



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## Water Resource Management Group

### • Water Resource Management August Activities

#### Summary

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The Water Resource Management Group August 2024 Monthly Activities

#### Purpose

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Informational

#### Detailed Report

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##### Implement Regional Conservation Program

On August 8, 2024, the Water Efficiency Team (WET) staff was notified that two projects submitted for consideration to the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program were selected for fiscal year 2024 funding. Metropolitan was selected to receive \$250,000 for a Direct Install Turf Replacement Program to benefit Disadvantaged Communities and \$1.75 million in funding to support our ongoing Residential Direct Install Partnership with the Southern California Gas Company (SCG). The Residential Direct Install Partnership with SCG replaces outdated showerheads, aerators, toilets, and irrigation controllers with new, water-efficient measures in low-income and disadvantaged communities.

The WET staff held a “Water Budgeting for Your Landscape” webinar in partnership with SCG for 115 attendees.

From August 6 to 8, 2024, WET staff participated in the [“2024 Water Efficiency & Conservation Symposium: Alliance for Water Efficiency”](#) in Chicago, Illinois. Metropolitan was one of the sponsors of the symposium, which brought together water efficiency professionals from all over the United States and Canada to discuss topics including reaching commercial and multi-family sectors, championing equity, and understanding/addressing utility water loss. The WET staff presented, participated in panel discussions, and represented Metropolitan on the Alliance for Water Efficiency Board of Directors. (*Strategic Priority 3.2.8: “Increase outdoor water use efficiency.”*)

##### Position Metropolitan as a Leader in Open Water Data

Water Resource Management staff attended the 9th Annual California Water Data Summit at the University of San Diego from August 15 to 16, 2024. Staff attended both policy-based and technical-focused tracks, which covered themes of governance and standardization of data systems, data pipelines and workflow automation, technologies for climate resiliency, compliance for the Making Conservation a CA Way of Life water efficiency regulation, groundwater management, among other topics. The WET staff also participated on a career networking panel discussing career paths in the water industry. Implementation Projects and Studies staff were on the planning committee for the Data Summit and facilitated Metropolitan’s platinum sponsorship of the event. (*Strategic Priority 3.2: “Advance the long-term reliability and resilience of the region’s water sources through a One Water approach that recognizes the interconnected nature of imported and local supplies, meets both community and ecosystem needs, and adapts to a changing climate.”*)

## Board Report Water Resource Management August Activities



### **Explore Opportunities to Leverage Metropolitan’s SWP and Colorado River Supplies and Storage Assets**

Staff met with Reclamation to provide a technical briefing on the High Desert Water Bank in support of efforts to obtain Bucket 2 federal funding. Reclamation’s technical reviewers were able to ask clarifying questions on the program features and operation. Metropolitan has applied for \$80 million in grant funding under the Bucket 2 umbrella. These discussions lead the way into an initial draft funding agreement, which is expected to be available in September. *(Strategic Priority 2.2.3: “Secure Inflation Reduction Act funding that supports Colorado River water use objectives.”)*

### **Promote Metropolitan’s Technical Capabilities and Innovation Efforts to Advance the Understanding of Water Resources Management**

Staff will be starting a healthy soils project adding biologicals to a newly planted alfalfa field in the Palo Verde Valley with our tenant, Nisha Noroian. We are working with [Performance Resource Management](#) biological products for the soil through the [WaterStart](#) program to build healthy soils and improve the soil water holding capacity. *(Strategic Priority 3.2.2 “Implement and promote agricultural water-conservation best practices”)*