



● Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – April 2026

Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board for the month of April 2026, as well as highlights the activities of Board Members who have been appointed to represent The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) externally, on matters relating to the district.

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- Joined the General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh in observing the approval of the Eastern Municipal Water District's purchase of water through Metropolitan's exchange agreement with the San Diego County Water Authority. The intra-member water sale requiring no new infrastructure was facilitated by changes to Metropolitan's business model through the CAMP4Water Member Agency Taskforce and the legal settlement agreement ending 15 years of disputes over rates between Metropolitan and the San Diego County Water Authority.
- Joined Congresswoman Napolitano in the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project's Tile Transfer Ceremony, where I had the opportunity to speak, marking the completion of a decades-long effort to relocate 16 million tons of radioactive material and permanently safely remove the uranium mill tailings that once bordered the Colorado River. This milestone underscores the sustained collaboration and dedication required to safeguard one of the West's most critical water resources.



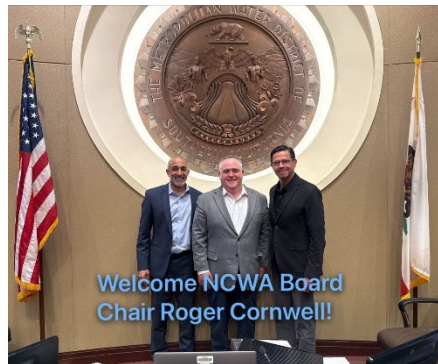
- Attended the City of San Fernando City Council meeting, where I delivered my quarterly update. This quarter, I briefed the City Council about Metropolitan's ongoing budget process under consideration by the Board. I provided an overview of key priorities, including investments in water supply reliability, infrastructure, conservation programs, and climate resilience, while also outlining potential impacts to member agencies and ratepayers. The presentation offered councilmembers an opportunity to better understand regional water policy decisions, ask questions, and engage in discussion on how Metropolitan's budget aligns with local needs and long-term water management goals.



- Traveled to Sacramento and visited with members of the California legislature with fellow Metropolitan Director Jay Lewitt, Chair of the Legislation & Communications Committee, and joined the State Water Contractors for an advocacy day in support of AB 2215 (Calderon) and SB 872 (McNerney). Together, we covered 16 legislative meetings in one day. In addition, Director Crane was in attendance on behalf of the Metropolitan Water District of Orange County and also had a full day of legislative meetings.



- At the Executive Committee meeting, we welcomed the leadership of the Northern California Water Association and heard their remarks, sharing their initiatives and priorities that include partnerships with Metropolitan. Following the committee meeting, we continued discussions, which also included General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh and MWD staff on how we can build water abundance and stewardship through a watershed-based approach that benefits the entire state.



Speaking Engagements/Events

- Served as a panelist alongside Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and incoming Metropolitan Director Paula Daniels at the 3rd Mediterranean Climate Action Partnership, which convened at the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant. Paula Daniels, who is also Executive Director of the LA County Office of Food Systems, moderated the panel. The event brought international leaders together to highlight advanced pathways for collective climate action across Mediterranean regions and build momentum amid intensifying climate impacts. I highlighted Metropolitan's strategic response to ongoing water scarcity challenges, outlining key elements of the Board-approved budget, including investments in conservation programs, system reliability, and climate resilience. I also discussed the expanded conservation of water by Metropolitan—particularly in agriculture, as a critical component of long-term supply diversification, and provided an update on conditions and management efforts related to the Colorado River.



- Participated in the spring State Water Project tour for the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, where I joined the group and engaged in meaningful discussion about the State's water infrastructure.

Interviews:

- Interviewed by Spencer JaQuay, a student working on his PhD at the University of California, Irvine, regarding workforce development and how utility organizational structures influence workforce development efforts. The discussion focused on how utilities build organizational adaptability to support workforce development goals and help address broader workforce challenges across the water sector.

Delegation of Activities:

- Due to my attendance at the Moab event, Board Vice Chair Michael Camacho attended the final signing ceremony for the water supply agreement between the San Diego County Water Authority and Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). Vice Chair Camacho presented EMWD with a commendation in recognition of the agency becoming the second to execute an agreement under the member agency transfer framework established by the most recent updates to Metropolitan's business model.

Other Activities

- Published in the Moab Times-Independent Op-Ed highlighting the completion of the uranium mill tailings removal in Moab, Utah. In the piece, I emphasize that this historic achievement was made possible by basin leaders prioritizing the health of the river and urged Basin States to carry that same focus forward as they negotiate the Colorado River's post-2026 operating guidelines.
Link to Op-Ed: [What Moab taught me about solving the impossible](#)

Director Summaries

- Summary of the April 28, 2026, Subcommittee on Imported Water – Director McMillan reported on the following: At the April 28, 2026, Subcommittee on Imported Water meeting, Director Jacque McMillan reported on the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Directors meeting held on April 16, 2026, and the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) Board of Directors meeting, held on February 19, 2026.

No action was taken at the DCA meeting. Executive Director Graham Bradner provided a monthly update, highlighting ongoing engineering and environmental support for the Department of Water Resources (DWR), including studies to advance project design and explore potential innovations. The team is also preparing to update the cost estimate and Basis of Design Report in early 2027, while continuing to develop internal management plans to support the transition to the delivery phase that same year.

DWR's Environmental Manager reported that several key permits have been issued. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a biological opinion for project construction under the federal Endangered Species Act on March 9, 2026. DWR is continuing coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service to complete consultation on its biological opinion for construction. In addition, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife issued Amendment 1 to the project's Incidental Take Permit on March 24, 2026, which includes updates such as adding the recently listed burrowing owl.

This is an update on the actions taken at the DCFA Board of Directors' meeting held on February 19, 2026.

Director Jacque McMillan of Metropolitan was elected President of the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority Board, Director Paul Sethy of Alameda County Water District was elected Vice President, and Director Robert Cheng of Coachella Valley Water District was re-elected as Secretary.

Katano Kasaine, Metropolitan's Assistant General Manager and Chief Financial Officer, was reappointed as Treasurer, and the Board approved a two-year extension of the contract with Brian G. Thomas Consulting to continue serving as Executive Director.

- Director De Jesus' update on the Property Utilization Committee will be heard at the June meeting of Metropolitan's Agriculture and Tribal Partnership Committee. Here's a brief summary on the Property Utilization Committee (PUC):
The PUC provides a means to share information with PVID on land management activities on Metropolitan's property in the Palo Verde Valley. Directors Cynthia Kurtz, Desi Alvarez and David

DeJesus serve on the committee along with three directors from Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID). The PUC last met in December at the Colorado River Water Users Association conference in Las Vegas, where they continued their discussion on farm water conservation projects in the Palo Verde Valley. Metropolitan continues our work with PVID and California State University, Chico, on pilot programs to help raise water conservation efforts in the Palo Verde Valley and meet water demands.

Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

- Continued to meet regularly with the Board leadership, the General Manager, the General Counsel, the Ethics Officer, and the General Auditor to discuss policy and organizational issues.