



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

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

### Summary

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

### Monthly Activities

#### Key Activities

- During a two-day visit to Capitol Hill, Metropolitan board members, including Directors Jay Lewitt, Juan Garza, Ardy Kassakhian, myself, and General Manager Deven Upadhyay, met with key congressional members and federal officials focused on water policy and conservation. Notable lawmakers included Senators Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla, both members of the Environment and Public Works Committee. Representative Ken Calvert discussed federal conveyance funding efforts. Meetings also included Representatives Julia Brownley, Laura Friedman, Mike Levin, Jared Huffman, and Pete Aguilar. Engagements with senior committee staff and Department of the Interior officials provided insight into federal water infrastructure priorities and conservation initiatives. During our visits, we discussed critical key issues, including priorities to support water reliability and adapting to climate change. Thanks to General Manager Deven Upadhyay, Dee Zinke, Abby Schneider, and their crew of Washington advocates for facilitating our productive meetings at the nation's capital.



- I met with various water supply, business, labor and others interested in the Governor's Trailer Bill package to streamline an end to delays by challenges to the CEQA and financing elements of the Delta Conveyance project. Those groups included BizFed; Secure Water Alliance (Labor & construction industry leaders); and the San Gabriel Water Master's Water Supply Committee. I was also joined by members of the Legislative and Communications Committee in meetings with state legislative leaders, including Assemblymembers Lisa Calderon, Bryan Issac, Steve Bennett, Mike Gipson, Jacqui Irwin, Alexandra Macedo, Greg Wallis, and Senators Catherine Blakespear, Steven Choi, Shannon Grove, and Kelly Seyarto. I later had meetings via Zoom with Sen. John Laird, Sen. Catherine Blakespear, Asm. Celeste Rodriguez, Sen. Jerry McNerney, Sen. Maria Elena Durazo, Asm. Sade Elwharay, Asm. Sharon Quirk-Silva and Asm. Juan Alanis.



- The Third Annual One Water Awards ceremony recognized four Southern California projects for outstanding water-saving and facility upgrade achievements. The projects feature significant improvements to water management operations and equipment, such as installing multifamily Flow Sensors & Leak Detection sensors, allowing for quick repair and alerts, reusing recycling irrigation runoff, switching to sustainable landscaping, and installing more efficient irrigation systems. I addressed how extreme drought and climate change require us to think differently about how we use water and how the water-saving projects developed by these four organizations are great examples of the actions that must be taken to adapt to our changing climate and store water for use when we need it.



- Attended the 2025 California Water Association (CWA) Policy Symposium in Sacramento, where I served as a panelist in the session titled *"Unpacking the Rising Cost of Water."* The symposium brought together cross-sector leaders to explore the complex infrastructure, regulatory, and economic factors driving water rates across California. During the event, I engaged in a Q&A session, addressing key topics such as balancing infrastructure needs with affordability, the role of the private sector in supporting public agencies, the impacts of climate change, and the challenges surrounding service costs and water quality.



### Other Activities

- Director Kurtz attended the joint committee meeting of the Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) and Metropolitan Community Enhancement Collaborative (CEC), partnering with the Blythe Chamber of Commerce to host an event introducing Advisory Committee members and promoting community collaboration with PVID residents, businesses, and non-profits on the joint grant program.



### 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.