



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## Operations Groups

### • **Water System Operations Activities**

#### **Summary**

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This monthly report for the Operations Groups provides updates to the General Manager's Business Plan and a summary of activities for January 2026 in the following key areas:

- Enhance Workforce Safety and Security
- Manage Business Operations, Budget, and Staffing
- Ensure Accurate Billing and Support Revenue Generation
- Ensure Resilient and Reliable Operations
- Advance Pure Water Southern California
- Protect Source Waters
- Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution Operations
- Ensure Water Quality and Environmental Compliance
- Optimize Maintenance and Asset Management
- Ensure Power and Environmental Regulatory Compliance
- Engage in Legislative and Regulatory Processes
- Engage with Member Agencies and Other Stakeholders on Technical Matters

#### **Purpose**

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Informational by the Operations Groups on a summary of key activities and updates for the month of January 2026.

#### **Attachments**

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**Attachment 1: Detailed Report –Operations Groups’ Monthly Activities for January 2026**

# Operations Groups

## GM Business Plan Updates

**GOAL:** Develop a Biennial Budget that Meets Metropolitan's Needs

**OUTCOME:** Implement risk-informed capital investment planning to ensure reliable critical infrastructure

**UPDATE:** Staff have been conducting follow-up interviews with peer utilities that submitted a response to Metropolitan's asset management benchmarking survey.

**OUTCOME:** Budget for enhanced mission-critical capabilities

**UPDATE:** IOPSS is preparing an Asset Management Program update to the February EOT Committee supporting an increase in the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) based on current risk exposure and CIP project backlog.

**GOAL:** Execute CAMP4W Implementation Strategy to Integrate Climate Adaptation District-Wide

**OUTCOME:** Evaluate projects and programs using the CAMP4W assessment criteria

**UPDATE:** Operations staff completed assessment of two portfolios that were presented at the January 26 CAMP4W Member Agencies Managers meeting.

**GOAL:** Complete Environmental Impact Report and Planning, for Board to Consider Pure Water Southern California

**OUTCOME:** Prepare for possible implementation through contractor outreach and water quality research

**UPDATE:** Installation of snail mitigation and prevention processes at the Napolitano Innovation Center demonstration plant was completed, and equipment commissioning is ongoing.

Microbiology sampling skids were installed to support pathogen testing during the optimized-nitrifying tMBR testing phase.

**GOAL:** Achieve Equitable Supply Reliability for State Water Project (SWP)-Dependent Areas

**OUTCOME:** Evaluate further potential investments toward addressing SWP-Dependent Areas

**UPDATE:** Operations staff continue to analyze future drought sequences and identify potential vulnerabilities to SWP-dependent areas.

# Operations Groups

**GOAL:** Provide Organizational Stability and Deliver Operational Excellence

**OUTCOME:** Maintain excellence in daily operations and reliability

**UPDATE:** A sampling plan was developed in response to a new Division of Drinking Water PFAS monitoring order received in December.

Efforts continue across Metropolitan to develop invasive mussel control plans for various raw water locations.

The California Department of Water Resources treated Castaic Lake to control a persistent cyanobacterial bloom that has been producing elevated concentrations of microcystin throughout the winter.

Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles and operational objectives according to the Annual Operating Plan, with an emphasis to position SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent areas.

Operations, Water Resource Management, and Engineering staff are preparing the 2026 Annual Operating Plan to guide and deliver operational excellence this year. The plan will be published in February.

# Operations Groups

## The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Monthly Operations At-A-Glance

January 2026

30-day window: December 15–January 14

### Distribution

\* denotes change compared to previous 30-Day period

30-Day Member Agency Deliveries

**2,190 AF/Day**

Change in Deliveries\*

**▼ -790 AF/Day**

Recorded **December** Deliveries to Member Agencies

Consumptive and Replenishment  
**83 TAF**

Forecast **January** Deliveries to Member Agencies

Consumptive and Replenishment  
**74 TAF**

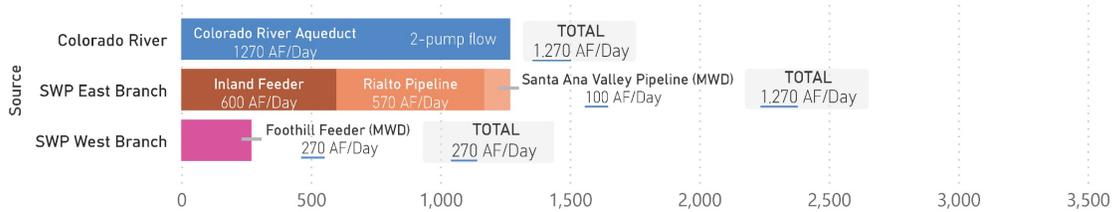
Recorded **December**

Deliveries utilizing water programs (CYC, RCYC, CUP, CCOP)

**0 TAF**

### Supply

30-Day Average by Source (AF/Day)



### Storage

Data as of January 14, 2026

Lake Mathews

166,800 AF

▲ 4,210 AF\*



Lake Skinner

40,800 AF

▲ 3,820 AF\*



Diamond Valley Lake

760,400 AF

▼ -910 AF\*



### Hydropower

30-Day Total Generation:

0.0 GWh

30-Day Total Generation by Plant

None in Operation

30-Day Average Power:

0.0 MW

### Water Quality

Plant Name	Targeted Blend (% SPW)	Current TDS (mg/L)	TTHMs (µg/L)	Flow-Weighted RAA TDS (mg/L)
	As of 1/14/2026	As of 1/14/2026	As of 1/5/2026	
Weymouth	50%	426	23.0	527
Diemer	50%	417	45.0	511
Skinner	50%	403	63.0	529
Jensen	100%	281	43.0	294
Mills	100%	287	52.0	223

December 2024 - November 2025

Target: 500

TDS = Total Dissolved Solids    TTHM = Total Trihalomethanes    RAA = Running Annual Average

# Operations Groups

## Operations Groups Business Plan Strategic Priorities and Objectives

### Strategic Priority #1: EMPOWER

#### Enhance Workforce Safety and Security

Desert staff attended asbestos refresher training which teaches safe methods for identifying and working around asbestos-containing materials.

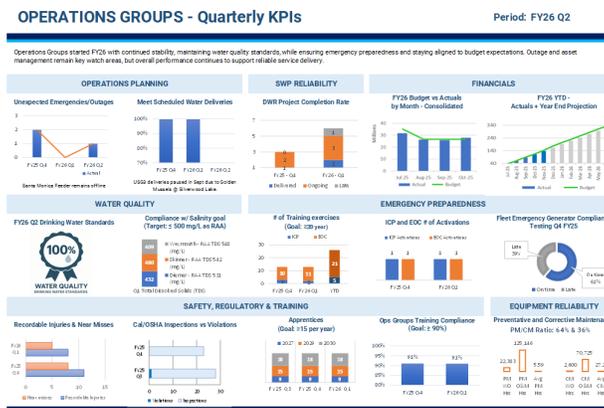


Desert staff attend asbestos training

### Strategic Priority #2: SUSTAIN

#### Manage Business Operations, Budget, and Staffing

In close coordination with the Operations Groups leadership and project teams, the Business Management Team developed and issued a new Quarterly Key Performance Indicator (KPI) dashboard for the Operations Groups. The dashboard provides metrics for operations planning, SWP reliability, financials, water quality, emergency preparedness, safety, regulatory and training; and equipment reliability. By effectively tracking KPIs, the Operations Groups will be able to measure performance, progress and improve strategic alignment across all teams with the continued goal of providing reliable service delivery.



Operations Groups Quarterly KPI Dashboard

# Operations Groups

## Ensure Accurate Billing and Support Revenue Generation

Integrated Operations, Planning, and Support Services, Water Resource Management, and Finance staff worked together to implement invoicing for the new agreement with San Diego County Water Authority on Colorado River water exchange supply delivered through Metropolitan's system. The first invoice with this new agreement will be for January activity and sent out in early February.

### Strategic Priority #3: ADAPT

## Ensure Resilient and Reliable Operations

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries are projected to be 74,200 acre-feet (AF) for January with an average of 2,390 AF per day, which is about 220 AF per day lower than in December. Treated water deliveries were 9,600 AF lower than in November for a total of 49,100 AF, or 66 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) projected diversions are 25,700 AF in January. SWP imports averaged 1,690 AF per day, totaling about 52,400 AF for the month. The target SWP blend is currently 50 percent at the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

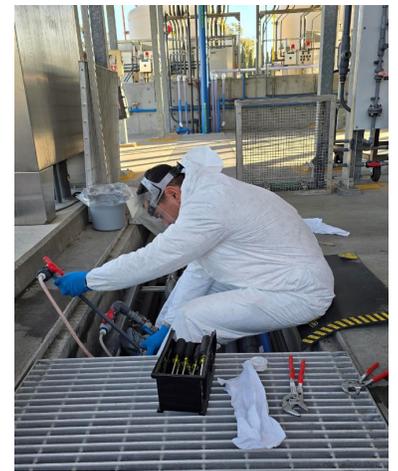
With the end of 2025 marking another record storage level of over 3.8 million AF, Metropolitan has sufficient imported supplies and storage to meet demands in 2026. Water continues to be managed according to WSDM principles and operational objectives with an emphasis on positioning SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent area. The initial SWP allocation is 10 percent, and Metropolitan is managing the use of Table A and carryover supplies to guard against potential drought conditions while at the same time minimizing the risk of carryover storage converting back to SWP supply if the San Luis Reservoir completely fills.

# Operations Groups

## Advance Pure Water Southern California

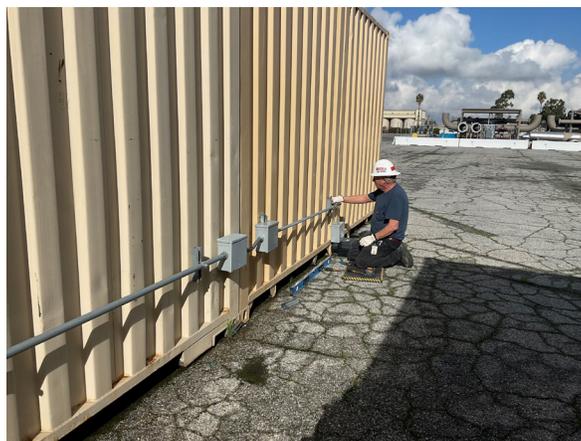
During January, staff continued commissioning of the optimized-nitrifying tertiary membrane bioreactor (N-only tMBR) testing phase in coordination with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. Installation of the snail mitigation and prevention processes was completed, and staff continued to troubleshoot equipment during the commissioning phase. Staff also continued assembling microbiology sampling skids to support pathogen testing during the optimized N-only tMBR testing phase and performed various improvements at the Napolitano Innovation Center demonstration plant.

On January 21, staff participated in a meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water to provide updates on the Pure Water Southern California program. Discussion topics included an overall program update, the N-only tMBR test plan, and future direct potable reuse testing.



**Staff installing new conductivity probe (left), performing maintenance on ammonia analyzer (middle), and inspecting injection quills (right) at the Napolitano Innovation Center**

Staff continued installation of conduit for lighting and receptacles for seven storage containers at the Napolitano Innovation Center. The improvements will enable staff to utilize the storage containers more effectively and establish a dedicated workspace for maintenance.



**Staff installing conduit and enclosures on a storage container at the Napolitano Innovation Center**

# Operations Groups

## Strategic Priority #4: PROTECT

### Protect Source Waters

Following heavy rains in December and early January, turbidity increased in Castaic Lake prompting a change in outlet tower tiers to allow greater flexibility in withdrawing lower turbidity water from the lake. Turbidity levels at the Jensen plant peaked around 65 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU), with typical turbidity levels at 1 NTU. Coagulant doses at the Jensen plant were significantly increased to ensure efficient turbidity removal and water quality entering the distribution system was not impacted. There was also an atypical and persistent cyanobacterial bloom on the surface of Castaic Lake throughout the winter, causing elevated concentrations of cyanotoxins. While not an impact to Metropolitan's treated water supplies, the Department of Water Resources treated the lake with copper sulfate on January 22 to control the bloom.

### Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution Operations

The SWP target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants and Lake Skinner decreased from 75 percent to 50 percent in January.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from December 2024 through November 2025 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the CRA were 527 mg/L, 511 mg/L, and 529 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff recently replaced two 12-inch relief valves on the Palos Verdes Feeder inside the Dominguez Channel Pressure Relief Structure. This location provides critical system protection for the southern portion of the Central Pool.



Staff removing a 12-inch pressure relief valve on the Palos Verdes Feeder

# Operations Groups

Jensen plant completed a planned shutdown in December 2025 in conjunction with the Foothill Feeder shutdown driven by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). During this time, DWR removed a 72-inch valve and installed a bulkhead on the Foothill Feeder. This valve removal was originally planned for January 2025 but was deferred due to the catastrophic wildfires that occurred in Los Angeles. During the December shutdown, staff completed several preventative and corrective maintenance projects at Jensen, including high-voltage work on electrical equipment and replacing piping on chlorine ejectors. All work was completed on schedule, with no operational issues or reported injuries.



**Staff replacing chlorine ejector piping (left) and conducting high-voltage maintenance (right)**

Staff began pre-shutdown work activities to provide a 24-inch flow meter and bypass to the Rialto Pipeline at the PM-21 service connection located at the Three Valleys Municipal Water District facility in Claremont. The new bypass and meter installation will provide precise readings at lower flows and add redundancy to the system.



# Operations Groups

## Staff preparing subgrade for pipe support footings at PM-21

Staff completed repairs to a broken potable water line at the Skinner plant. Water was identified coming up from the asphalt and increasing in flow before it was isolated. The water line is connected to the service water system and provides carrier water for chemicals necessary for treatment operations, including chlorine injection. Staff were able to isolate the broken section of pipe without interrupting treatment operations. Staff then excavated the broken pipe and made repairs.



Potable water leak (left) and staff cutting asphalt to expose leak (right) at Skinner plant



Broken water line (left) and line repaired prior to burying and replacement of the asphalt (right)

# Operations Groups

## Ensure Water Quality and Environmental Compliance

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during December 2025.

## Optimize Maintenance and Asset Management

Staff performed corrective maintenance on a soft-seating check valve on the Weymouth domestic water system. The domestic water system serves all critical loads in the water treatment process, including chemical carrier water and chlorine ejector supply water, as well as supplying all potable water needs for the La Verne complex and the nearly 400 staff who work there. This maintenance ensures the system operates reliably and prevents unscheduled outages.



**Soft-seating check valve (left) and staff adding hydraulic fluid (right) at the Weymouth plant**

Staff continue to fabricate new cooling water pipe manifolds for the CRA pumps. The new manifolds are fabricated from stainless steel pipe making them more corrosion resistant than the original material.



# Operations Groups

## Staff fabricating new cooling water pipe for Gene Pump Unit 1

Staff completed a scheduled shutdown of the 54-inch diameter West Valley Feeder No. 1 to perform a visual inspection along its 8.2-mile length. During this outage, an electromagnetic inspection was conducted on the pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe portions of the feeder, as well as inspections of a 42-inch butterfly valve and a multi-orifice control valve at the DeSoto sectionalizing structure.



## Staff conducting safety briefing during West Valley Feeder No. 1 shutdown (left) and contractor conducting electromagnetic inspection of the feeder (right)

Intake pump plant staff repair their facility's north sump pump. Staff replaced the motor bearings, pump bushings, and seal, while also making repairs to the stuffing box. The sumps remove nuisance and drainage water throughout the plant.



# Operations Groups

## Intake staff repairing sump pump and motor

Staff performed five-year electrical testing on Gene Pump Unit 4. This testing provides data on the general motor condition including the electrical insulation which can degrade over time. Each of the 45 Desert Pump Units are tested every five years to assess condition.



## Staff performing electrical testing on Gene Pump Unit 4

Eagle pump plant staff completed the Pump Unit 9 instrument pipe manifold as part of refurbishment of this pump unit. This manifold allows for calibration of flow and temperature instrumentation, as well as the ability to bleed air from the system. This pump has been undergoing refurbishment over the past year and is anticipated to be placed into service following the upcoming CRA shutdown.



# Operations Groups

## Staff completing refurbishment of Eagle Pump Unit 9 instrumentation pipe system

The La Verne Shops received a request to refurbish five sets of sleeve valve components for the PC-1 pressure control structure on the Inland Feeder. The components consisted of 54-inch sleeve valve inlet elbows and 54-inch by 36-inch reducers. The refurbishment required abrasive blasting of the elbows and reducers to clean metal for corrosion evaluation, weld repair to correct corrosion damage, and application of interior and exterior coating. The components were refurbished one set at a time and then reinstalled at PC-1.



As-found condition of a sleeve valve inlet elbow (left) and reducer (right)



Post-blast condition of the inlet elbow (left) and reducer (right)

# Operations Groups



**Refurbished sleeve valve inlet elbows**



**Refurbished sleeve valve reducers**

# Operations Groups

Staff continue repairing the patrol road storm damage from the rains in late December and early January. This month, staff focused these efforts on roads between Iron Mountain and Vidal Junction. In addition, staff began routine patrol road grading of the CRA patrol roads in preparation for the shutdown in February. Annual maintenance ensures access to all structures during the shutdown and includes patrol road grading, erosion repair, and vegetation removal.



**Staff repairing storm-damaged patrol roads near Vidal Junction (left) and motor graders working in tandem on the CRA patrol roads (right)**

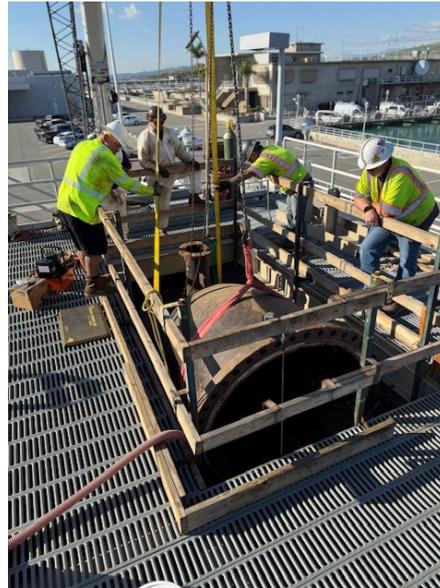
Staff is continuing work on a Wi-Fi upgrade project taking place at the Diemer plant. Staff are installing the new infrastructure that will upgrade the system to a faster, more reliable network.



**Staff pulling new cables for Wi-Fi upgrade project at Diemer plant**

# Operations Groups

Staff removed the final piece of a 54-inch sleeve valve from the Yorba Linda Pressure Control Structure at the Diemer plant. The structure consists of five sleeve valves that are all in need of refurbishment. The sleeve valve pieces will be shipped to the La Verne Shops for inspection and assessment to determine rehabilitation needs.



**Staff removing 54-inch sleeve valve elbow from structure**

At the Chemical Unloading Facility, a rail line allows for bulk deliveries via rail. A 2,000-foot rail section was repaired and reconditioned to ensure safe and uninterrupted deliveries. Metropolitan hired a specialized railroad contractor to replace these compromised railroad ties and inspect the entire length of the rail section to look for other urgent areas of concern. A future capital project will be completed to refurbish the entire length of this rail section to improve reliability and safety, ensuring uninterrupted deliveries.



**Contractors removing damaged railroad ties (left) and grading gravel (right)**

# Operations Groups

## Ensure Power and Environmental Regulatory Compliance

The winter operating period to date has been relatively mild across the California Independent System Operator and Western Electricity Coordinating Council operational footprints. Energy markets in January 2026 have seen adequate natural gas supplies and moderate energy prices. Capacity prices for Resource Adequacy requirements have bottomed out and are seeing a slight upward trend for the balance of 2026.

The CRA averaged about two pumps in January 2026. The CRA energy cost forecast for fiscal year 2025/26 is \$83.8 million and current forecasts are tracking significantly lower at \$58.5 million, due to lower overall pumping activity, lower forward cost curves, and active management of Hoover scheduling to optimize for market conditions. Energy costs for February are anticipated to be a net positive due to the planned CRA shutdown and net energy sales from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) hydroelectric resources.

Power scheduling staff are closely monitoring the USBR 24-month forecast for Hoover generation following the announcement in January 2025 that USBR will severely curtail Hoover generation for Lake Mead elevations below 1,035 feet. Staff presented Power Cost Exposure with Lower Lake Mead Storage at the January EOT Committee meeting, outlining the potential fiscal impact and mitigation strategies.

### Strategic Priority #5: PARTNER

## Engage in Legislative and Regulatory Processes

On January 6, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed setting the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for perchlorate at 20 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ ) and is also proposing and taking comments on an enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ , 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ , or 80  $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ . Staff are drafting a comment letter urging EPA to adopt a protective federal standard that safeguards public health and prevents adverse impacts to the Colorado River and the millions of users that rely on it as a drinking water source. A public hearing will be held on February 19, 2026, and written comments are due March 9, 2026. Pursuant to the court order, EPA must publish the final MCL and MCLG by May 21, 2027.

On November 20, EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (collectively, the Agencies) published a proposed rule titled, "Updated Definition of 'Waters of the United States' (WOTUS)." The proposal responds to the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 decision in *Sackett v. EPA* and clarifies that WOTUS includes only relatively permanent bodies of water—such as streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans—and adjacent wetlands that are "indistinguishable" from those waters due to a continuous surface connection. Staff submitted a comment letter on January 5, 2026, requesting that the Agencies retain the category of "interstate waters," add an exclusion for artificial water supply infrastructure, and retain the jurisdictional status of tributaries that are part of a water transfer. The Association of California Water Agencies, California Water Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, American Water Works Association, and Western Urban Water Coalition also submitted comment letters on the proposed rule.

## Engage with Member Agencies and Other Stakeholders on Technical Matters

On January 7, staff hosted a meeting of Orange County water agencies at Metropolitan's headquarters to discuss operational changes to ensure continued water supplies following a catastrophic emergency.