



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

● Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – December 2024

Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board during the month of December 2024 on matters relating to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's business.

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- Attended the 2024 Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV. During the Colorado River Board of California meeting, California's significant progress in conservation efforts was recognized. This highlighted the state's ongoing initiatives to manage water resources efficiently and contribute to the overall sustainability of the Colorado River system. The recognition served as a testament to California's commitment to addressing water challenges and its collaborative role in regional conservation efforts.
- Directors and I joined United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton and Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay in celebrating historic investments in water conservation to benefit the Colorado River at the signing ceremony with Imperial Irrigation District (IID), Bard, and Metropolitan to conserve over 717,000 acre-feet of water by 2026. In addition, we helped to recognize Camille Calimlim Touton for her leadership and commitment to water resource management and sustainability during her term as the 24th USBR Commissioner.
- Hosted Governor Gavin Newsom for a meeting in the San Fernando Room of our Union Station Headquarters on a broad range of topics beginning with Delta Conveyance and the status of Colorado River negotiations. We were joined by Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay and Board Vice Chair Gail Goldberg, California Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth, and the Governor's new Chief of Staff Nathan Barankin. Most of the discussion revolved around the Governor's emphasis on affordability for consumers on the cost of basic utilities including water. We had an opportunity to explain how affordability impacts our board's deliberations about large infrastructure projects including Pure Water Southern California compounded with the cost of complying with regulations. We also had an opportunity to explain our Climate Adaptation Master Planning for Water process and our 100-year planning horizon and "no regrets" approach. We thanked the Governor for agreeing to a series of off-ramps that later enabled our board to approve continued funding of Delta Conveyance studies by a vote of 98%.





- Directors Bryant, Douglas, McCoy, and I led Metropolitan in hosting a two-day inspection trip for Los Angeles County Chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) which included stops at Hoover Dam, Metropolitan's Gene Camp facility, the Colorado River Aqueduct, and the Colorado River Basin. The group consisted of eight NAACP branch presidents from Southern California, representing San Gabriel, Pasadena, Pomona, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Compton, and the Antelope Valley. This trip was an opportunity for participants to learn about water resources and engage in meaningful discussions on the future of DEI, business outreach, workforce development, rates, and affordability. We also highlighted Metropolitan's BEA Resources Group within MWD. The event fostered productive conversations and positive engagement with the branch representatives working together to build a lasting partnership. Thank you to the great Metropolitan Water District Experts for putting it all together.

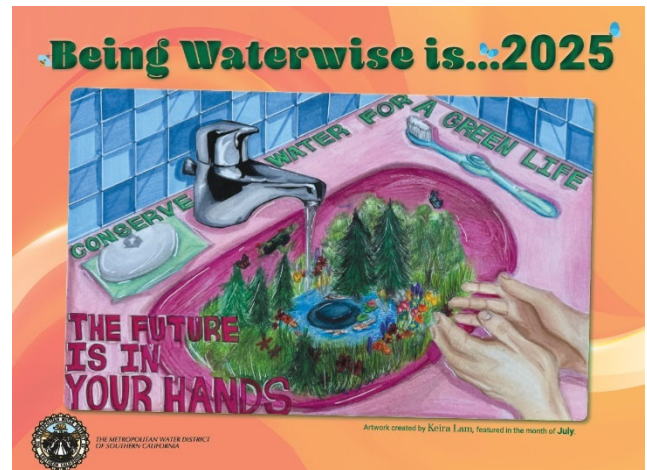


- Interim General Manager Deven Upadhyay and I continue to conduct site visits to meet with employees, provide district updates, and listen to and address their concerns. This month we held three in-person and virtual Town Hall meetings at Metropolitan Headquarters. We participated in a robust question-and-answer session addressing various topics, including Metropolitan's local and regional planning investments, workforce initiatives, and CAMP4W. We emphasized our commitment to upholding high service standards and transparency. I communicated the Board's strong unity in recent tough decisions and our united concern for their well-being. I was encouraged by the focus the workforce is demonstrating on our mission of providing safe and reliable drinking water to the community. Interim

General Manager Deven Upadhyay's comments and answers to questions were received with candor, appreciation, good humor, and with sincere thanks.



- Together with Directors Desi Alvarez, Steve Faessel, Brenda Dennstedt, and I participated in Metropolitans' 2025 Being Waterwise Is... Student Art Calendar. I provided a welcome and congratulatory remarks to honor all the participants and winners. Out of 234 entries received from 31 participating member agencies, 37 winners spanning from kindergarten to high school were selected. Attendees at the event included teachers, school administrators, family members, water education coordinators, and Directors from member and retail agencies. The artwork will be displayed in the Metropolitan Rotunda in January and will later travel to participating agencies throughout the year. The cover art is by Keira Lam, a 9th grader at Polytechnic School in Pasadena, representing Pasadena Water and Power.



Interviews & Correspondence

- I was interviewed by renowned muralist and artist Judith Baca, known for her work that explores the intersection of history, people, and place. The interview will help inform the design of the final half mile of the Great Mural of the History of Los Angeles on the Los Angeles River. During our conversation, I shared my perspective about aspects of Los Angeles and Southern California water history that can be artistically visualized to reaffirm the common multi-generational heritage we share around the quest for

water and the return to Southern California's landscape heritage that represents our future sustainability



Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

I continue to meet regularly to review the Board's organizational issues and coordinate activities with the Board Vice Chairs and Department Heads.