staff recognized leaders in the commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) sectors who have achieved water savings through Metropolitan’s Regional Rebate and Water Savings Incentive Program at the One Water Awards ceremony. This year’s awardees include Eastern Municipal Water District’s French Valley Recycled Water Expansion Project in Riverside County, American Legion Hollywood Post 43’s Turf Replacement Project, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles’ Multifamily Flow Sensors & Leak Detection project, and Vallecitos Water District’s HOA Turf Replacement efforts in San Diego County.

Water Efficiency Team staff attended and presented at the two-day California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) Peer to Peer conference in Buena Park, California. This collaborative gathering joins water efficiency professionals from across the state to discuss strategies and practical solutions to tackle water conservation efforts.

Metropolitan held a class on rebuilding landscapes after fire in conjunction with SoCalGas for 50 landscape professionals and commercial and public property managers.

Water Efficiency Team staff presented "Driving Water Efficiency Through Innovation and Partnership" at the U.S. Green Building Council California conference in San Francisco, CA, on May 22nd. The presentation highlighted Metropolitan's water conservation successes, including the Innovative Conservation Program.

*Strategic Priority 3.2.8 “Increase outdoor water use efficiency.”*

### **Ensure Reliable State Water Project (SWP)**

WRM staff reviewed the Delivery Capability Report (DCR) 2023 Addendum on the Impacts of Subsidence published by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). This is the first time that modeling results included in the DCR incorporate subsidence impacts to California Aqueduct capacity. Under current conditions,

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the SWP long-term average Table A delivery is now 51% of Table A (2.125 million acre-feet) versus the 53% of Table A (2.202 million acre-feet) reported last year in the DCR 2023 without the impacts of subsidence.

WRM staff participated in a week-long Value Planning workshop in Fresno, California. Hosted by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), this workshop included representatives from DWR and a few SWP and Central Valley Project contractors. The workshop included a site visit to the San Luis Canal (SLC)/California Aqueduct, where subsidence has already impacted operations, and four days of technical discussions regarding potential infrastructure fixes to the SLC for addressing subsidence. The result of the workshop will be a report on alternatives to address loss of conveyance that will support USBR's process to secure federal funding to cover its share of subsidence mitigation costs.

*Strategic Priority 3.1.3 "Enhance long-term water supply reliability for the State Water Project Dependent Areas."*

Agricultural liaison, David Bradshaw, has been working with Real Properties on the Delta Island agricultural lease on Bacon Island. This includes interviewing farmers to grow rice, which will aid in reducing the subsidence of land on the islands.

*Strategic Priority 3.2.2 "Implement and promote agricultural water-conservation best practices."*

### **Ensure Access to Sufficient Water Supplies to Operate a Full Colorado River Aqueduct in Times of Drought**

Metropolitan staff reviewed the second and third drafts of the United States Bureau of Reclamation's 2024 Water Accounting Report and provided comments to USBR. When finalized, on May 15, 2025, this annual report documents the consumptive use of Colorado River mainstem water, including all transfers, exchanges, system water creation, storage, and basin-wide progress towards meeting the Reservoir Protection Conservation goals set forth in the 2024 Record of Decision. By reviewing this document, Metropolitan ensures an accurate accounting of its Colorado River water supplies.

Colorado River Supply and Programs Team staff gave a presentation to Metropolitan staff during the Colorado River Aqueduct Inspection Trip on April 30, 2025. The presentation gave an overview of the role of the Colorado River in southern California's water supply, touched on the ways in which Metropolitan has dealt with the loss of surplus water in the past, and highlighted some of the ongoing efforts in the post-2026 negotiations.

*Strategic Priority 3.2.1 "Advance multiple strategies toward sustainable Colorado River supplies and toward broad agreement in long-term compact negotiations."*



Travis Moore presenting to Metropolitan staff during a recent Employee Inspection Trip.

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Staff attended a Conference on the Colorado River hosted jointly by the Getches-Wilkinson Center and the Water and Tribes Initiative. The theme of the conference was Turning Hindsight into Foresight, and the sessions focused on assessing the current state of progress in the effort to develop operational guidelines post-2026 and the degree to which lessons learned through past experiences can be incorporated.

Staff attended a two-day meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum in Snowbird, Utah. Topics discussed included (1) potential reforms to the Salinity Control Program (Program); (2) a report on federal legislation passed in December 2024, the Salinity Control Fix Act; (3) a report that the Paradox Valley Unit—a salinity control project—continues to function at two-thirds capacity without causing problematic seismicity in the valley; (4) preparations for the 2026 “Triennial Review;” and (5) updates from key federal agencies involved in the Program.



Little Cottonwood Canyon near Snowbird, Utah. Photo credit: Aaron Mead.

Staff recently completed a report titled “Intentionally Created Surplus: Boosting Colorado River Reservoirs by Two Million Acre-Feet” ([here](#)). The report presents an analysis of the effect of the Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) storage program on Lower Colorado River Basin (Lower Basin) shortages and the operations of Lake Mead and Lake Powell over the period of the 2007 Interim Guidelines—the rules that implemented the ICS program and that have governed the operations of the two reservoirs for the past 20 years. Among other conclusions, the analysis found that ICS boosted the volume of the two reservoirs by two million acre-feet and reduced shortage volumes required of Arizona and Nevada by over 800,000 acre-feet. Metropolitan plans to use the conclusions of the report to help shape a successor reservoir storage program to be included in the new operational guidelines implemented after 2026. Colorado River reservoir storage is a critical tool that helps Metropolitan maintain water supply reliability during dry periods.

*Strategic Priority 3.2.1 “Advance multiple strategies toward sustainable Colorado River supplies and toward broad agreement in long-term compact negotiations.”*





Cover image of the report, “Intentionally Created Surplus: Boosting Colorado River Reservoirs by Two Million Acre-Feet”. Image credit: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

### **Position Metropolitan As A Leader In Open Water Data**

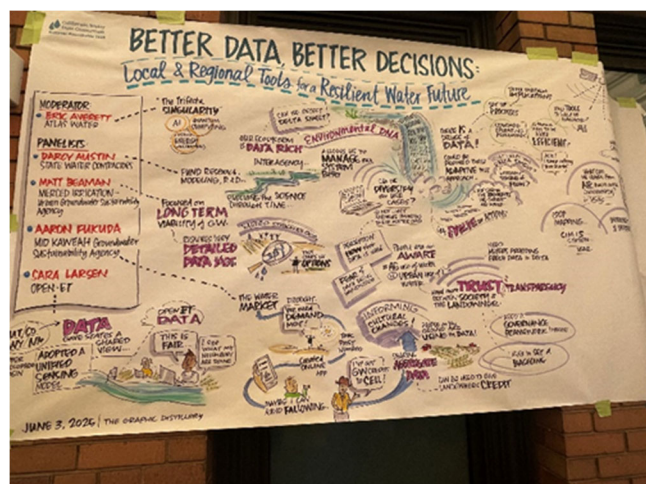
Metropolitan staff from WRM and SRI attended the California Water Data Consortium’s Summer Roundtable in Sacramento on June 3, 2025. The Roundtable titled, Putting Water Data to Work: Maximizing the Climate Bond’s Impact, convened leaders in the water sector to talk about water data needs, investments, and innovations. Panel topics included discussions on local and regional tools for a resilient water future and state-level insights for leveraging data to optimize climate adaptation investments. WRM staff also participated in the facilitated small group discussions to identify challenges and opportunities around California water supply data.

*Strategic Priority 3 “Adapt to changing climate and water resources.”*



*CA Water Data Consortium Panel featuring state water data leaders.*

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*A visual summary of one of the roundtable panels.*