



General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of May 2023



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Message from the General Manager

One billion gallons of water.

That's how much water will be saved over the next decade thanks to six large scale water efficiency projects that Metropolitan honored at the first One Water Awards ceremony in May.

Named for our approach to water management that acknowledges all water resources are connected, the One Water Awards program honored six projects that used funding from Metropolitan's Water Savings Incentives Program to make major improvements to their water management operations and equipment.

These innovative projects are:

- Soil moisture sensor systems at all city parks in the City of Chino;
- Efficient irrigation to maintain California native plant collections at Los Angeles Arboretum & Botanic Garden;
- A recirculation system to save water during routine fire hydrant flushing in the City of Huntington Beach;
- Improved irrigation and high-density planting to save water at the Rice Canyon Ranch avocado orchard in Fallbrook;
- A mobile water recirculating system that cuts water waste during firefighting training exercises in the Ventura County Fire Department; and
- A wireless soil moisture sensor system for common areas throughout the Victoria Village Homeowner Association in Riverside.

I was proud to join with the award recipients and representatives of our member agencies to showcase these innovative solutions that will help ensure a more resilient water supply for our region. To learn more, you can [read about these projects](#) or [watch the awards videos](#).

Coming together to find new ways to do everyday tasks, these agencies and Metropolitan are making a huge impact.

I am so grateful to the Metropolitan staff who take a holistic, innovative and collaborative approach to their work. As we celebrate Juneteenth and Pride Month, we are reminded that the commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion strengthens our workplace community and, as evidenced by the One Water Awards, delivers big results.

We are one,
Adel



**“The value of an idea lies
in the using of it.”**

**- Thomas Edison,
Inventor**



Strategic Priorities Update

The General Manager's Strategic Priorities guide actions in key areas of focus, investment, and transformation for Metropolitan.

Empower the workforce and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion

Build a safe, inclusive, and accountable workplace where all employees feel valued, respected, and able to meaningfully contribute to decisions about their work.

Organizational Development & Training is updating content for the Management University (June launch) and Leadership Academy (November target launch). This will be the first opportunity to incorporate the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) and Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation (SRI) offices into the Leadership Academy.

The new agreement with the National Safety Council was executed this month, which enables their support for implementation of recommendations from its assessment of Metropolitan safety programs. National Safety Month events are planned for all major facilities in June. This year's theme is "Safety Is for Everyone" to encourage all employees to take an active role in their own safety and to speak up about safety concerns.

Prepare and support the workforce by expanding training and skill development and updating strategies to recruit and retain diverse talent at a time when Metropolitan's needs are evolving and employee expectations about the workplace are changing.

While the search for a permanent replacement for the HR Group Manager is underway, interim leadership is identifying strategies to reduce the time it takes to fill vacant positions across the organization, with an initial aim to expedite recruitment time by half.

Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model

Conduct a careful, deliberative and inclusive review of the rate structure to ensure the business model can adapt to changing needs of the member agencies and support sustainable local and imported supplies.

The Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water progressed with a Board Workshop around the terminology of reliability, resilience, financial sustainability, and affordability.

Manage rate pressure on member agencies through attention to programmatic costs, organizational efficiencies and efforts to secure external funding for projects with broad and multi-purpose benefits.

With last month's award of \$5M for turf replacement and the \$21M award this month from the Delta Conservancy (discussed below), Metropolitan is exceeding \$150M in new, external funding awarded in the current fiscal year.

Staff is pursuing funding from the Inflation Reduction Act to provide compensation for identified conservation strategies that reduce use of Colorado River water, which would benefit both Metropolitan and federal efforts to shore up near-term water supplies while the Colorado River compact is being renegotiated.

Adapt to changing climate and water resources

Provide each member agency access to an equivalent level of water supply reliability through necessary adaptive implementation of the IRP findings.

The United States Bureau of Reclamation agreed to analyze a proposal put forth by the Lower Basin states to reduce use of Colorado River water through 2026, effectively doubling the reductions already anticipated by shortage requirements alone. Metropolitan views this proposal as much more viable and achievable than those in the federal SEIS recently released, and now, while federal analysis is underway, the states must finalize detailed agreements this summer to implement the proposed conservation measures so that savings can be realized as proposed.

Design is complete for the Inland Feeder Rialto Pipeline Intertie, and contract documents are routing for approval, as one of our key gap closure projects identified in response to the recent drought emergency.

Metropolitan pursued amendments toward two pieces of state legislation in support of turf replacement. With the author's agreement to technical recommendations and a multiyear staggering of the native plant requirements, Metropolitan was able to achieve a support position for AB1573 (Friedman), which would establish landscape design

standards that emphasize native plants to achieve water conservation. Negotiations continue, but progress is being made on AB1572 (Friedman), which would greatly restrict nonfunctional turf.

Metropolitan is supporting a pilot study along with Central Arizona Water Conservation District and others to evaluate the efficacy of specific drip irrigation technology known as “N-Drip,” installed on farmland in the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) reservation and the Harquahala Valley, both in Arizona. N-Drip’s technology is innovative in that it does not require the substantial power infrastructure and resources that traditional drip irrigation typically does and is therefore substantially less expensive to implement. Preliminary results indicate up to 40 percent less applied water than in fields irrigated using furrow/flood methods. For off-river lands, this applied water savings translates directly into savings in consumptive use. In the latter half of 2023, we expect to receive final reporting on the results of the pilot study, including water savings data.

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.

Metropolitan was awarded a \$20.9 million state grant to restore habitat and sustainability to an entire island in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an unprecedented effort that will support the area’s delicate ecosystem and help protect the ability to deliver critical water supplies. The funding from the state’s Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy will allow Metropolitan to improve the nearly 5,500-acre Webb Tract from current agricultural practices to wetlands and rice farming. The project is a collaboration among Metropolitan, local interests, and the Delta Conservancy, and it intends to be a model for addressing challenges that face many Delta islands: slowing or reversing land subsidence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable agriculture, and creating habitat to bolster the local ecosystem. The grant will fund design, environmental documentation, permitting, and construction of wetlands and rice fields on Webb Tract over a three-year period, with planning slated for the fall and construction starting in spring 2025 after board approval of the environmental documentation. The grant funding will also help Metropolitan quantify the greenhouse gas emission reductions realized from the project, which supports the district’s Climate Action Plan goals.

The Sites Authority Board and Reservoir Committee discussed and approved preliminary final allocations of available storage, the proportionate shares of diverted water for storage partners, and the transition from yield-based to storage-based participation. Sites project planning and analysis are ongoing.

Protect public health, the regional economy, and Metropolitan’s assets

Proactively identify, assess, and reduce potential vulnerabilities to Metropolitan’s system, operations, and infrastructure.

Staff advanced dam emergency action plans this month. Plans for DVL, Cajalco Creek near Lake Mathews, and Diemer have been approved, and plans for Gene Wash and Copper Basin are ready for review by the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CALOES).

Partner with interested parties and the communities we serve

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.

Metropolitan hosted the One Water Awards, joining respective member agencies to recognize six businesses and municipalities from throughout Southern California for their investments in large-scale water-efficiency projects. This first-ever event can become a vehicle to promote model technologies and best practices to other interested parties.

Reach underserved communities and non-traditional interested parties to better understand their needs and ensure their inclusion in decision making.

Metropolitan now has formal partnerships with three community-based organizations to help feed into apprenticeship/workforce development programs: California Conservation Corps, Homeboy Industries, and IE Works. Additional partnerships are being explored.

Executive Summary

This executive summary is added to this report to provide a high-level snapshot of a key accomplishment from each area of the organization. Detailed information is reported in the pages following this summary.

Administrative Services

EForms Management and Records Management and Imaging Services (RMIS) participated in the Sustainability Expo. The EForms Management Team is helping Metropolitan be more sustainable by saving paper, improving efficiencies, and integrating workflows. In the last 90-day period, 77,000 requests were submitted using EForms, greatly reducing the need to print paper. To raise awareness, the EForms Management Team raffled off a \$15 Starbucks card. Congratulations, Christine Kitchenmaster (Office of the GM) for being the lucky winner! Imaging Services displayed samples of the high-quality products it can produce in-house. In support of sustainability, Imaging Services hopes to eliminate the outsourcing of print jobs, which in turn leads to reduced emissions and less traffic congestion from vehicles making job deliveries to Metropolitan. Additionally, through innovative thinking, items such as custom notebooks and scratch pads can be made from recycled paper, further reducing waste.

Bay-Delta Initiatives

On May 24, Metropolitan was awarded a \$20.9 million state grant by the Delta Conservancy to restore habitat and sustainability to an entire island in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The funding from the Delta Conservancy will allow Metropolitan to improve the nearly 5,500-acre Webb Tract from current agricultural practices to wetlands and rice farming. The project is a collaboration among Metropolitan, local interests, and the Delta Conservancy, and it will address challenges that many islands in the Delta face by slowing or reversing land subsidence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable agriculture, and creating habitat to bolster the local ecosystem. The grant will fund design, environmental documentation, permitting, and construction of wetlands and rice fields on Webb Tract over a three-year period.

Chief Financial Officer

For April 2023, the Treasury and Debt Management staff and financing team continued to finalize disclosure documents for the pricing of the 2023 Series A Water Revenue and Refunding Bonds, expected to price the week of June 5, 2023.

Colorado River

On May 22, representatives from California, Nevada, and Arizona submitted a plan to Reclamation to conserve 3 million-acre feet of Colorado River water, in addition to the existing shortage and Drought Contingency Plan commitments. In response to the submittal, Reclamation paused the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for amending the 2007 Interim Colorado River Guidelines to provide time to analyze the new proposal. The proposal is in stark contrast with the alternatives in the SEIS, because it represents a consensus-based plan for reducing Colorado River diversions through 2026.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The DEI and WSO team held its inaugural “Indigenous Pathways” career event with the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT). The event consisted of a Job Tour Review (JTR) where 15 students from the Parker High School, located in the CRIT reservation, were given a tour of the Metropolitan Gene Intake Plant to learn how Metropolitan water systems work. Students were also able to interact with staff from different career fields to learn about various aspects of their jobs and the requirements to get hired. As a result, two students who attended the JTR have expressed their interest in joining the Metropolitan apprenticeship program.

Engineering Services

During the 2022–2023 shutdown season, Metropolitan inspected 18 miles of the Sepulveda and Yorba Linda Feeders as part of the ongoing effort to assess the condition of its prestressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP). New wire breaks were identified at three locations along the Sepulveda Feeder. Staff is expediting design to refurbish the pipe at these locations using carbon fiber lining during the next shutdown season.

External Affairs

Metropolitan hosted the One Water Awards, where Metropolitan recognized six businesses and municipalities from throughout Southern California for their investments in large-scale water-efficiency projects. GM Hagekhalil, Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Repenning, and Directors Fellow, Goldberg, McMillan, and Seckel attended. (May 22)

Human Resources

The Organizational Development & Training Unit (OD&T) hosted in-person workshops for Franklin Covey's 7 Habits and Project Management.

Information Technology

The Information Technology Group completed our VPN upgrade to strengthen our cybersecurity posture. Decommissioning additional remaining legacy VPN appliances will be completed by the end of summer.

Real Property

Real Property attended IRWA's 31st Annual Valuation Seminar in which a broad range of topics related to public agency valuation considerations, valuation of special use properties, eminent domain, appraisal expert witness testimony, and environmental contamination issues were presented. This training enables staff appraisers to deepen their understanding of issues affecting the valuation process in order to properly conduct valuation assessments.

Security Management

Security specialists continue to work closely with WSO Western Region Conveyance & Distribution (C&D) staff to comprehensively reinforce substructure lids along pressurized pipelines that experience either historically high occurrences of vandalism or possess additional exposures identified in recent vulnerability assessments by Los Angeles, Valley, and La Verne C&D Teams.

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

SRI presented at VerdeExchange, the Special Districts Legislative Days in Sacramento and the Climate Change Preparedness Conference in D.C. The team also led the Board Workshop on the Climate Adaptation Master Plan and is working with an interagency team on planning for the next one and developing a public engagement strategy. The team also initiated a ZEV transition roadmap with groups across Metropolitan and is pursuing grant funds for charging infrastructure installation. The team also attended several innovation-focused events that exposed the team to new technologies and tools relevant to Metropolitan's core mission.

Water Resource Management

When Metropolitan transitioned from drought to water surplus conditions, Water Resource Management's focus also transitioned. Staff is now evaluating existing and potential future groundwater programs. Because water use efficiency remains a priority either in dry or wet years, the staff is also pursuing funding and developing new programs.

Water System Operations

This month saw the 2022–23 shutdown season nearing its end. Throughout the season, a total of 48 shutdowns took place, including 27 for pipelines and treatment plants, 14 for hydroelectric plants, and 7 in support of shutdowns for the Department of Water Resources and member agencies. During a May shutdown, staff removed bulkheads installed in 2021 at the Perris facilities to facilitate the DVL-to-Mills drought operation. These same pipelines are now required without the bulkheads to effectively manage the abundant SWP supply this year. The critical work carried out during the shutdown season plays a vital role in ensuring the ongoing reliability of Metropolitan's infrastructure.

Water Resources and Engineering



Water Resource Management

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

Staff attended several meetings with other agencies on Colorado River matters, including meetings for the Colorado River Technical Education Work Group (CRTEWG), Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP), and the Law of the River Conference. The CRTEWG meeting was led by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) at the Federal Center in Denver, Colorado. The purpose of the CRTEWG is to help those who will partner with USBR in developing post-2026 Colorado River reservoir operation guidelines—including Metropolitan—to improve their technical knowledge of the tools and approaches to be used in that development process. At the meeting, USBR gave presentations on the Colorado River Simulation System (CRSS), the primary tool to be used in guideline development.

The LCR MSCP is the means by which water and power contractors on the Colorado River—including Metropolitan—comply with the requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the California ESA while carrying out ordinary operations on the river. Staff regularly participate in the Technical Work Group meetings. This meeting focused on a review of the comprehensive annual report prepared by USBR documenting the accomplishments of the program in 2022, program implementation to date, and the work plan and budget for 2024.

Staff also attended and made presentations at the 2023 Law of the Colorado River Conference. The annual conference is partially organized by Metropolitan staff and is attended by influential people working on Colorado River issues. Metropolitan staff presented an overview of recent developments in the law of the Colorado River and a review of Metropolitan’s transfer and exchange programs on the river.

Implement Regional Conservation Program

Metropolitan partnered with SoCal Gas on a virtual landscaping class on water budgeting for 40 landscape professionals as part of the conservation outreach this month. Staff also participated in a webinar panel discussion hosted by the Los Angeles Better Buildings Challenge (LA-BBC). The panel discussed strategies to achieve higher water efficiency in multi-family housing, and other panelists represented LADWP and the Pacific Institute. More information can be found here: <https://www.la-bbc.com/events-calendar/water-efficiency-fl6lp>

Metropolitan was awarded \$5 million to provide supplemental funding for the Turf Replacement Program through USBR’s WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program with funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The Turf Replacement Program assists homeowners with replacing existing grass with organic, drought-tolerant landscaping to support regional water conservation.

Metropolitan’s One Water Awards ceremony was held at the California Endowment in downtown Los Angeles on May 22, and honored organizations that used funding from Metropolitan’s Water Savings Incentive Program to make major improvements to their water management operations and equipment, such as installing smart irrigation technology, water recirculation systems, and soil moisture sensors. The press release can be accessed through this link: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/press-releases/metropolitan-honors-six-organizations-for-innovative-water-saving-projects/>

Implement Stormwater Pilot Program.

Staff met with representatives from CalTrans to explore opportunities for partnering on regional stormwater recharge projects. CalTrans manages freeway-adjacent properties for flood control and stormwater management. Staff plans to collaborate with CalTrans to identify areas with groundwater recharge potential.

Position Metropolitan as a leader in Open Water Data.

Staff continues to serve on several monthly committees and workgroups for the California Data Collaborative (CaDC) to improve the posting and use of open water data. In the last month, staff represented Metropolitan at CaDC's Steering Committee and workgroups covering California's Water Use Objective and Wholesaler workgroup. Staff also continues to represent Metropolitan as a co-lead for the CA Water Data Consortium's (CWDC) Urban Water Reporting Project and presented a project update at the CWDC's May Steering Committee Meeting.

Staff will be hosting a California Water Data Consortium (CWDC) Board meeting at Union Station on June 22. In May, staff participated in the CWDC committee and planning meetings. The CWDC also announced the seating of three new board members. The new board members include Ashley Boren with Sustainable Conservation, Kristine Johnson with the Kingfisher Foundation, and Mitra Rogers with Amazon Web Services.

Promote Metropolitan's technical capabilities and innovation efforts to advance the understanding of water resources management.

Staff held a milestone meeting with consultants working to upgrade Metropolitan's Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) evapotranspiration (ET) model. Metropolitan's PVID ET model generates daily parcel-level ET values, which staff accesses via a web portal. Staff routinely uses this ET data for various analyses on crop water use, irrigation efficiency, and the drivers of water use in PVID.

Staff received data identifying the crop planted on every field in PVID between January and March 2023 from Metropolitan's consultant. Since 2019, Metropolitan has collected field-level cropping data for the entirety of PVID to support water use studies and verification of lessee crop plans. Crops are classified once per quarter from multiple sources of satellite imagery. In addition to this regular data deliverable, staff received 2022 crop initiation and end dates for all annual crops in PVID.

Staff participated in a Peer-2-Peer (P2P) meeting with Anglian Water on "Smart Water Utilities" and operations through Metropolitan's P2P agreement with Booky Oren GWT (BOGWT). The information exchange featured a presentation on Metropolitan's operational decision models and Anglian's approach to creating a unified system of models coupled with AI for optimizing its entire system in real-time. Through BOGWT, staff will meet with representatives from New York City's Department of Environmental Protection in June to discuss watershed planning and reservoir water quality, and with Mekorot, Isreal's national water wholesaler, in July.

Additional P2P innovation activities in May included a meeting with representatives from the Netherlands to share strategies on managing delta islands. Staff also participated in innovation workshops on (1) asset condition assessment, (2) net zero carbon and (3) workforce development organized by ISLE Utilities.

Water Resources and Engineering

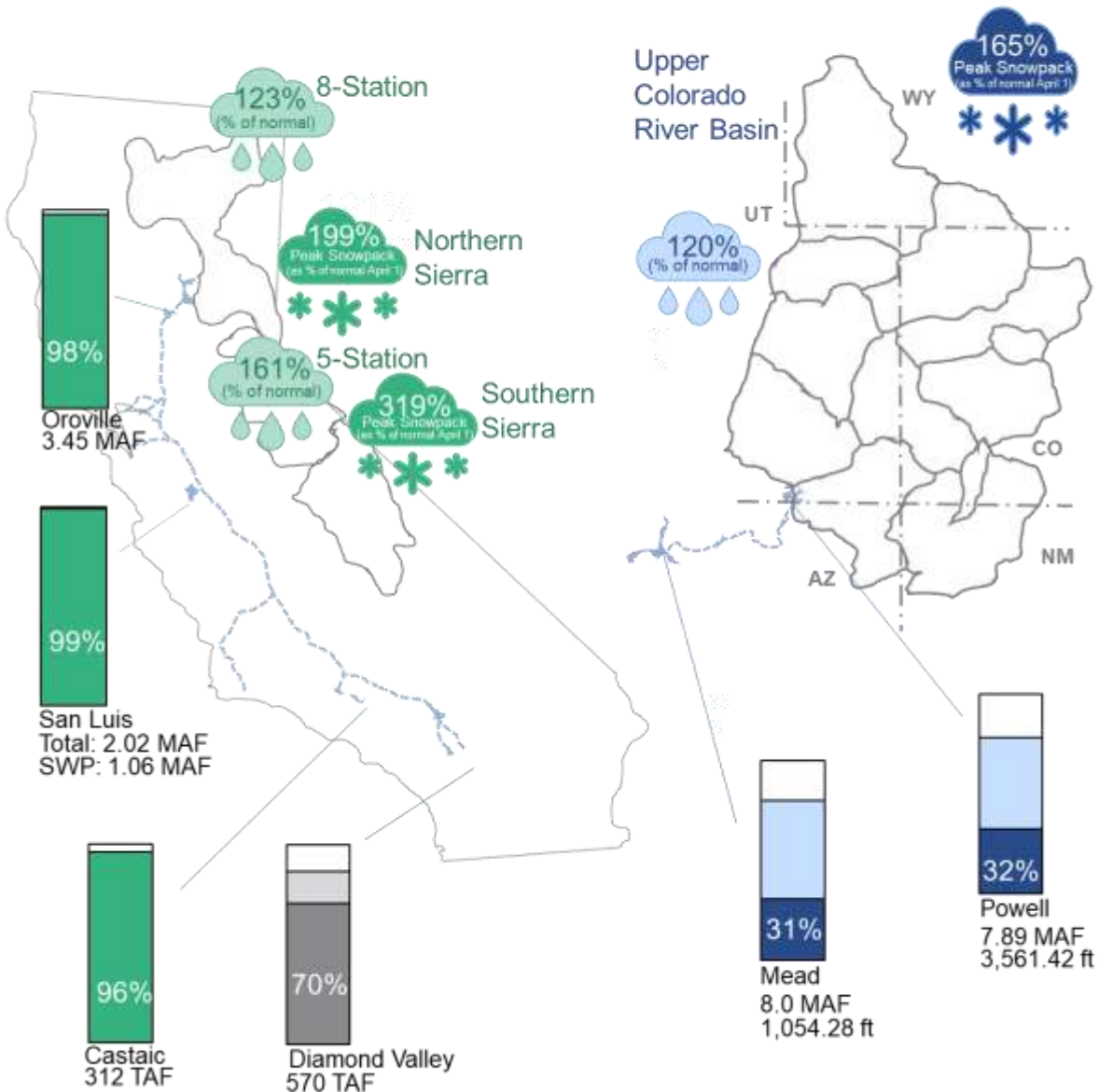
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State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A – 100% - 1,911,500 AF

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions – 832,000 AF



Extended Report:
<https://www.mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

As of May 31, 2023

Bay-Delta Initiatives

Core Functions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act for a public review that ended on December 16, 2022. DWR received more than 700 unique comment letters with over 6,000 individual comments. DWR is currently working to organize the comments and begin developing responses. The Final EIR is expected at the end of 2023. It will include responses to all substantive comments on the Draft EIR and edits to the Draft EIR, as appropriate, to respond to the comments.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act for a public review that ended on March 16, 2023. USACE is starting the initial organization of the comments received.

Delta Conveyance related Joint Powers Authorities

On May 18, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors participated in a discussion regarding the proposed draft budget for fiscal year 2023/24, which is \$39.9 million. DCA staff will present the final budget for DCA board approval at the June Meeting. The DCA board also acted on multiple resolutions regarding various agreement amendments. The amendment to the Baker Tilly US, LLP Agreement for Executive Director services included changing the Agreement Administrator from Shane Chapman, Metropolitan Assistant General Manager/Chief Administrative Officer to Nina Hawk, Metropolitan Chief of Bay-Delta Resources/Group Manager Bay-Delta Initiatives. The amendment also modified the insurance cancellation language to ensure consistency with other similar agreements, and increased compensation to the Executive Director. The resolutions regarding amendments to the Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. Agreement and the Parsons Transportation Group Inc. Agreement were also approved to extend the term of the Agreements for an additional five-year term, through June 30, 2029.

The Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) Board of Directors approved two resolutions recognizing the contribution of former DCFA Director Gary Kremen and former DCFA Director Randy Record during the May 18 DCFA Board of Directors meeting. The DCFA board also approved the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Operating Budget totaling \$188,350 to be funded with \$182,350 of reserves and \$6,000 in interest earnings.

Sites Reservoir

At the May 19 Joint Sites Reservoir Committee and Authority Board meeting, the Authority Board and Reservoir Committee approved a new Investment Policy that describes the parameters for investing Authority funds.

The Authority Board and Reservoir Committee also discussed and approved preliminary final allocations of available storage, the proportionate shares of diverted water for storage partners, and the transition from yield-based to storage-based participation. The transition to storage-based participation is necessary for the contracting of benefits and obligations in the Sites Reservoir as cost allocation needs to be based on physical capacity attributes of the facilities and will be reflected in the future negotiated Benefits and Obligations Contracts. Based on the most current

surveying data, the current assumption of the total storage space available in Sites Reservoir is 1,470,000 acre-feet. Of this total storage amount, the allocation of deadpool is 60,000 acre-feet. Given the methodology for allocating storage space in Sites Reservoir to local storage partners using the approach of one acre-foot participation to 6.234 acre-feet of storage space, Metropolitan's Amendment 3 participation level of 50,000 acre-feet of participation equates to 311,700 acre-feet of storage allocation which is 22.1 percent of storage.

Regulatory Activities

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative science groups established to inform implementation of the 2019 Biological Opinions for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project, and the 2020 Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for long-term operation of the SWP. In May, staff participated in Delta Coordination Group meetings with state and federal water contractors, resource agencies, and fisheries agencies to inform the Summer Fall Habitat Action for 2023. The water year type for 2023 is designated as a Wet Year, and the ITP actions to be implemented this year include operation of Fall X2 at 80 km and the use of 100,000 acre-feet of water supply to support Delta smelt.

Science Activities

Staff worked with researchers from UC Davis and the U.S. Geological Survey to conclude the second deployment of the Delta Smelt Pilot Propagation Study on Bouldin Island. The purpose of the study is to evaluate whether the impoundments on Metropolitan's islands can be leveraged to conduct Delta smelt supplementation research. The first deployment from November 21, 2022, to January 5, 2023, successfully demonstrated that it is possible. The second deployment was initiated in February to repeat and verify the results and test conditions during the warmer period of March 2023. The second deployment of Delta smelt was ended in early May. Results show that survival was very good with the deployed Delta smelt, successfully validating that the impoundments can be used to culture Delta smelt. The second deployment also verified that Delta smelt can survive in warmer temperatures. The researchers at UC Davis will continue to evaluate the results and will provide a report by the end of the year.

On May 17, staff gave an informational presentation on the basics of structured decision making to the State Water Contractors at their monthly board meeting.

Delta Island Activities

On May 24, Metropolitan was awarded a \$20.9 million state grant to restore habitat and sustainability to an entire island in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an unprecedented effort that will support the area's delicate ecosystem and help protect the ability to deliver critical water supplies throughout California. The funding from the state's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy will allow Metropolitan to improve the nearly 5,500-acre Webb Tract from current agricultural practices to wetlands and rice farming. The project is a collaboration among Metropolitan, local interests, and the Delta Conservancy, and it will address challenges that many islands in the Delta face by slowing or reversing land subsidence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable agriculture, and creating habitat to bolster the local ecosystem. The grant will fund design, environmental documentation, permitting and construction of wetlands and rice fields on Webb Tract over a three-year period, with planning slated for the fall and construction starting in spring 2025 after board approval of the environmental documentation. The grant funding will also help Metropolitan quantify the greenhouse gas emission reductions realized from the project, which supports Metropolitan's [Climate Action Plan](#) goals.

Colorado River

Lower Basin States Submit Water Conservation Plan to Reclamation

In late 2022, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) began a process to modify the 2007 Interim Colorado River Guidelines by developing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Reclamation stated that it needed to be able to implement additional actions to protect critical infrastructure at Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam if critically dry conditions continued. The SEIS was to consider additional Lower Basin Shortages and modified Lake Powell operations and allowed a seven-state consensus alternative to be included in the analysis. The seven states worked to meet the January 31 deadline but were unable to reach a seven-state consensus.

On April 14, 2023, the Draft SEIS was released for public comment, with two action alternatives included in it. Comments were due on the Draft SEIS by May 30. Metropolitan worked with the Lower Basin States to see whether a consensus approach could be developed, and on May 22 the Lower Basin states submitted the Lower Basin consensus proposal to Reclamation. The Upper Basin was not part of the proposal, but it did send in a letter requesting Reclamation analyze the Lower Basin Proposal. The Lower Basin Proposal includes 3 million acre-feet of new conservation to be added to Lake Mead, in addition to existing shortage and Drought Contingency Plan commitments, through 2026. Most of that conservation will be from programs funded by Reclamation through the Inflation Reduction Act. It also states that Intentionally Created Surplus water added to Lake Mead also counts toward that goal, provided that any new water remains stored through 2027.

In response to the request from the Basin States, Reclamation paused the development of the SEIS and cancelled the May 30 comment deadline. Instead, Reclamation is working with the Basin States to model the Lower Basin Proposal and include it in a follow-up analysis in the SEIS process. Ultimately, if Reclamation chooses the Lower Basin Proposal as a preferred alternative, approval of the governing boards of the implementing parties, including Metropolitan, will be needed. Additionally, the Lower Basin states urged Reclamation to begin the scoping process for the post-2026 Guidelines within the next few months. The draft EIS for the post-2026 Guidelines is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024.

Engineering

Core Business Function – Execute Capital Investment Plan Projects

Engineering Services manages and executes projects within the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) to maintain infrastructure resiliency, ensure regulatory compliance, enhance sustainability, and provide flexibility in system operations to address uncertain water supply conditions.

Distribution System Reliability Program

This program maintains reliable water deliveries through specific rehabilitation and upgrade projects on Metropolitan’s pipelines, reservoirs, and control structures. Recent activities include the following:

- **Casa Loma Siphon Seismic Upgrades**—This project mitigates leaks associated with long-term ground subsidence and will improve seismic resilience of the siphon as it crosses the Casa Loma Fault. This project replaced approximately 1,200 feet of the Casa Loma Siphon Barrel No. 1 at a fault crossing, using earthquake resistant ductile iron pipe (ERDIP) and welded steel pipe. The final tie-in was completed in February 2023 during the annual CRA shutdown, and the siphon was placed into service at the conclusion of the shutdown. Overall construction was completed in May 2023.
- **Etiwanda Pipeline Relining**—This project removes damaged mortar lining in 5.5 miles of pipeline and replaces it with polyurethane lining. Stages 1 and 2, which relined 3 miles of the pipeline, have already been completed. Stage 3 relines the remaining 2.5 miles of pipeline and is currently under construction. The contractor has removed all mortar lining and is currently applying the polyurethane lining. Stage 3 construction is 74 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by October 2023.
- **Sepulveda Feeder Electrical Improvements**—This project replaces deteriorated electrical components, makes other upgrades at three Sepulveda Feeder underground structures, and installs two blind flanges after removing a spool on the West Valley Feeder No. 1. The contractor continues electrical work in the West Valley Feeder No. 1 vault. Construction is 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2023.
- **Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation**—This project will replace the aging reservoir floating cover and liner, structurally strengthen the inlet/outlet tower, upgrade the on-site water quality laboratory building, rehabilitate the junction structure, and replace the existing standby generator and a portion of the security perimeter fence. Metropolitan’s Board authorized an amendment to a consultant agreement in April 2023 for final design. Final design is approximately 6 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in December 2024.
- **Foothill Hydroelectric Plant and Control Building Seismic Upgrade**—This project rehabilitates and strengthens the Foothill Hydroelectric Plant and Control Building to withstand a major earthquake and retain its functionality as an essential facility. A construction contract was awarded in April 2023. The contractor has started mobilizing to the facility site and is currently preparing construction submittals. Construction is 3 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed by December 2024.

Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)



Etiwanda Pipeline Relining—Applying Polyurethane Coating Lining



Etiwanda Pipeline Relining—Welding Steel Pipe Reducers

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program

This program was established to enhance the reliability of Metropolitan’s water distribution system and to reduce the risk of costly emergency repairs of PCCP. The priority pipelines included in the program are the Second Lower Feeder, Sepulveda Feeder, Calabastas Feeder, Rialto Pipeline, and the Allen-McColloch Pipeline. A total of 100 miles of PCCP pipelines will eventually be relined with new steel pipe liners under this 20-year program. Recent activities include the following:

- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 3A**—This project rehabilitated 6,500 feet of PCCP portions of the Second Lower Feeder within the city of Rolling Hills Estates. Metropolitan’s Board awarded a construction contract in May 2022. The contractor has completed all relining and shutdown work and returned the pipeline to service in May 2023.
- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 3B**—This project installs steel lining along a 3.7-mile-long portion of the Second Lower Feeder that traverses the cities of Lomita, Los Angeles, and Torrance. A contract was awarded by Metropolitan’s Board in January 2023. The contractor is currently forwarding contract submittals for review and obtaining permits. The contractor performed utility potholing work in May 2023. Major construction activities will commence in July 2023 with site work related to constructing the temporary bypass line around the Palos Verdes Reservoir. This bypass line will ensure that member agency service connections on this portion of the feeder remain in service during the construction contract. Site preparation for pipe relining access shafts is expected to begin in November 2023. Construction is 12 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in September 2025.
- **Sepulveda Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 1**—This project rehabilitates PCCP segments of the Sepulveda Feeder. Reach 1 of the Sepulveda Feeder spans 4.7 miles through several cities, including the cities of Hawthorne, Inglewood, and Los Angeles. Final design is approximately 73 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2023.
- **PCCP Valve Warehouse**—This project constructs a 18,160 square-foot pre-engineered metal building on a reinforced concrete slab at Lake Mathews for valve and equipment storage related to the PCCP relining program. The contractor has finished erecting the steel building structure and the electrical tie-ins for the building. The contractor is currently performing site work for the building’s concrete approach ramps. Construction is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in September 2023.
- **Electromagnetic Inspection**—Regular inspections of the PCCP feeders, a critical step in evaluating the condition of each pipeline, assist staff in prioritizing the relining work on each feeder. This project conducts the fifth cycle of electromagnetic and visual inspections of Metropolitan’s approximately 146.4 miles of PCCP pipelines. Portions of the Sepulveda Feeder and Yorba Linda Feeder totaling 18 miles were inspected during the 2022/2023 shutdown season. Inspections of the Allen-McColloch Pipeline, West Valley Feeder No. 2, and Calabastas Feeder are scheduled for October 2023 and January 2024.
- **Sepulveda Feeder Urgent Carbon Fiber Lining**—During a February 2023 pipeline inspection, staff identified new wire breaks at three locations along the Sepulveda Feeder. This project will rehabilitate PCCP at these three locations using carbon fiber lining. The use of the carbon fiber lining approach will allow the affected pipe sections in the feeder to be strengthened in a timely manner to ensure that interruptions to deliveries of State Water Project supplies on the feeder are minimized. Staff is currently prequalifying carbon fiber lining manufacturers/installers. Final design is underway, and award of a construction contract is planned for August 2023.



Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 3A—Street Restoration

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

This program maintains the reliability of Metropolitan’s CRA conveyance system. Recent activities include the following:

- **CRA Pumping Plants Overhead Crane Replacement**—This project consists of replacing five overhead bridge cranes and retrofitting the support structures within the pump bays located at all five of Metropolitan’s Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. The contractor has completed the installation of the new crane at the Gene Pumping Plant and began work at Iron Mountain Pumping Plant in May. Construction is 37 percent complete and scheduled to be complete at this site by October 2023.
- **Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement**—This project rehabilitates emergency dewatering facilities at Copper Basin Reservoir by replacing a 54-inch fixed cone valve and actuator, refurbishing the existing valve house and a slide gate, as well as improving the access road and ladders to the discharge valve structure. Final design is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in December 2023.
- **Mile 12 Flow Monitoring Station**—This project will replace the CRA Mile 12 flow meter and upgrades the appurtenant facilities at the monitoring station. The contractor is completing the final terminations and testing of the electrical equipment. Construction is 99 percent complete.
- **Flow Level Monitoring Stations**—This project will install 12 flow monitoring stations at remote locations along the Colorado River Aqueduct. A construction contract was awarded by the Board in May 2023.
- **Erosion Control**—This project will install erosion control features at 19 conduit locations along the CRA which are vulnerable to erosion during storm events. Preliminary design is 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by November 2023.

System Flexibility/Supply Reliability

Projects under this program will enhance the flexibility and/or increase the capacity of Metropolitan's water supply and delivery infrastructure to meet current and projected service demands. Projects under this program address climate change affecting water supply, regional drought, and alternative water sources for areas dependent on State Project water.

- **Perris Valley Pipeline**—This project will complete construction of the Perris Valley Pipeline and provide service connections to Eastern and Western Municipal Water Districts. This project installs 3,000 linear feet of tunnel, which crosses the Interstate 215 freeway. The contractor has mobilized its trailer and equipment on the site, is preparing contract submittals for review and approval, and is installing the water treatment system. Construction is 8 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in early 2025.
- **Wadsworth Pumping Plant Bypass**—In conjunction with three other projects, this project enhances water supply reliability in the Rialto Pipeline service area by enabling water to be pumped from the Wadsworth Pumping Plant forebay to Rialto Pipeline by way of the Inland Feeder. This project will install a bypass pipeline and an isolation valve to interconnect the Wadsworth Pumping Plant with the Eastside Pipeline. The contractor is currently preparing submittals for review and approval. Construction is 3 percent complete and is anticipated to be complete by February 2024.
- **Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Stations**—This project will install new pump stations at the existing Venice and Sepulveda Canyon Pressure Control Facilities, providing the ability to reverse flow in the Sepulveda Feeder and deliver water from the Central Pool to portions of the Jensen plant exclusive area. This project will use progressive design-build (PDB) for delivery. Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from potential design-build entities were received in May. Staff is currently evaluating the SOQs for selection of the design-builder. Board award of the Phase 1 agreement for preconstruction services under the PDB contract is planned for September 2023.
- **Foothill Pump Station Intertie**—In conjunction with three other projects, this project enhances water supply reliability in the Rialto Pipeline service area by enabling water to be pumped from the Wadsworth Pumping Plant forebay to Rialto Pipeline by way of the Inland Feeder. This project will connect San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's (SBVMWD) Foothill Pump Station with the Inland Feeder to provide the needed hydraulic lift to deliver water from DVL to Rialto service area upon completion. Final design is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2023. A procurement contract for two long-lead valves was awarded in May 2023. A separate procurement contract for a large-diameter valve with different requirements is scheduled to advertised in June 2023.

Treatment Plant Reliability Program

This program was initiated to maintain reliability and improve the operating efficiency of Metropolitan's water treatment plants through specific improvement projects. Recent activities include the following:

- **Weymouth Basins 5–8 and Filter Building No. 2 Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates major mechanical and structural components including the flocculation/sedimentation equipment, sludge pumps, baffle boards and walls, launders, inlet gates, and outlet drop gates at the Weymouth plant. Other improvements included in this contract are seismic upgrades of basin walls and inlet channel, hazardous material abatement, and replacement of filter valves and actuators in Filter Building No. 2. The contractor began demolition of filter valves and piping in Filter Building No. 2 and continued other work under the first quarter-plant outage, including new concrete construction and installation of new electrical conduits. Construction is 30 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 2025.

- **Mills Ozonation System PLC Upgrade**—This project replaces the outdated generator control system at the Mills plant with new programmable logic controller equipment along with upgraded software. Installation of the new software and commissioning was completed in April 2023. The ozone will be returned to service as the primary disinfectant in June 2023.
- **Mills Electrical Upgrades**—This project upgrades the electrical system with dual-power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practices, improve plant reliability, and enhance worker safety. Stage 1 construction is complete. Stage 2 improvements will add a second incoming 12 kV service from Riverside Public Utilities, reconfigure the existing 4160-volt switchgear, and replace the standby generator switchgear and the emergency generator programmable logic controller. Metropolitan’s Board awarded a construction contract for Stage 2 improvements in November 2021. The contractor continued the Riverside Public Utility switchyard installation work and is preparing for demolition of the west wall at the ORP switchgear building. Construction is 25 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by February 2025.
- **Jensen Ozone PSUs Replacement**—This project rehabilitates the ozone generation system at the Jensen plant by replacing four existing ozone power supply units (PSUs) and four sets of generator dielectrics. The project also makes required modifications to the associated electrical, control, and cooling water systems. Metropolitan’s Board awarded a construction contract in June 2022. All PSUs and dielectrics have been manufactured and delivered. Installation of two PSUs is complete and dielectrics for two ozone generators have been replaced. The contractor is preparing a coordination study for start-up testing of the two newly installed PSUs and has initiated pipe and valve procurement to implement modifications to the cooling water system. Construction is 40 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2023.



Jensen Ozone PSUs Replacement—Installed Generators 2 and 3 with High Voltage DC Cable

System Reliability Program

The System Reliability Program consists of projects to improve or modify facilities located throughout Metropolitan's service area to use new processes and/or technologies and improve facility safety and overall reliability. Recent activities include the following:

- **Headquarters Physical Security Upgrades**—This project implements comprehensive security upgrades for Metropolitan's Headquarters Building. These upgrades are consistent with federally recommended best practices for government buildings. This work has been prioritized and staged to minimize rework and impacts on day-to-day operations within the building. Stage 1 work is complete and provides enhanced security related to perimeter windows and doors. Stage 2 work is complete and provides security system upgrades inside the building with a focus on the main entry rotunda area, boardroom, executive dining lounge, and security control room. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. Metropolitan's Board awarded the stage 3 construction contract in December 2022. The contractor began demolition of the sidewalk around the building and is preparing for installation of the safety bollards. Construction is 15 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by January 2024.
- **SCADA System Upgrades**—This project will upgrade Metropolitan's entire control system in incremental stages, spanning the Colorado River Aqueduct, the five water treatment plants, and the conveyance and distribution system. The first stage of this project replaces the control system at the Mills plant, starting with a pilot effort on one of the plant's remote terminal units. The pilot effort will demonstrate the proposed technology and the consultant's approach for the plant and the overall project. The consultant continued providing submittals, performing equipment verification, and developing control narratives and a training plan. The pilot phase is 25 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2023. The system upgrades at the Mills plant are scheduled to be complete by April 2026.

Protecting the Public and Metropolitan's Assets

Engineering Services continued to develop state-mandated Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for Metropolitan's state-regulated dams to help ensure long-term public safety. In May, the Diemer Treatment Plant EAP was formally approved by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). Staff submitted the Mills EAP to Cal OES and formal approval is expected. The EAPs for the Gene Wash and Copper Basin Dams are currently under review by the Cal OES. Staff has completed internal work on the EAPs for Lake Mathews, Lake Skinner, and Skinner Finished Water Reservoir, and outreach to the local emergency management organizations and first responders is currently underway before submitting the EAPs to Cal OES for approval.

Partnering with the Communities We Serve

Business Outreach and Engineering staff conducted the seventh quarterly MetWorks event to provide consultants and contractors with information on upcoming contracting opportunities. Three member agencies (Calleguas Municipal Water District, Long Beach, and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power) and Metropolitan presented some of their upcoming projects. Over 150 contractors, subcontractors, and professional service providers attended this virtual event. The next quarterly MetWorks event will be held in-person in Moreno Valley and will highlight projects on the eastern side of Metropolitan's service area.



Water System Operations

Core Business Objectives

Prepare Employees for New Opportunities

The Water System Operations Apprentice and Technical Training Programs develop and train personnel to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, the Class of 2023 electrical and mechanical apprentices completed the academic portion of their apprenticeship training. Apprentices complete four years of classroom instruction and on-the-job training. They are required to complete a demonstrated proficiency assessment: a final hands-on practical test before achieving journey certification. Demonstrated proficiency assessments will take place next month. Congratulations Class of 2023.



Class of 2023 electricians and mechanics

Manage Vacancies

WSO filled five vacancies and 11 new apprentice positions in April 2023.

Provide Reliable Water Deliveries

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 89,000 acre-feet (AF) for May with an average of 2,900 AF per day, which was 600 AF per day higher than in April. Treated water deliveries increased by 6,000 AF from April for a total of 48,600 AF, or 55 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) pumped a total of 68,000 AF in May. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 3,500 AF per day, totaling about 107,200 AF for the month. The target SWP blend decreased to 80 percent for the Weymouth and Diemer plants and to approximately 20 percent for the Skinner plant. The SWP blend for the Skinner plant will continue to increase to about 70 percent as more SWP is delivered to Lake Skinner.

Manage Water Reserves

The 100 percent SWP allocation, when combined with Colorado River supplies, provides the region with more water than normal demands. Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management

(WSDM) principles and operational objectives with an emphasis to position SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent area. Metropolitan continued deliveries to Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District to meet Metropolitan's exchange obligation. With the higher SWP allocation and low regional demands, Metropolitan is working to maximize its use of Table A supplies this year. Staff is working with member agencies to manage supplies through the Cyclic and Cyclic Cost Offset Program. Because of increasing snowmelt runoff, the alkalinity of SWP supplies has been rapidly decreasing. To address the low alkalinity, Metropolitan coordinated with the California Department of Water Resources to blend water from Lake Perris and Silverwood Lake for delivery to the Mills plant.

Support Imported Supply Reliability

The La Verne Shops received a request from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to refurbish two large siphon breakers for its Dos Amigos Pumping Plant. The siphon breakers were refurbished to an as-new condition and were successfully functionally tested by staff.



Conducting as-found dimensional check of blasted siphon breaker body for DWR's Dos Amigos Pumping Plant



Surface preparation of siphon breaker for coating (left) and curing of applied coating (right) for DWR's Dos Amigos Pumping Plant



Fully assembled & tested siphon breakers (left) and application of finished coating (right) for DWR's Dos Amigos Pumping Plant

Support the Pure Water Southern California Program

Following feedback from the Independent Science Advisory Panel and regulators during Workshop No. 6 in March, staff continued secondary membrane bioreactor operations and testing at the Pure Water Southern California demonstration plant with intentionally compromised membranes. Microbial samples and reverse osmosis concentrate samples were collected for analysis during May. Staff continued developing in-house analytical methods for key constituents, including nitrosamines, 1,4-dioxane, and formaldehyde. Additionally, staff completed spiking studies on the ultraviolet light/advanced oxidation process using free chlorine or hydrogen peroxide as the oxidant, leveraging the in-house laboratory capability to analyze over 200 samples for nitrosamines and 1,4-dioxane.

Staff supported sampling by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) to measure air emissions from the bioreactor to help address Metropolitan's and LACSD's environmental planning efforts for the full-scale plant by assessing potential long-term climate impacts.

Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner

Energy markets in May 2023 continued to exhibit reduced price volatility, and electricity prices in the California ISO market were generally within seasonal norms. Notably, natural gas prices at the end of May dropped to the \$2/MMBtu (Metric Million British thermal unit) range. CRA energy costs for May 2023 were about \$4 million; the total energy costs to operate the CRA for fiscal year 2022-2023 is forecast to be around \$139 million.

Because system operating conditions are focused on refilling water storage and low demands, daily generation output from Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants averaged less than 10 MW during the month of May. However, hydroelectric plant output is forecast to trend upwards later in 2023 as demands increase and Metropolitan receives deliveries from the 100 percent SWP allocation. Metropolitan's solar facilities totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity generated approximately 1,000 megawatt-hours in April 2023.

Ensure Water Quality Compliance, Worker Safety, and Environmental Protection

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during April 2023.

Water Quality staff trained staff at the desert facilities on proper drinking water sampling procedures and requirements, particularly for the Lead and Copper Rule, ensuring continued regulatory compliance for the drinking water supplied at the desert facilities.

On May 17, the Water Quality Laboratory in La Verne was audited under the state's laboratory accreditation program to allow use of an alternative test method to monitor for haloacetic acids under the Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct Rules. The audit concluded successfully with no technical findings and no recommendations for improvements, equaling a perfect score.

On May 23, Metropolitan hosted its regular quarterly meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water. Discussion topics included regulatory updates, capital projects, drought and conservation reporting, and a description of the backup disinfection automatic process control at the Jensen plant.

The Mills plant hosted the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Packager/Repair/Inspection triennial training with Operations and Engineering staff in attendance. This one-day training was for registered inspectors and design-qualified engineers to review any updates to the hydrostatic testing of DOT cargo tanks and for certification/renewal of personnel performing maintenance on chlorine trailers. One of the requirements to become a Registered Inspector is to work alongside a current inspector for three years performing various inspections and tests, including external visual and hydrostatic pressure.



DOT training being held in the Demo Room at the Mills plant

Staff performed monthly regulatory inspections of the fire extinguishers at the Diemer plant to ensure their proper working condition in the event of a fire. The inspection consisted of verifying that the fire extinguishers were properly charged, the discharge hoses were in good condition, and that the extinguishers are ready for use when necessary.



Staff performing inspection of a fire extinguisher at the Diemer plant

Staff installed new sample lines via a hot-tap installation at the Palos Verdes Feeder LA-21 service connection structure. These hot taps were necessary to provide sample points for water quality compliance within Metropolitan's structure.



Staff performing hot tap at the LA-21 service connection

This month, staff published and posted the 2023 Metropolitan *Talk Safety With Me* book on the IntraMet to inform and promote employee safety during on-the-job activities. Hard copies are being distributed to field locations. The book contains 52 safety talks on a variety of safety topics related to employee work activities.



The 2023 Talk Safety With Me book

Staff attended the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) Expo, which showcased more than twice the number of exhibitors than previous years. Several public agencies attended, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD), and the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). They shared Metropolitan’s concerns about the lack of zero-emission vocational trucks in the marketplace. Staff took the opportunity to talk with charging equipment suppliers to learn more about the technology in preparation for pilot programs to install vehicle charging stations at the Weymouth plant and Union Station.



Electric utility truck (left) and charging station (right) at the ACT Expo

Staff submitted the nine Annual Emission Reports (AERs) to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The reports included calendar year 2022 operational data for over 180 different equipment/processes throughout Metropolitan. Total fees paid were approximately \$27,000.

Staff participated in the Western Utility Environmental Forum’s quarterly meeting hosted by LADWP. Other utilities attending included Pacific Gas and Electric, San Diego Gas and Electric, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Southern California Edison, and SoCal Gas. Various topics discussed included Challenges with Photovoltaic Panel Disposal, Stormwater Management, Wastewater Industrial Permits, and updates on PFAS regulations.

Staff participated in the Phylmar Regulatory Roundtable (PRR) semi-annual meeting hosted by Southern California Edison. Other participant organizations included Abbott Labs, Boeing, East Bay MUD, LADWP, San Diego Gas and Electric, and SoCal Gas. Various topics discussed included Safety Culture Change Initiative, COVID-19 Return to Work Policies & Challenges, Emerging Industrial Hygiene Challenges, and regulatory updates.

SCAQMD engineers visited the Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) demonstration plant to witness the formal source emission testing of the facility to ensure compliance with the permit issued to Metropolitan. Compliance was successfully demonstrated to meet the permit requirements. The results will also provide LACSD and Metropolitan with air emissions data for the full-scale PWSC plant planning.



SCAQMD permitting engineers witnessing source testing at the demonstration plant

Staff attended a March Air Reserve Base Restoration Advisory Board Site Tour site tour with representatives from Eastern and Western Municipal Water Districts and other members of the community. The tour included observing the Base's Enhanced Groundwater Extraction and Treatment System (EGETS) and extraction wells. Staff received updates on the ongoing PFAS remedial efforts.



Enhanced Groundwater Extraction and Treatment System (left) and extraction well (right) at March Airforce Base

Optimize Maintenance

Staff continue to excavate and grade for the Iron Mountain switch rack rehabilitation project. During excavation, staff ran into an unexpected amount of rock, which presented a challenge and has required weeks of hammering. Iron Mountain is a deserving name.



Staff hammering through rock and excavating at Iron Mountain pumping plant for the switch rack rehabilitation project

When CRA pumps start, they do so against a closed discharge valve, which allows the motor to spin up to speed without excessive load. A bypass system consisting of a control valve and a gate valve allows water to pass around the discharge valve during the starting sequence. Staff rebuilt the bypass valve system at the Eagle Mountain pumping plant.



Staff installing rebuilt discharge valve bypass system components at a Desert facility

This month, staff completed the last scheduled pipeline shutdown of the 2023 season, except for two major relining projects for the Etiwanda Pipeline and Orange County Feeder that will extend into the summer. There are also two minor shutdowns of hydroelectric plants for routine maintenance scheduled in June. All together the shutdown season, which began last July, included 48 shutdowns; 27 for pipelines and treatment plants, 14 for hydroelectric plants, and 7 to support shutdowns for the Department of Water Resources and member agencies. The purpose of the May pipeline shutdown was to remove internal bulkheads that were installed to protect Perris facilities from increased pressure that was introduced to the system during the DVL-to-Mills flow operation. With the increased SWP allocation, the bulkheads were removed to allow the Perris facilities to operate in a traditional manner, bringing State Project water supplies into Metropolitan's system.



Staff torch cutting the remaining pieces of the large bulkhead installed at Perris PCS

Staff recently returned a portion of the Second Lower Feeder to service where a contractor steel-lined 6,500 feet of the pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe from Oak Street PCS to Palos Verdes Reservoir. During this outage, staff performed upgrades at Oak Street PCS, rebuilding a pilot valve control rack that regulates flow, and installed three refurbished hydraulic globe valves.



Before (left) and after (right) rehabilitation of the pilot rack at Oak Street PCS



Leaking globe valve before (left) and after (right) refurbishment at Oak Street PCS

Staff worked to finalize upgrades to the mechanical team’s workshop and breakroom by installing a new epoxy coating to the floor at the Skinner plant. This coating will help improve cleanliness throughout the building, while the opportunity to alter the layout of the machines, workstations, and storage cabinets throughout the building will improve ergonomics and workflow efficiency.



Staff pressure wash and prepare the workshop floor to receive epoxy coating at the Skinner plant

Weymouth plant electrical staff is responsible for the electrical support of the entire La Verne facility, which includes various emergency power and back-up systems, such as Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS). Recently, staff responded to two separate UPS failures within hours of each other. The failures included the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and Business Server UPS and the emergency and egress system UPS. Staff responded to the calls, analyzed the issues, and quickly restored service to the equipment.

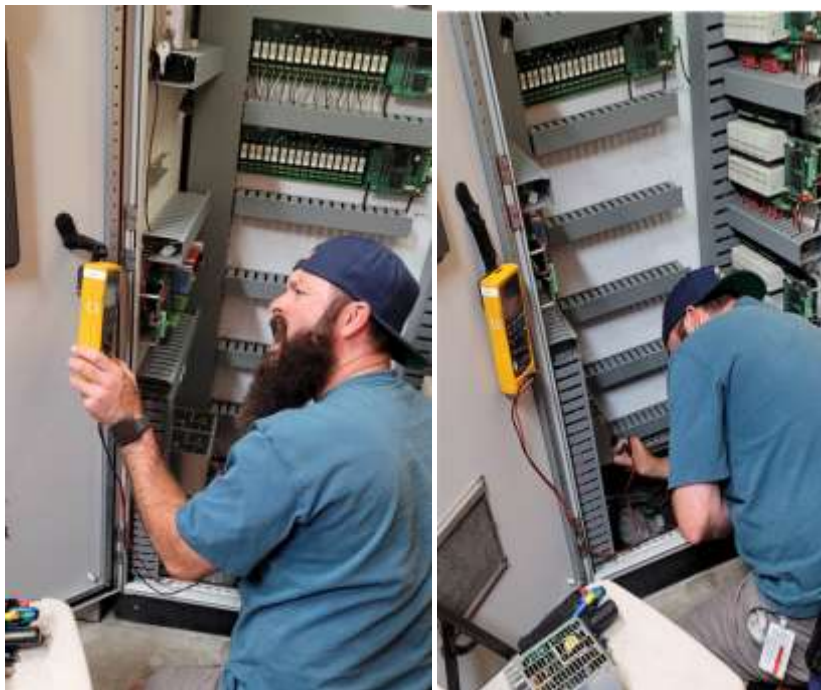


Staff diagnosing UPS in Building 40 at the Weymouth plant



Staff testing UPS components in Building 4 at the Weymouth plant

Staff replaced a bad power supply in one of the Remote Terminal Units (RTU) at the Weymouth plant. RTUs provide real time control and indication for various processes within the treatment plant. The RTUs are equipped with redundant power supplies. In the event of a single power supply failure, the RTU will remain functional, preventing any operational impacts to the plant or the treatment processes from occurring. Having adequately trained staff with appropriate spare parts ensures that the treatment process stays in compliance with no disruptions due to unforeseen equipment failures.



Staff replacing a bad power supply unit in an RTU at the Weymouth plant

Staff completed erosion repairs along San Diego Pipelines #4 and #5 in the city of Temecula. The recent heavy rains caused erosion along our right-of-way. Staff imported 300 tons of clean fill material needed to backfill the erosions. Metropolitan’s soils technicians assisted with compaction density testing of the fill material.



Staff using an excavator to compact fill material (left) and a completed section of road (right) along San Diego pipelines

Staff performed corrective maintenance to bring a unit at Foothill Hydroelectric Plant (HEP) online. Because of low Castaic Lake elevations and low State Project water supply in 2021 and 2022, this unit has been offline for an extended period, which required additional effort to prepare the unit for operation. These preparations included servicing of high-voltage disconnect switches, cleaning and flushing of the cooling water system, and cleaning and lubricating the wicket gates, which control the flow of water through the turbine.

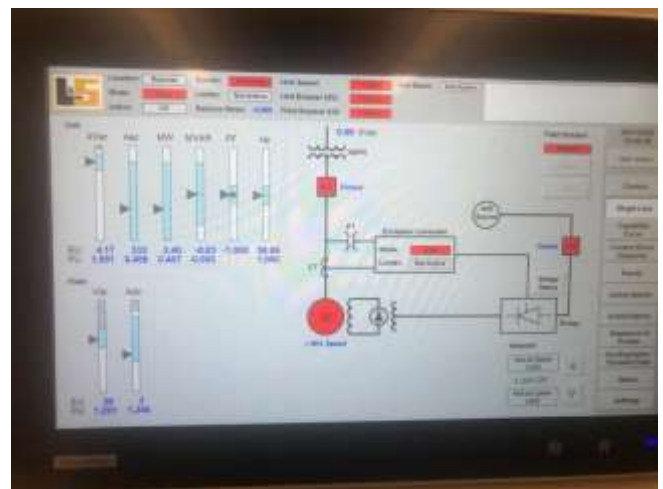
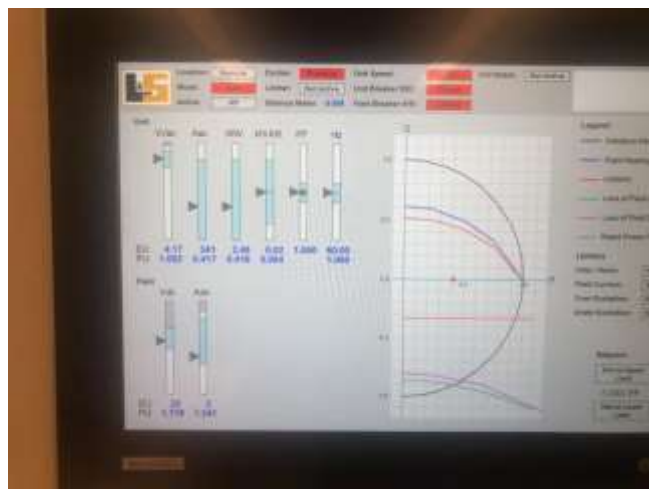


Staff performing switchyard maintenance at Foothill HEP

Staff replaced the automatic voltage regulator (AVR) at Red Mountain HEP during the Pipeline 5 shutdown. Voltage regulators are electronic devices that adjust and control the output voltage of the generator to match the transmission power system and are required to generate power. The existing AVR was composed of 30-year-old legacy components that were well beyond support life and starting to fail.



Staff performing AVR commissioning at Red Mountain HEP



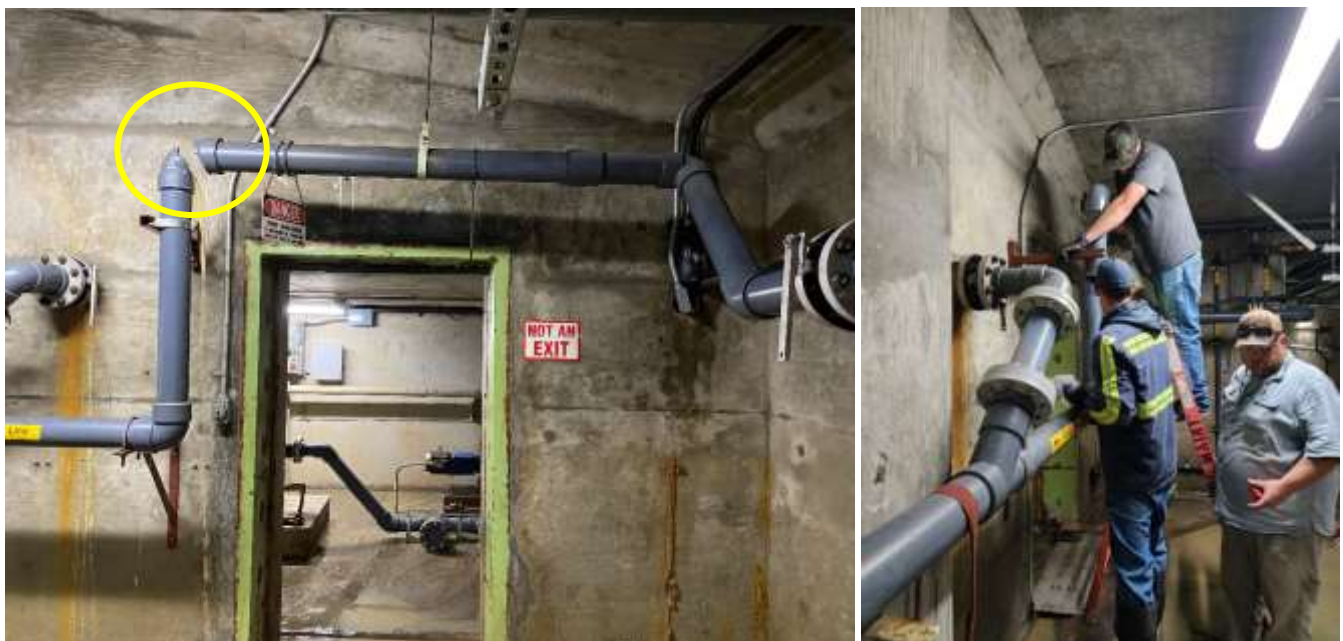
Upgraded AVR control screenshots at Red Mountain HEP

Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution

Because of decreasing alkalinity in Silverwood Lake, the State Water Project (SWP) target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants was lowered from 100 to 80 percent in mid-May. The Mills plant's source water was transitioned from solely Silverwood Lake to a blend of Silverwood Lake (75 percent) and Lake Perris (25 percent) in late May. The SWP target entering Lake Skinner fluctuates to accommodate multiple operational needs and to maximize the delivery of water from the SWP. The SWP blend leaving the lake has been increasing during May and is expected to reach 50–75 percent within a few weeks. Chemical dosages were adjusted at Weymouth, Diemer, Mills, and Skinner plants to ensure that water quality objectives continue to be achieved following the blend changes.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from March 2022 through February 2023 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 605, 609, and 608 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff performed emergency repairs to a damaged sludge line at the Weymouth plant. The sludge line carries solids removed from the treatment process to the Solids Handling facility for processing and removal from the plant. Repairs were quickly completed, and the sludge line was reinforced. Because of the immediate repairs performed by staff, the treatment process was not interrupted.



Broken pipe fitting (left) and staff making repairs (right) at the Weymouth plant

Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response

Staff participated in multiple joint planning efforts to prepare for future emergencies. On April 24, staff joined representatives from other utilities, including the San Diego County Water Authority, to participate in the California Regional Resilience Workshop at the US Naval Base at Point Loma. The two-day workshop focused on developing ways for the Navy and local infrastructure to support each other during emergencies.

Staff attended a two-day training course given by the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services on integrating access and functional needs into emergency planning. Lessons from this course will be used in future emergency planning at Metropolitan.

On May 19, staff participated in an interview with Department of Water Resources personnel on ways Metropolitan uses GIS and other technologies to enhance our emergency response capabilities.

Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution

Staff completed work replacing two filter surface wash valves as part of a capital project at the Jensen plant. The valves deteriorated because of age and were leaking, causing an impact to operation of 10 of the 40 filters at the plant. An impact of these leaky valves was the accumulation of algae within the filters. Staff completed removal of this filamentous algae while the filters were out of service for valve replacements. This project was completed before the increase in flow as a result of the high SWP allocation, ensuring reliable plant operations at higher flows.



Filter and wash water trough before cleaning at the Jensen plant



Staff finishing filter cleaning at the Jensen plant

Staff is progressing on a capital project to replace breaker panels that have outdated grounding at the Diemer plant. The new circuit breaker panels will improve employee safety during maintenance work.



Staff preparing a new breaker panel for installation at the Diemer plant

Examine and Mitigate Adverse Water Quality Outcomes

On May 20, at the request of the Kern River Watermaster, the Department of Water Resources opened the Kern River Intertie to redirect flood flows from the Kern River into the California Aqueduct. Although it is not anticipated that introduction of this water will significantly affect water quality in the aqueduct, water quality conditions will be closely monitored for the duration of the operation.

Manage the Power System

Energy costs for the CRA for the 2022–2023 fiscal year are currently projected to be higher than budgeted. Current estimates on the total CRA energy cost range from \$135-140 million, compared with an original budget of \$102.5 million.

On May 9, staff attended the annual meeting of the Arizona Electric Power Co-Operative (AEP CO) in Tucson, AZ. Metropolitan is a Class D member of AEP CO.

On May 23, Metropolitan staff participated in the annual CAISO/RC West Summer Outlook and Emergency Communications program. The RC West staff discussed the events of summer 2022 and looked ahead to summer 2023, discussing the most recent long-range weather forecasts, load projections, and assessment of available generation resources. Of note, CAISO noted that approximately 3,000 MW of additional energy storage capability is expected to be online by peak load season. This is a significant capacity addition to the CAISO system and is about 6 percent of the all-time maximum CAISO demand of 52,061 MW that occurred on September 6, 2022. CAISO staff also

noted the importance of providing advanced notice of potential curtailments to water utilities such as Metropolitan and the California Department of Water Resources to allow for adjustment to pumping schedules.

Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation

On April 28, the California Air Resources Board unanimously voted to adopt the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) Regulation. The ACF includes a 50 percent zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) purchase mandate for medium to heavy-duty vehicles weighing more than 8,500 pounds starting in 2024, and 100 percent by 2027. The ACF will affect more than 500 Metropolitan vehicles, though it includes several exemptions that would allow Metropolitan to delay the purchase of ZEVs under certain conditions. Staff is currently working with Metropolitan's ZEV Executive Task Force to implement the rule.

On May 8, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) its **proposal** to list four PFAS chemicals (PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, and GenX chemicals) as "hazardous constituents" under the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA). After OMB's review, the EPA will publish the rule in the Federal Register for public comment. If finalized, this listing would require investigation and cleanup of these PFAS chemicals if released from an RCRA facility. Staff will track this rule as it relates to the issue of CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act) liability for water agencies.

On May 9, a U.S. Court of Appeals overruled EPA's July 21, 2020 decision not to regulate perchlorate in drinking water. The decision stems from a Natural Resources Defense Council lawsuit stating that the EPA had no authority to withdraw from a 2011 determination that perchlorate should be regulated. The Court's ruling is consistent with Metropolitan's previous comments that the EPA's decision not to regulate perchlorate was in error and that a perchlorate standard should be established that is protective of human health and the Colorado River.

On May 9, staff gave a presentation on Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs) to the Board's Engineering, Operations & Technology Committee, providing a general overview on the regulatory process for CECs and focusing on Metropolitan's preparation and engagement on microplastics and PFAS regulatory monitoring.

On May 11, the EPA released a prepublication copy of proposed new greenhouse gas (GHG) emission standards for new, existing, and retrofitted fossil fuel-fired electric generating units. The standards include the use of carbon capture and sequestration/storage (CCS) and co-firing with lower-GHG fuels. Under the proposed rule, nearly all of the United States' coal and large gas plants would have to reduce or capture 90 percent of their carbon dioxide emissions by 2038 or be forced to retire. The EPA is simultaneously proposing to repeal the Trump-era Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule because the rule is inconsistent with section 111 of the Clean Air Act. If promulgated, the rule would help to "green" the grid, but the costs are uncertain at this time.

Staff attended several webinars on microplastics and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to prepare for upcoming regulation and monitoring of these two groups of constituents. Metropolitan's participation included providing a presentation on developing sampling plans during a May 22 SWRCB workshop on microplastics sampling.

On May 30, Metropolitan submitted a comment letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in response to the agency's proposed regulations for six PFAS in drinking water (PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS, and GenX chemicals). Metropolitan's comments focused on whether regulation of some PFAS may be premature based on the current state of the science and occurrence data, sensitivity of analytical methods and laboratory capacity, economic feasibility, and potential liability for water utilities if PFAS are designated as hazardous substances under CERCLA.

Enhance Support Infrastructure at the Desert Facilities

Much of the aging infrastructure in the Desert was built from concrete, which is a strong, long-lasting material, but still requires maintenance and repairs to prevent cracking. This month, staff repaired the concrete corners of the Copper Basin Dam discharge valve structure to prevent future damage.



Concrete repair of Copper Basin discharge valve structure

Ensure Accurate Billing Infrastructure

Staff completed the repair to the CenB-49 service connection metering station located on the Second Lower Feeder. The repair included repairing damaged concrete, replacing the electric meter pedestal, installing two new vent stacks, and placing a new AMR cabinet.



The repaired CenB-49 metering station

Advance Education and Outreach Initiatives

During this month, staff provided tours of the Water Quality Laboratory for the City of Santa Ana Public Works and Drinking Water Department, Metropolitan's CIP Committee, new employees at the Weymouth plant, and Directors Seckel and McMillan and their guests.

Monthly Update as of:

5/31/2023

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
Colorado River Basin		
Lake Powell	7,802,000	32%
Lake Mead	7,984,000	31%
DWR		
Lake Oroville	3,454,363	97%
Shasta Lake	4,457,686	98%
San Luis Total	2,018,313	100%
San Luis CDWR	1,061,348	100%
Castaic Lake	311,761	96%
Silverwood Lake	70,205	94%
Lake Perris	121,182	92%
MWD		
DVL	569,117	70%
Lake Mathews	169,694	93%
Lake Skinner	38,001	86%



Hoover Dam

Information Technology

Project Highlights

Quality Assurance/Quality Control Automation

The Information Technology group has been making rapid progress with designing and implementing an integrated Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) framework that will be used to manage the IT QA/QCs team's functional and non-functional testing requirements. Essential components of the integrated framework include a new test case management system (TestLink), upgraded defect management system (Redmine), an automated scripting platform (Ruby-based Selenium), and an environment for Continuous Integration/Continuous Development (Jenkins). The introduction of automated testing is expected to provide a means for QA/QC staff to script, maintain, and execute predefined regression tests on a scheduled basis, thus greatly reducing the need for manual regression testing. An example where this has occurred is with the testing of Microsoft security patches that are delivered monthly by the Microsoft Corporation. The manual testing process, which requires a dedicated employee to perform 2–3 days of manual testing, can now be completed within a day and does not require a dedicated employee to perform the testing. The introduction of automated testing is also intended to reduce the IT group's dependency on business users for manual testing and can be leveraged to meet the non-functional testing requirements for IT-led maintenance projects (e.g. performance testing, load testing). Currently, the framework is establishing test coverage for several key Metropolitan applications, including Oracle Enterprise Business Suite, WINS, WorkTech, Labsheet, IESWTR, and FEA.

Physical Security Camera Replacement Project

The Information Technology Group is in the process of conducting site assessments among 60 sites across Metropolitan's service area to evaluate upgrades and requirements needed to support Physical Security Camera Replacement. The assessment covering the Eastern and Western region is estimated to be completed in the first quarter of next fiscal year.



Real Property

Highlights

Foster staff training and development.

Attended IRWA's 31st Annual Valuation Seminar in which a broad range of topics related to public agency valuation considerations, valuation of special use properties, eminent domain, appraisal expert witness testimony, and environmental contamination issues were presented. This training enables staff appraisers to deepen their understanding of issues affecting the valuation process in order to properly conduct valuation assessments.

Provide right-of-way planning, valuation, and real property acquisition support services for the sustainability and reliability of both imported and regional water supplies, and protection of water rights.

Acquired three six-month permits from Southern California Edison (SCE) to enter SCE property in the City of Industry, Whittier, and Pico Rivera, respectively. The entry permits were obtained for the purpose of conducting non-invasive site walks and observational studies to gather information for environmental surveys in connection with preparing Pure Water Southern California's Environmental Impact Report.

Core Business: Real Property Acquisition, Management, and Revenue Enhancement

Provide valuation, land management, and real property disposition support services for the maximum return or use of Metropolitan-owned land and facilities.

Entry permits were issued to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Andy Domenigoni for the replacement of seismic sensors and a one-day equestrian event, respectively. USGS is prepared to upgrade its existing earthquake early warning station within the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve.

District Housing Maintenance and Management.

Pre-occupancy repairs on one district house were completed this reporting period. Repairs to this house consisted of paint touchups, minor repairs, and cleaning. Desert housing maintenance staff also completed tenant-requested work orders consisting of installing security screens, replacement weatherstripping, new window blinds, installation of dog doors, air conditioning unit repairs, and irrigation repairs.

Desert Housing and Recreation Interim Action Plan (DHRIAP) has been implemented and work continues on several projects.

Carport installation efforts have now transitioned to Iron Mountain and Hinds, in which excavations for concrete footings have been completed.

The renovation of house 25-I at Iron Mountain is progressing. Already installed are a new air conditioning unit and all new duct work, new plumbing, insulation, and drywall. All new kitchen and bathroom cabinetry is in the process of being installed.

Work on the Iron Mountain Wellness Center is now complete. The new flooring has been installed, and the fitness equipment has been transferred to the new location.



New Iron Mountain Wellness Center

The installation of fencing privacy slats for four houses at Iron Mountain has been completed. Privacy slats were installed on all houses that had existing chain link fencing.



Fencing Privacy Slat Installation at Iron

Repairs to in-town housing continue with the replacement of the front concrete walkway at the Wicklow property in Riverside. The old walkway posed a tripping hazard because of age and water infiltration. In addition, repairs to the block retaining wall were completed. New supports and stone caps were installed to stabilize the structure.



Security

Project Highlights

Security and Emergency Response

Recent vulnerability assessments by Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, and La Verne Conveyance & Distribution (C&D) teams found that some pipelines have experienced either historically high occurrences of vandalism or possess additional exposures. Security specialists responded to a report of possible vandalism or potential intrusion into a Metropolitan substructure in Etiwanda. The structure was inspected and found secure, although attempts had been made to attack the lock shroud housing that protects the Metropolitan padlock and lid. Security staff requested several adults found there to relocate their personal belongings and three dogs from atop the structure, and they were cooperative.

Security specialists and Water System Operations Western Region C&D staff are working closely to comprehensively reinforce substructure lids along pressurized pipelines. For the most critical areas, stainless-steel reinforced lid systems are specially fabricated, craned into place, and then bolted to the inside of the structure entrance, guaranteeing the integrity of our drinking water system from human malfeasance. Security specialists will be conducting vulnerability assessments of Eastern Region C&D pipeline substructures beginning this month.



Security specialists and Western Region C&D staff partner to reinforce substructure lids along pipelines.

Employee Readiness for All Hazards and Emergencies

Information sharing among member agencies is an excellent opportunity for staff to learn innovative new security tradecraft and develop professional networking opportunities with other drinking water security practitioners. Metropolitan Security staff often collaborate with member agencies to provide:

- Lessons learned
- Physical security equipment feedback
- Security vendor experiences
- Crime prevention techniques
- Contract security industry standards
- Training

Security management and specialists met with staff from Calleguas Municipal Water District to give a tour of Metropolitan Headquarters at Union Station and share best practices in the areas of:

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Video Surveillance and Access Control systems
- Bleeding Control
- Physical security measures

A follow-up reciprocal visit is scheduled for this summer.



Security Management provided Calleguas staff a tour of Metropolitan Headquarters at Union Station and shared security best practices.

Security and Emergency Response

Effective communication among different agencies is crucial, particularly during times of crisis. In such situations, collaboration and coordination become paramount for a successful response. Metropolitan's Security Management Unit (SMU) staff recognizes the significance of fostering strong relationships and seamless information sharing among various stakeholders, including those at the Union Station campus.

To enhance their preparedness, the SMU actively engaged in a series of communication exercises during the past month with these stakeholders. The exercises provided an invaluable opportunity to test and refine communication protocols, identify potential gaps, and strengthen its ability to respond swiftly and effectively in crisis scenarios. By prioritizing communication and working closely with other agencies, Metropolitan ensures a unified and coordinated response that maximizes the safety and well-being of everyone involved.

Finance and Administration



Finance

Maintain Strong Financial Position

Provide timely and discerning financial analyses, planning, and management to ensure that forecasted revenues are sufficient to meet planned expenses and provide a prudent level of reserves consistent with board policy.

Manage risk to protect Metropolitan's assets against exposure to loss.

The Risk Management Unit completed 50 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 57 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events, and film permits.

Business Continuity

Facilitate district-wide planning and training to prepare employees and managers to effectively carry out critical roles and recover mission essential functions thus ensuring continuity of operations and resiliency in the event of a disaster.

Manage the Business Continuity Management Program in accordance with Operating Policy A-06.

- Facilitated the quarterly business continuity steering committee meeting. Good discussion about how to increase awareness about resiliency across the district.
- Continued facilitation of meetings between Payroll and Information Technology to develop payroll resiliency strategies during an extended system or computer outage to continue paying employees.
- Continued collaboration with IT and Cybersecurity to develop cyber resiliency plans for the district to continue working in the event of a cyber-attack rendering systems and computers unavailable.
- Continued working with the Fusion software vendor to make updates to the guided workflows used by planning coordinators to update their business continuity plans.

Financial Management

Manage Metropolitan's finances in an ethical and transparent manner and provide consistent, clear, and timely financial reporting. Update Metropolitan's capital financing plans and work with rating agencies and investors to communicate Metropolitan's financial needs, strategies, and capabilities, thus ensuring that Metropolitan has cost effective access to capital markets and the ability to finance ongoing future needs. In addition, actively manage Metropolitan's short-term investment portfolio to meet ongoing liquidity needs and changing economic environments.

Record and report the financial activities of Metropolitan in a timely, accurate, and transparent manner to the Board, executive management, member agencies, and the financial community.

- Water Transactions for April 2023 (for water delivered in February 2023) totaled 59.5 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 31.6 TAF lower than the budget of 91.1 TAF and translates to \$59.7 million in receipts for April 2023, which were \$26.0 million lower than the budget of \$85.7 million.
- Year-to-date water transactions through April 2023 (for water delivered in May 2022 through February 2023) were 1,248.9 TAF, which was 123.0 TAF lower than the budget of 1,371.9 TAF.

- Year-to-date water receipts through April 2023 were \$1,188.0 million, which was \$106.1 million lower than the budget of \$1,294.1 million. This amount includes \$21.0 million of revenues from the Reverse Cyclic program for which Metropolitan has 5 years to deliver the water.
- In April 2023, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,000 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$1,800 in discounts.

Update capital financing plans and work with rating agencies and investors to communicate financial needs and capabilities, ensure cost-effective access to capital markets, and maintain long-term bond ratings of AA or better.

For April 2023, the Treasury and Debt Management staff and financing team continued to finalize disclosure documents for the pricing of the 2023 Series A Water Revenue and Refunding Bonds, expected to price the week of June 5, 2023. Treasury and Debt Management staff worked with Legal on coordinating and developing responses to the questions submitted by the San Diego County Water Authority regarding Appendix A.

Prudently manage the investment of Metropolitan's funds in accordance with policy guidelines and liquidity considerations.

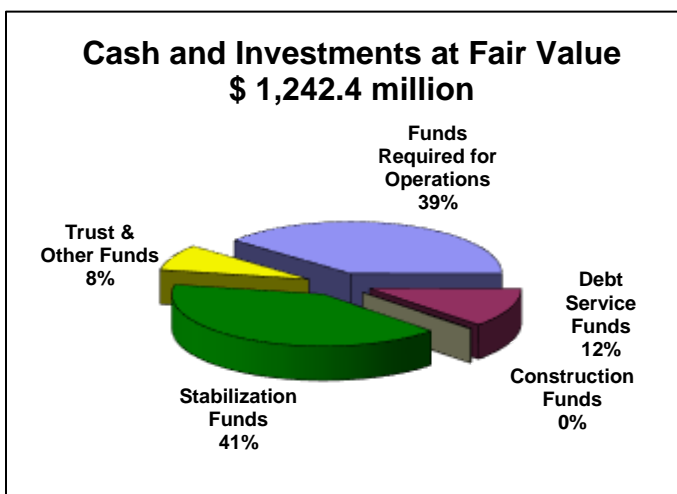
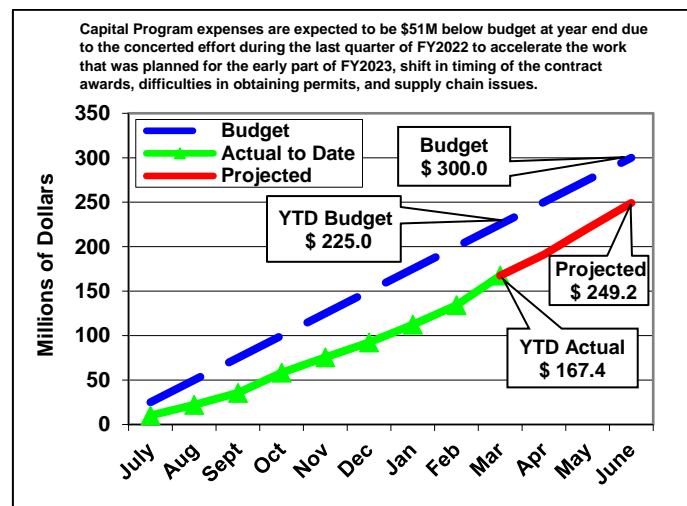
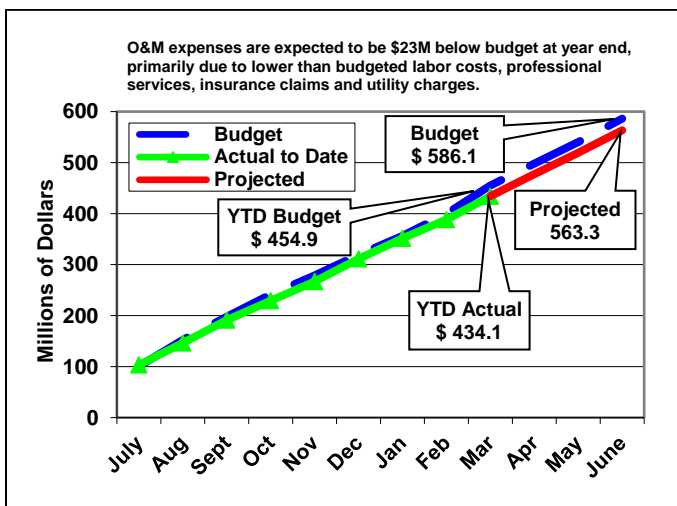
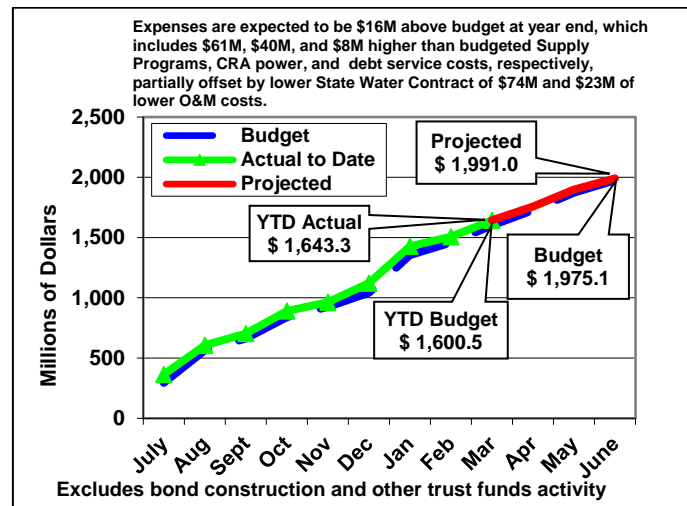
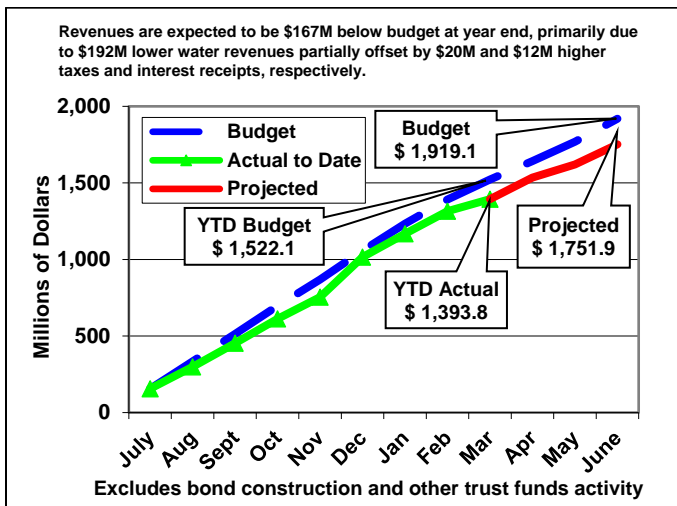
As of April 30, 2023, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.3 billion; in April 2023, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 23 trades.

In April 2023, Treasury staff processed 920 disbursements by check, 19 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 110 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 87 receipts by check, 26 receipts by ACH, and 43 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

In addition, there were 8,785 P-One Card transactions, totaling \$1.2 million, recorded in the April bank statement.

Finance and Administration

(continued)



Summary Financial Statistics

	Target	Year-End Projected
Fixed Charge Coverage	≥ 1.20 x	1.50
Revenue Bond Coverage	> 2.00 x	1.50
Revenue Bond Debt / Equity Ratio	< 100.0%	51.6%

Senior Lien Revenue Bond Credit Ratings

	Target	Current
- Moody's Investors Service	Aa2	Aa1
- Fitch Ratings	AA	AA+
- Standard & Poor's	AA	AAA

Administrative Services

Accomplishments

EForms Management & RMIS Sustainability

EForms Management and Records Management and Imaging Services (RMIS) participated in the Sustainability Expo. The EForms Management Team is helping Metropolitan be more sustainable by saving paper, improving efficiencies, and integrating workflows. In the last 90-day period, 77,000 requests were submitted using EForms, greatly reducing the need to print paper. To raise awareness, the EForms Management Team raffled off a \$15 Starbucks card. Congratulations, Christine Kitchenmaster (Office of the GM) for being the lucky winner! Imaging Services displayed samples of the high-quality products it can produce in-house. In support of sustainability, Imaging Services hopes to eliminate the outsourcing of print jobs, which in turn leads to reduced emissions and less traffic congestion from vehicles making job deliveries to Metropolitan. Additionally, through innovative thinking, items such as custom notebooks and scratch pads can be made from recycled paper, further reducing waste.



Use Rideshare to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

The Rideshare Program proudly participated in the Sustainability Expo held on April 25, 2023. The entire Rideshare Team was present to answer program questions and encourage participation district-wide; fewer cars on the road helps reduce air pollutant emissions and conserve non-renewable energy sources. Enterprise, our Vanpool partner, also attended to promote their Commute with Enterprise program. In addition to providing free Rideshare giveaways such as lanyard holders, pens, and paper pads, the Team raffled off two Rideshare goody bags. Thanks to our raffle winners, Alice Tseng (Engineering Services) and Erick Villalta (Water System Operations), and all the employees who stopped by the Rideshare booth to connect! Please stay in the loop by visiting our Rideshare SharePoint webpage for all things Rideshare.



Contracting Services Unit, Professional Services Contracting Team

The Professional Services Contracting Team (PSCT) completed RFP 1327 for Desalination Research. RFP 1327 will help Metropolitan further increase its knowledge of desalination and treatment of brackish water and seawater to develop additional potable water supplies in the Southern California region. This effort will enhance Metropolitan's role as a sustainable, resilient, and innovative water supplier.

Human Resources

HR Priorities

Partner with Metropolitan leadership to support learning, development, and adaptive workforce planning initiatives.

In May, 360 Metropolitan employees attended virtually facilitated classes, including Presentation Skills, Resume Writing, Time Management, Organization Skills, MS Project, and Everyday Business Writing.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan’s online e-learning content platform, was accessed for such topics as Presenting and Staying on Point, Resolving Conflicts, Leading with Emotional Intelligence, and Writing with Impact.

The Organizational Development & Training Unit (OD&T) hosted in-person workshops for Franklin Covey’s 7 Habits and Project Management.

Seek diverse, high-quality talent, and establish partnerships to discover additional outreach opportunities that aid in staffing positions.

Recruitment successfully filled 33 positions for May. Recruitment received new staffing requisitions for 47 positions, resulting in 221 positions currently in recruitment.

HR Core Business: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations

Effectively administer all Human Resources policies, programs, and practices in compliance with applicable federal and state laws and Metropolitan’s Administrative Code, Operating Policies, and Memorandum of Understanding.

In May, 12 new workers’ compensation claims were received. Six employees are currently off work because of an industrial injury or illness, and one employee has returned to work. This reflects Metropolitan’s effort to accommodate injured workers, while enabling them to be productive and on the job. Staff continues to address four accommodations both in-house and with Shaw HR Consulting.

In addition, staff added one more industrial medicine provider to the roster to increase the number of options for Metropolitan employees. Staff continues to work closely with our Workers’ Compensation third-party administrator, TRISTAR Risk Management.

Activities of the Medical Screening Unit are summarized as follows for May:

- Rescheduled Medvan to individual clinic appointments because of a facility shutdown.
- Facilitated return-to-work from leave for four employees.
- Addressed 45 accommodation issues, including referrals and follow ups with Shaw HR Consulting.

HR Metrics	June 2022	May 2023	Prior Month April 2023
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,762	1770	1,766
Temporary Employees	37	17	14
Interns	2	0	0
Recurrents	18	18	18
Annuitants	19	24	24

Finance and Administration

(continued)

	May 2023	April 2023
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	221	207
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	47	17
	May 2023	April 2023
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	7	9
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	2	2
Number of New Job Audit Requests	0	1

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
External Hires	FY 21/22 Totals	May 2023	FISCAL YTD
Regular Employees	82	9	102
Temporary Employees	36	5	22
Interns	4	0	0
Internal Promotions	70	17	67
Management Requested Promotions	152	25	142
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	127	5	93
Employee-Requested Transfers	15	2	15

Departures

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
Castellanos	Arnold	Sr Designer	3/8/2023	Retirement—Service	Engineering Services
Hanley	Katrin	Team Mgr—Laboratory Support	3/22/2023	Retirement—Service	Water System Operations
Crawford	Dane	Pump Plant Specialist	4/13/2023	Retirement—Service	Water System Operations
Narvaiz	John	Pr Engineer	4/4/2023	Retirement—Service	Engineering Services
Chiang	Edwin	Assoc Engineer	4/14/2023	Resign—Accepted Other Employment	Water System Operations

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Tribal Outreach & Engagement

The DEI and WSO team held its inaugural “Indigenous Pathways” career event with the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT). The event consisted of a Job Tour Review (JTR) where 15 students from the Parker High School, located in the CRIT reservation, were given a tour of the Metropolitan Gene Intake Plant to learn how Metropolitan water systems work. Students were also able to interact with staff from different career fields to learn about various aspects of their jobs and the requirements to get hired. As a result, two students who attended the JTR have expressed their interest in joining the Metropolitan apprenticeship program.



Business Outreach & Community Engagement



On May 4, the Business Outreach Team attended The Business Equality Contracting event hosted by Minorea. Advocating opportunities for inclusion of qualified businesses that are considered disadvantaged, small businesses, or owned by minorities (women, LGBTQ+, veterans, African Americans, Asians), concentrating their mission on creating contracting opportunities, education, and development of capacity building for these businesses, so that they can take the next step on the long path to becoming entrepreneurs.

Finance and Administration

(continued)



On May 9, the Business Outreach Team attended The Burns & McDonnell Community of Inclusion & Equity Symposium. The community is committed to taking supplier diversity, equity, and inclusion to the next level. The conversation concerned how engineering, construction, consulting, and environmental work can be built upon a proactive approach to inclusion.



On May 12, the Business Outreach Team attended National Latina Business Women Association-IE (LEILA Awards). The awards celebrate and advocate for Disadvantaged and Women-Owned Businesses. The Business Outreach Team was joined by members from Metropolitan’s Employee Resource Groups; this included Carlos Carrillo, Ivonne Castillo, Monica Castillo, Jolene Ditmar, Anna Garcia, and Phyvin Mok.



In celebration of Small Business Month, from May 12 to May 14, Metropolitan was one of the co-sponsors of the National Association of Women Business Owners—California Small Business Conference. Ken Ashford, Pr. Public Affairs Representative from the Business Outreach Team, presented in a panel presentation on “Doing Business with Utilities and Water Agencies.”

Finance and Administration

(continued)

On May 18, the Business Outreach Team attended MyGBCE. MyGBCE (formerly known as Green Building Council Expo) is the largest and longest-running gathering of green building and sustainability professionals who advocate in Southern California for DBE inclusion in a sustainable economy.

On May 18, the Business Outreach Team attended LA Owners Present Small Business & Disadvantage-Business Goals. The Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) hosted its first-ever LA Owners Round Table.



External Affairs

Highlights

Media and public interest in Colorado River issues remained high, and the announcement of a proposed agreement by the Lower Basin States to voluntarily reduce water use generated interviews with GM Hagekhalil and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp and the New York Times, LA Times, Associated Press, Arizona Daily Star, KABC-TV Channel 7, KNBC-TV Channel 4, KTLA-TV Channel 5, KCBS-TV Channel 2/KCAL-TV Channel 9, Spectrum News, KNX-AM 1070, KPCC-FM 89.9/LAist, and Cal Matters. Chair Ortega was interviewed by Telemundo 52.

Chair Ortega, GM Hagekhalil, and Chief SRI Officer Crosson spoke at the VerdeXchange on efforts being taken to reduce the district's carbon footprint and adapt to immediate climate change impacts. (May 1)



The Colorado River Board of California honored outgoing member Director Glen Peterson for his years of service on the board.

GM Hagekhalil attended the Global Water Summit 2023 in Berlin, Germany, and spoke on the many ways California is using innovation to build greater resiliency amid climate change. (May 9)

Chair Ortega, Directors Ackerman, Atwater, Cordero, DeJesus, Erdman, Fellow, Kurtz, Peterson, and Seckel, EO/AGM Upadhyay, and Metropolitan staff attended the ACWA Spring Conference in Monterey. (May 9-11)

Chair Ortega addressed the Colorado River Board of California at its monthly meeting, which was

attended by Directors Glen Peterson and Cordero. Director Peterson was recognized for serving as Metropolitan's representative from 2011 to 2023. (May 11)

Directors Cordero, Dennstedt, Kurtz, Luna, and Pressman attended the Law of the Colorado River conference with other river experts. Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp and WRM Engineer Lamdin were speakers on the next generation of water policy. (May 18)



The One Water Awards event honored six agencies for innovative water-saving that were partially funded by Metropolitan's Water Savings Investment Program

Metropolitan hosted the One Water Awards, where it recognized six businesses and municipalities from throughout Southern California for their investments in large-scale water-efficiency projects. GM Hagekhalil, Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Repenning, and Directors Fellow, Goldberg, McMillan, and Seckel attended. (May 22)

Legislative Services

Federal

Metropolitan staff briefed Congressional offices on the Lower Basin states plan to conserve an additional 3 million acre-feet of Colorado River water through 2026. Staff emphasized the important role the Inflation Reduction Act funding played in the agreement and the need to invest the remaining IRA funding in long-term water conservation measures such as removal of non-functional turf.

State

GM Hagekhalil joined with Natural Resources Secretary Crowfoot and other officials to testify at the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee hearing, Update on the Status of the Colorado River. (May 2)

Staff worked to secure support from the Los Angeles legislative delegation for Metropolitan's \$50 million budget request to accelerate the construction of water infrastructure projects.

Discussions continued with co-sponsors, legislative staff, and other organizations on several priority bills including AB 1572 to ban watering of non-functional turf on some properties, AB 1573 to establish new landscape requirements for new construction, proposed climate, and water bond measures, and bills that would expand design-build, change water rights, and promote groundwater recharge.

Local

Group Manager Bednarski served as the Metropolitan speaker for the West Basin MWD Elected Official Forum with elected leaders from West Basin's service territory to speak about current and proposed initiatives. (May 5)

Metropolitan sponsored the UC Riverside School of Public Policy Water Affordability Symposium. Chair Ortega and Assembly Majority Leader Gómez Reyes served as event speakers. (May 18)

Director Sutley attended and Metropolitan sponsored the Central City Association's Treasures of Los Angeles luncheon. (May 18)

Metropolitan sponsored the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce State of the City event. (May 31)

Metropolitan staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 67 webinars, virtual meetings, and events this month with community organizations, trade associations, and local officials on water-specific topics.

Media and Communications

- Arranged an interview with France Public Radio reporter Loic Pialat and WRM's Polyzos regarding winter storms and water supply in California
- Set up an interview with SRI Chief Crosson and Southern California News Group's Inland Empire and Orange County newspapers, regarding Climate Adaptation Master Plan
- Produced videos for One Water Awards and water conservation campaign
- Arranged an interview with Weather Channel and WRM's Resource Specialist Guerrero on turf replacement



A new series of digital posts honored Mother's Day and water use information directed more Southern Californians to bewaterwise.com for tips and rebates

Press Releases

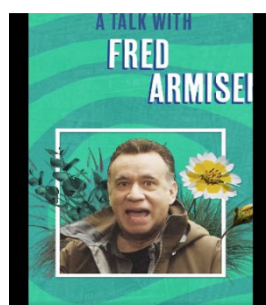
- GM statement on the submission of a consensus Lower Basin Plan for the Colorado River
- One Water Awards, recognizing six businesses and municipalities for their investments in large-scale water-efficiency projects

Website

Received more than 77,000 views on mwdh2o.com, with careers, job listings, and Diamond Valley Lake being the most trafficked. Maintained a strong presence on bewaterwise.com, with nearly 121,000 views.

Completed new set of historical CRA vignettes for inspection trip tours, website, and airing in HQ rotunda.

Social Media



Among the most popular social media posts were those that highlighted Memorial Day and MVets; actor Fred Armisen on water conservation; and the graduating class of Metropolitan's apprentice program.

Earned nearly 30 million impressions since July on social media platforms for the district's conservation advertising campaign, which generated nearly 200,000 clicks.

Highlighted Infrastructure Week; featured Metropolitan employees in posts to commemorate Asian American & Pacific Islander Month, Administrative Professionals Day, and Memorial Day; and celebrated recent graduates of the apprentice program.

Posted interview with EO/AGM Upadhyay and PPIC on this year's water conditions and planning for the future.

Public Outreach and Member Services

Pure Water Southern California

Provided presentations and briefings for the West Basin Elected Officials Forum (May 5); Los Angeles Environmental Justice Network/Del Amo Action Committee (May 16); Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (May 16); and Caltrans staff. (May 24)

Held tours for Congresswoman Kalmager-Dove (May 5) and attended by Director Morris; Integrated Regional Water Management WaterTalks for LA County agencies and elected officials (May 11); CORO Fellows (May 15); Assembly member Josh Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) (May 19); East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (May 20); and AECOM (May 24)



Representative Kalmager-Dove and staff visit Pure Water Southern California demonstration facility

Other Outreach Activities

- Notified Sierra Madre residents of upcoming construction activities on Upper Feeder (May 4)
- Colorado River update for South Bay Council of Govts (May 10)
- Tour of Weymouth Treatment Plant, Shops, and Water Quality Lab for the city of Santa Ana Public Works Department (May 11)
- Presentation on Metropolitan and Colorado River issues to the CORO Fellows (May 15)
- Reminded residents in the communities of Winchester, Murrieta, and Temecula about the dangers of trespassing in the San Diego Canal (May 23)
- Provided four director inspection trips to Hoover Dam and the Colorado River, State Water Project, Pure Water Southern California, and regional infrastructure; led tours to Hoover Dam for Ducks Unlimited

Education and Community Relations

Interacted with nearly 5,100 teachers, students, and adults through in-person and online field trips, community events, meetings, and online class presentations.

Hosted a water education booth at the Water Replenishment District's Groundwater Festival; Ignite22; Schools' Agriculture and Nutrition Program at the L.A. County Fair; and the Los Angeles U.S. Green Building Conference.

Community Partnering and Sponsorship Program

Sponsored and hosted an exhibit booth and workshop at the 2023 L.A. Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) Forum that provided informational resources about programs, water conservation, and water supply updates. (May 3)

Directors Abdo, Camacho, M. Petersen, G. Peterson, Quinn, and Sutley, GM Hagekhalil, EO/AGM Upadhyay, and AGM/CFO Kasaine and staff attended, and Metropolitan sponsored, the Heal the Bay event. (May 18)

Director Cordero and staff attended and Metropolitan sponsored the Cottonwood Awards Event at Rancho Los Alamitos. (May 26)

Metropolitan also sponsored the Water Replenishment District Groundwater Festival and Western Municipal Water District's Annual Open House.



MWD of SoCal @mwdh2o · 23h

This #TeacherAppreciationWeek, we thank our teachers who have come with their classes this school year to DVL and Pure Water SoCal to learn about where their water comes from. Pictured are 4th-6th grade classes from San Jacinto, Rosa Parks and French Valley elementary schools.



Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation



Sustainability, Resilience, Innovation and Environmental Planning

SRI Core Activities

Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W): Terminology and Interests Board Workshop

The Chief of Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation (SRI) Officer helped lead and present at the CAMP4W Board Workshop. The following terms were discussed with the Board and water member agencies: reliability, resilience, affordability, and financial sustainability. Following the Workshop, the planning team will develop draft guiding principles and preliminary evaluative criteria for board consideration.

VerdeXchange

The Chief SRI Officer participated on two panels on stormwater capture and recycled water strategies at the *VerdeXchange VX2023*. She and others from Met also participated in a Water Charrette, focused on climate adaptation and resilience strategies. *VerdeXchange* gathered accomplished clean, green, and blue tech entrepreneurs, energy and water companies, advanced vehicle manufacturers, public policymakers as well as: procurers, innovative financiers, and environmental stewards “under-one-roof” to assess what's in-market, about to be in-market, and what's needed in market to propel the global, multi-trillion-dollar verde economy.



The Chief SRI Office Presenting at the VerdeXchange in Los Angeles

Special Districts Legislative Days in Sacramento

The Chief SRI Officer participated on a panel at the Special Districts Legislative Days in Sacramento discussing infrastructure and water supply challenges in a changing climate.

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

(continued)

Climate Change Preparedness Conference in Washington D.C.

The Chief SRI Officer also participated at the Climate Change Preparedness Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference united climate experts, government officials and policymakers, community organizers, and environmental professionals to focus on adaptive solutions to foster climate resilience.

SRI Council Meeting

This month's SRI Council Meeting focused on Metropolitan's Capital Investment Program (CIP) and opportunities to promote sustainability in existing and new projects. SRI Council members identified and discussed projects that mitigate the causes of climate change through reductions in greenhouse gases as well as proposals that adapt to the effects of climate change by improving Metropolitan's ability to deliver water during extreme climate events.

2022 Climate Action Plan Implementation Progress Report

Metropolitan released its inaugural [Climate Action Plan report](#), detailing its progress over the past year on a suite of measures designed to help the district achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. The report highlights achievements on these measures from May through December 2022, including the total amount of non-functional turf removed, progress switching to cleaner electricity purchases, and development of a plan to replace fossil-fuel vehicles.

Zero Emissions Fleet (ZEV) Transition

SRI continued to work with Metropolitan-wide work groups that are charged with activities related to the transition to ZEVs including Water System Operation's (WSO) fleet replacement strategy, regulatory compliance, design and build out of the infrastructure plan, vehicle procurement, grants, incentives, rebates, and lastly, financing options for the chosen vehicle replacement strategy. SRI and signed an agreement with Jacobs Engineering and Gladstein, Neondross, and Associates (GNA) to develop a roadmap to assist Metropolitan's implementation of the transition.

SRI and WSO attended the annual Advanced Clean Transportation (ACT) Expo in Anaheim May 1–4 to learn about emerging technology for zero emission vehicles, chargers, and infrastructure. Participants attended workshops on application and eligibility for ZEV grants, incentives, and other funding opportunities, how to partner with other utilities for successful ZEV procurement, and how to navigate fleet regulations. Employees were also able to meet with vehicle manufacturers and discuss market availability, as well as test drive both electric and hydrogen-fueled vehicles.



Annual Advanced Clean Transportation (ACT) Expo in Anaheim

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

(continued)

ZEV Charger Selection

SRI, WSO, and Engineering Services (ESG) Groups began evaluating manufacturers of ZEV chargers for the pilot of Fleet chargers at Union Station and Weymouth; these chargers will be used exclusively for electric fleet vehicles. Staff visited the Shell Recharge Solutions headquarters in downtown Los Angeles on May 22 to learn about Shell's efforts in developing both charging equipment and integrated software for fleets. Staff also obtained quotes for charging equipment and installation from vendor contacts made at the ACT Expo. The two pilots are expected to begin by the end of 2023.



Staff visiting Shell Recharge facility in downtown Los Angeles

Green Procurement

SRI and Administrative Services met with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Office to discuss how their mission and responsibilities may pertain Metropolitan's venture into new sustainable procurement practices.

Innovation

IGNITE22 at AltaSea – May 4 – AltaSea at the Port of Los Angeles

SRI's Innovation Team, Engineering, Operations, Water Resource Management (WRM), Survey, and External Affairs Teams sponsored and exhibited at Braid Theory's IGNITE22 at AltaSea on May 4 at the Port of Los Angeles. SRI's Innovation Team discovered six potential technologies at IGNITE22 to introduce to Metropolitan's Internal Teams. Two of the companies exhibiting at the event were discovered last year at IGNITE22 and have pilots at Metropolitan. The event had over 600 participants. Metropolitan's Innovation Team has been a partner with Braid Theory for many years, and Metropolitan and our member agencies have been on panels and have been keynote speakers at IGNITE22 and have had workshops, demos, presentations, and many more partnering opportunities with Braid Theory.

LADWP's Women's Career and Wellness Fair—May 6—LADWP Training Center Truesdale in Sun Valley

SRI's Innovation Team was invited by LADWP's Water Innovation Team (WIT) to participate in the first-ever LADWP Women's Career and Wellness Expo on May 6, at the Truesdale Training Center in Sun Valley. Over 2,000 people attended the event. Many attendees at the event were families with young children, teens looking for alternate

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

(continued)

careers, and people excited about the opportunity for careers in water. The event highlighted employment opportunities for women in engineering, IT, water quality, and many other areas including non-traditional areas. The Fair had many demonstrations to highlight what employees do at LADWP. The Fair also included a wellness center, EV's, large equipment used at LADWP, including a helicopter, and many ways to interact with LADWP employees and discover career opportunities. The Fair provided an inspirational way to engage with LADWP workers and encourage interest in careers in the water industry <http://LADWPCommission.com/Womens-Expo>.



LADWP's Women's Career and Wellness Fair

Octane's Innovation Week in Orange County

SRI's Innovation Team, Engineering, Operations, and WRM Teams Sponsored and participated in Octane's Innovation week on May 9–11 in Orange County. SRI's Innovation Team discovered four potential technologies in the Fast Pitch Competition to engage and possibly pilot at Metropolitan. One of the companies pitching at the event is already in two pilot projects at Metropolitan. The event had over 600 participants. Metropolitan has been a sponsor of Octane for many years, and our member agencies have been on panels and have been keynote speakers at Octane's Technology Innovation Forum.

Octane's Fast Pitch and Tech Innovation Forum took center stage, fueling innovation in Orange County and uniting a dynamic mix of content, inspiring speakers, startups, and visionary individuals shaping the future of SoCal. OC Innovation Week was an exciting event showcasing the vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem of Orange County. Two key highlights of the week were the Fast Pitch event at UCI Beall Applied Innovation and Octane's Tech Innovation Forum, both of which brought together industry leaders, innovators, and investors. Fast Pitch, held on Tuesday, May 9 at the Cove at UCI Beall Applied Innovation, was a platform for 29 companies to present their groundbreaking ideas and technologies.

Following Fast Pitch, the 2023 Tech Innovation Forum kicked off at AV Irvine, featuring a fireside chat with Marc Bell, Co-Founder, Chairman, and CEO of Terran Orbital. Marc Bell's insights and experiences captivated the audience as he shared his journey in the world of technology innovation. The fireside chat provided valuable perspectives on the challenges and opportunities that arise in the pursuit of groundbreaking ideas.

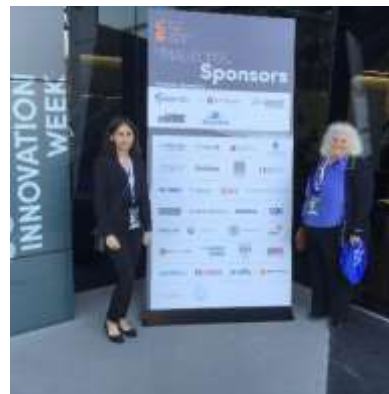
The Women Leaders of Octane played a crucial role in OC Innovation Week by hosting a kick-off breakfast and organizing a female-led panel titled "*Finding the Innovator or Founder in You!*" The panel featured accomplished women tech innovators and founders who shared their experiences, inspirations, challenges, and recommendations. Their insights and stories served as a source of inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs, especially women looking to make their mark in the tech industry.

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

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Additionally, the Irvine Ecosystem Accelerating Electrification of 2-Wheel Mobility panel brought together key influencers to discuss the importance of clean and sustainable communities, innovative technology and infrastructure, and policy development. Panelists shared their perspectives on the role of their respective organizations within the rapidly growing 2-wheel mobility segment and its implications for building sustainable communities.

Another topic was Intrapreneurship in Orange County. This panel delved into the concept of intrapreneurship, which evolved around the strategies and initiatives implemented by companies to encourage intrapreneurship and foster an entrepreneurial mindset among employees. They discussed the importance of creating an environment that supports risk-taking, experimentation, and creativity within a corporate setting. The panel brought together industry experts who have played key roles in driving innovation within their respective companies.



Octane's Innovation Week in Orange County

Environmental Planning Section

Core Business: Environmental Planning and Regulatory Compliance Support

Bay Delta Initiatives

Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project

- Prepared responses to comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), prepared the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), and finalized all documents in support of the June board action to adopt the MND.
- Conducted site visit of Bouldin Island with Bay Delta Initiatives staff to support permitting efforts for the project (see photos).

Delta Conveyance Project

- Continued supporting preparation of the responses to comments for the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for cultural resources and tribal cultural resources impact categories on behalf of public water agencies.
- Continued coordination meetings with Department of Water Resources staff and regulatory permitting agencies.

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation

(continued)



Bouldin Island Site Visit



Bouldin Island Site Visit



Proposed site for research ponds on Bouldin Island



Proposed tule harvesting site to supply vegetation for research ponds

Engineering Services Group

Etiwanda Pipeline Relining Project

- Continued oversight of project construction monitoring and mitigation compliance.

Perris Valley Pipeline

- Conducted on-site kick-off meeting to initiate construction monitoring and mitigation compliance.

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Rehabilitation Program

- Continued construction monitoring and mitigation compliance for Lake Mathews Valve Storage Project and Second Lower Feeder Reaches 3A and 3B projects.
- Provided support for the Sepulveda Feeder Urgent Carbon Fiber Rehabilitation Project.

Pure Water Southern California

- Continued tribal cultural resources consultation with the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation.
- Prepared draft cultural resources and hazardous materials technical reports.
- Developed uniform noise thresholds for the entire program.
- Conducted biological surveys to capture alignment modifications.

Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program

- Continued preparation of the Administrative Draft Program EIR and the health risk analysis, noise, traffic, and site access technical reports.

Construction Monitoring

- Continued construction monitoring for the Orange County Feeder Relining Reach 3, Weymouth Basins 5–8 Rehabilitation, La Verne Shops Upgrades, and Weymouth Battery Energy Storage System projects.

External Affairs Group

- Participated in California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB) Natural Resources Task Force (NRTF) monthly meeting.

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Office

Climate Action Plan (CAP) Monitoring and Reporting

- Finalized the natural gas equipment inventory usage survey and continued coordination of data gathering related to employee commute survey, net zero waste policies, and LED lighting inventory measures.

Tribal Outreach

- Met with the Assistant Director of Chemeheuvi Museum in Joshua Tree to discuss partnership on tribal nursery/greenhouse renovation and functional expansion of demonstration garden.

Water System Operations Group

- Provided environmental clearance for over 30 miles of road grading for the Rialto Pipeline.
- Received a Notice of Complete Application from California Department of Fish and Wildlife in support of the Holland Road Drainage Ditch Routine Maintenance Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Reserve Management

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Initiated preparation of planned prescribed burns to be conducted in June. Preparation includes conducting vegetation surveys, establishing control lines, and removing fuels around native vegetation communities.
- Installed fencing to prevent trespassing on the reserve.
- Mowed grassland habitat for fire and habitat management in the western portion of the reserve.
- Conducted California gnatcatcher surveys south of Cajalco Road; several individuals were observed.
- Conducted invasive species control and thatch reduction as a component of native habitat restoration.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Coordinated with researchers surveying for white-tailed kite, Quino checkerspot butterfly, cactus wren, Stephens' kangaroo rat, and riparian bird surveys.
- Reserve interpreter conducted outreach on the Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) Wildflower Trail and opened the Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center at Lake Skinner on Saturday afternoons.
- Deployed brown-headed cowbird traps for the 2023 season.
- Conducted invasive plant species removal, including Sahara mustard and stinknet.
- Conducted rare plant surveys along the DVL east and west dams and in the DVL North Hills, where hundreds of state-listed threatened and federally-listed endangered Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*) were observed (see photo).



State-listed threatened and federally-listed endangered Munz's onion (*Allium munzii*)

External Document Reviews

- Reviewed 15 CEQA notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.

Real Property Support

- Provided environmental analysis and CEQA determinations in support of three real property agreements.



Metropolitan's Mission is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

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