

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Agenda

The mission of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California 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.

OW&S Committee

T. Quinn, Chair
S. Faessel, Vice Chair
L. Ackerman
D. Alvarez
J. Armstrong
A. Chacon
G. Cordero
D. De Jesus
D. Erdman
L. Fong-Sakai
S. Goldberg
C. Kurtz
R. Lefevre
C. Miller
M. Petersen
G. Peterson
B. Pressman
N. Sutley

One Water and Stewardship Committee - Final - Revised 1

Meeting with Board of Directors *

October 9, 2023

2:00 p.m.

Agendas, live streaming, meeting schedules, and other board materials are available here: <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. A listen-only phone line is available at 1-877-853-5257; enter meeting ID: 862 4397 5848. Members of the public may present their comments to the Board on matters within their jurisdiction as listed on the agenda via in-person or teleconference. To participate via teleconference 1-833-548-0276 and enter meeting ID: 815 2066 4276 or click <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81520664276pwd=a1RTQWh6V3h3ckFhNmdsUWpKR1c2Zz09>

**Monday, October 9, 2023
Meeting Schedule**

**09:30 a.m. EOT
11:30 a.m. EOP
01:30 p.m. Break
02:00 p.m. OWS**

MWD Headquarters Building • 700 N. Alameda Street • Los Angeles, CA 90012

Teleconference Locations:

Three Valleys MWD • 1021 E. Miramar Ave. • Claremont, CA 91789

3008 W. 82nd Place • Inglewood, CA 90305

* The Metropolitan Water District's meeting of this Committee is noticed as a joint committee meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of compliance with the Brown Act. Members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee may participate as members of the Board, whether or not a quorum of the Board is present. In order to preserve the function of the committee as advisory to the Board, members of the Board who are not assigned to this Committee will not vote on matters before this Committee.

1. Opportunity for members of the public to address the committee on matters within the committee's jurisdiction (As required by Gov. Code Section 54954.3(a))

**** CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION ****

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS - ACTION

- A.** Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee for September 11, 2023 (Copies have been submitted to each Director, any additions, corrections, or omissions) [21-2521](#)

Attachments: [10092023 OWS 2A \(09112023\) Minutes](#)

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - ACTION

- 7-4 Authorize up to \$6 million in additional funding for member agency studies and research under the Future Supply Actions Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA [SUBJECT REVISED 10/2/2023] [21-2676](#)

Attachments: [10102023 OWS 7-4 B-L](#)
[10102023 OWS 7-4 Presentation](#)

**** END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS ****

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

- 8-4 Express support for the goals of the Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group and, by two-thirds vote, approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA. [REVISED SUBJECT 10/4/2023] [21-2677](#)

Attachments: [10102023 OWS 8-4 B-L](#)
[10102023 OWS 8-4 Presentation](#)

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

NONE

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. The 20th Anniversary of the Quantification Settlement Agreement [21-2678](#)

Attachments: [10092023 OWS 6a Presentation](#)

- b. Update on Conservation [21-2681](#)

Attachments: [10092023 OWS 6b Presentation](#)

7. MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- a. Bay-Delta Resources, Colorado River Resources, Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation, and Water Resource Management activities [21-2522](#)

Attachments: [10092023 OWS 7a Bay-Delta Mgmt Report](#)
[10092023 OWS 7a Colorado River Mgmt Report](#)

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- a. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Bay-Delta [21-2679](#)
- b. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities [21-2680](#)

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

NONE

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: This committee reviews items and makes a recommendation for final action to the full Board of Directors. Final action will be taken by the Board of Directors. Committee agendas may be obtained on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. This committee will not take any final action that is binding on the Board, even when a quorum of the Board is present.

Writings relating to open session agenda items distributed to Directors less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting are available for public inspection at Metropolitan's Headquarters Building and on Metropolitan's Web site <https://mwdh2o.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Requests for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in a meeting should be made to the Board Executive Secretary in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MINUTES

ONE WATER AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

September 11, 2023

Vice Chair Faessel called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members present: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Chacon, Cordero (teleconference posted location), De Jesus teleconference posted location), Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg (AB2449), Kurtz, Lefevre (entered after roll call, teleconference posted location), Miller, Peterson, Pressman (teleconference posted location).

Members Absent: Directors Petersen, Quinn, and Sutley.

Other Board Members present: Bryant, Dennstedt, Dick, Fellow, Garza, Gray, McMillan, Ortega, Seckel, and Smith.

Director Goldberg indicated she is participating under AB 2449 “just cause” regarding being covid positive. Director Goldberg appeared by audio and on camera.

Committee staff present: Coffey, Crosson, Hasencamp, Munguia, Neudeck, Schlotterbeck, Upadhyay, and Wheeler.

1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE’S JURISDICTION (AS REQUIRED BY GOV. CODE SECTION 54954.3(A))

None

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS -- ACTION

2. CONSENT CALENDAR OTHER ITEMS – ACTION

A. Approval of the Minutes of the One Water and Stewardship Committee for August 14, 2023.

Director Armstrong disclosed that he is disqualified under Metropolitan’s Act 56, and will not vote on nor participate in, including abstain, Agenda item 7-4.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION

7-4 Subject: Review and consider the Eastern Municipal Water District’s certified Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum, and take related CEQA actions; Authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Eastern Municipal Water District for the French Valley Recycled Water Distribution System Project for up to 140 acre-feet per year of recycled water for irrigation use in the Eastern Municipal Water District service area

Presented by: None

Motion: Review and consider Eastern Municipal Water District’s certified Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum, and take related CEQA actions, and authorize the General Manager to enter into a Local Resources Program Agreement with Eastern Municipal Water District for the French Valley Recycled Water Distribution Project for up to 140 acre-feet per year of recycled water for irrigation use in the Eastern Municipal Water District service area.

No presentations were given, Director Peterson made a motion, seconded by Director Chacon, to approve Consent Calendar Items 2A and 7-4.

Director Goldberg announced before the vote that no one was in the room with her 18 years of age or older.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Chacon, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Miller, Peterson, and Pressman.

Noes: None

Not voting: Directors Armstrong (item 7-4)

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Lefevre, Petersen, Quinn, and Sutley.

The motion for item 2A passed by a vote of 14 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

The motion for item 7-4 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 1 not voting, 0 abstentions, and 4 absent.

****END OF CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS****

4. OTHER BOARD ITEMS - ACTION

8-2 Subject: Authorize payments, by a two-thirds vote, of up to \$4.16 million for participation in the State Water Contractors for FY 2023/24; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Jaime Dalida, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Motion: By a two-thirds vote, authorize payments of up to \$4.16 million for participation in the State Water Contractors for FY 2023/24.

Mr. Coffey provided brief background information and introduced Ms. Dalida.

Ms. Dalida gave a detailed presentation on the proposed request to authorize continued funding and participation in the State Water Contractors (SWC). Participation in this organization allows Metropolitan to advocate for effective operations and management of the State Water Project (SWP), with an emphasis on the reliability of the SWP infrastructure, managing electrical power resources, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay/Delta (Delta). Metropolitan's participation enhances the effectiveness of relationships with the other SWP contractors.

Mr. Coffey presented and explained additional slides in response to questions from Directors.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Fong-Sakai
2. Ortega
3. Fellow
4. Garza

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

Director Goldberg announced before the vote that no one was in the room with her 18 years of age or older.

After completion of the presentation, Director Peterson made a motion, seconded by Director Chacon, to approve option 1 of the board letter.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, Cordero, De Jesus, Erdman, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Miller, Peterson, and Pressman.

Noes: None.

Abstentions: Director Chacon.

Absent: Director Lefevre, Petersen, Quinn, and Sutley.

The motion for item 8-2 passed by a vote of 13 ayes, 0 noes, 1 abstention, and 4 absent.

Director Chacon left the meeting.

Directors Cordero and Erdman provided statements recusing themselves from item 8-3.

8-3 Subject: Review and consider the Addenda Nos. 1, 2, and 3 to the Mitigated Negative Declaration previously adopted by the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency for the High Desert Water Bank; approve changes to the design, construction, and operation of Water Bank facilities; authorize up to \$80 million for additional costs associated with these changes; the General Manager has determined that a portion of the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Presented by: Tracy Abundez, Water Resource Management

Motion: Review and consider Addenda Nos. 1, 2, and 3 to the Mitigated Negative Declaration previously adopted by the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency for the High Desert Water Bank; approve changes to the design, construction, and operation of Water Bank facilities as discussed in this letter; and authorize up to \$80 million for additional costs associated with these changes.

Mr. Coffey provided brief background information and introduced Ms. Abundez.

Ms. Abundez gave a presentation that explained the proposed changes to the design, construction, and operation of the Water Bank. Ms. Abundez then described the costs and the need to authorize up to \$80 million for the additional costs associated with these changes.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Peterson
2. Pressman
3. DeJesus
4. McMillan
5. Smith
6. Seckel
7. Garza
8. Ortega

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

Director Goldberg announced before the vote that no one was in the room with her 18 years of age or older.

After completion of the presentation, Director Peterson made a motion, seconded by Director De Jesus, to approve option 1 of the board letter.

The vote was:

Ayes: Directors Ackerman, Alvarez, Armstrong, De Jesus, Faessel, Fong-Sakai, Goldberg, Kurtz, Miller, Peterson, and Pressman.
Noes: None
Not voting: None
Abstentions: None
Absent: Directors Chacon, Cordero, Erdman, Lefevre, Petersen, Quinn, and Sutley

The motion for item 8-3 passed by a vote of 11 ayes, 0 noes, 0 not voting, 0 abstentions, and 7 absent.

5. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

None

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS

Vice Chair Faessel announced there would be a reordering of the meeting agenda. Item 6c would be heard next, followed by item 7a.

c. Subject: Update on Conservation

Presented by: Elise Goldman, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Mr. Coffey explained that item 6c and 6a are companions, gave background information, and introduced Ms. Goldman.

Ms. Goldman gave an update on Conservation Program expenditures and activity.

Vice Chair Faessel announced that item 6a would immediately follow.

a. Subject: Update on Conservation Budget and Expenditures

Presented by: Elise Goldman, Resource Specialist, Water Resource Management

Ms. Goldman gave an in-depth presentation on the Conservation budget, expenditures, and management of Program reserved dollars.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

a. Subject: Colorado River Manager's Report

Presented by: Bill Hasencamp, Manager, Colorado River Resources

Mr. Hasencamp gave an update on Colorado River activity including an update on the significant efforts to reduce water use demands in the lower Colorado River basin.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith
2. Seckel

Staff responded to Directors' questions and comments.

Vice Chair Faessel announced the reordering of the meeting agenda and called on Mr. Coffey to introduce item 6b.

6. COMMITTEE ITEMS (CONTINUE)

b. Subject: Information on Round 3 Future Supply Action Funding Program

Presented by: Warren Teitz, Manager, Resource Development

Mr. Coffey provided brief background information and introduced Mr. Teitz.

Mr. Teitz gave a presentation on Round 3 of Metropolitan's Future Supply Action Program which was developed as part of the IRP to accelerate the need for long-term development.

Director Chacon entered the meeting.

Director Kurtz and Miller left the meeting.

7. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- b. Subject: Bay-Delta Manager's Report
Presented by: Nina Hawk, Bay-Delta Initiatives Manager

Ms. Hawk reported on Bay-Delta activity including updates on the Sites Reservoir Project, follow-up on the staff's memo regarding the Bay Delta 101 Workshop, and collaborative work between Bay Delta and Water Resource Management on a grant submission.

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Fong-Sakai

Director De Jesus left the meeting.

Director Lefevre entered the meeting.

- c. Subject: Water Resource Management Manager's Report
Presented by: Manager, Water Resource Management

Mr. Coffey reported on current water supply conditions, the potential water exchange with United Water, water storage conditions, and the staff's participation in the Water Data Conference.

The following Director provided comments or asked questions:

1. Smith

- d. Subject: Chief Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation Officer's Report
Presented by: Liz Crosson, Manager, Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation.

Ms. Crosson reported on the Sustainability, Resilience, and Innovation office's activities.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- a. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Bay-Delta
- b. Discuss and provide direction to Subcommittee on Demand Management and Conservation Programs and Priorities

Director Goldberg made a request regarding Agenda Item 8b, for a written report on how Assembly Member Laura Freidman's AB1572 impacts the projected demands assumed in the 2020 IRP Needs Assessment including the impacts of recent State Water Board water use regulations.

9. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

Director Peterson requested a staff analysis on Metropolitan's energy use on the State Water Project.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on October 9, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Stephen J. Faessel
Vice Chair



● **Board of Directors**
One Water and Stewardship Committee

10/10/2023 Board Meeting

7-4

Subject

Authorize up to \$6 million in additional funding for member agency studies and research under the Future Supply Actions Program; the General Manager has determined that the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

Authorization is requested for Metropolitan staff to release two Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the next two rounds of the Future Supply Actions Funding Program (FSA Program). The two RFPs would be released two to three years apart depending on the duration of Round 3. The FSA Program funds member agency studies targeting groundwater, stormwater, recycling, and desalination. It requires that member agencies contribute a 100 percent dollar-for-dollar match of Metropolitan funds. Metropolitan would fund up to \$500,000 per study or per member agency for a potential total program funding of up to \$3 million per round and a total funding authorization of up to \$6 million over a five to six-year period. Implementation of the FSA Program advances climate-resilient local supplies found to be critical in the 2020 Integrated Water Resource Plan – Regional Needs Assessment. The FSA Program also aligns with the reliability and resiliency goals and objectives of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W).

Details

Background: Future Supply Actions Funding Program

Metropolitan’s 2010 Integrated Water Resources Management Plan Update (2010 IRP Update) recognized the need to prepare for an uncertain future and that additional resources beyond the region’s core supplies may be required. To address this uncertainty, the 2010 IRP Update established a Foundational Actions approach for removing barriers to new supply development. Foundational Actions are low-risk, preliminary steps that the region can take to accelerate the development of new water resources should the need arise. The 2010 IRP Update identified the following four local resources for Foundational Actions:

- Recycled water (including direct and indirect potable reuse)
- Seawater desalination
- Stormwater capture
- Groundwater enhancement

In 2013, the Board approved the Foundational Actions Funding (FAF) Program to advance technical studies and pilot tests to address critical resource development barriers. Under the FAF Program, Metropolitan provided \$2.9 million in co-funding for 13-member agency-sponsored technical studies. The goals of the program were to:

- Advance the field of knowledge for future water resource production.
- Provide results that are unique, yet transferable to other areas in the region.
- Remove barriers to water resource implementation.

The 13 studies funded under the FAF Program yielded tangible regional benefits for each of the local resources. These benefits included furthering the science of seawater desalination intake technologies, developing implementation pathways for stormwater capture, validating new technologies for groundwater treatment, and completing preliminary studies for direct potable reuse. The program concluded with a symposium where results

from the studies were shared with over 230 participants from across Southern California. Full study reports, deliverables, and symposium presentations are available on the FSA Program's website: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/FSA>.

The 2015 Integrated Water Resources Plan Update called for the region to continue the Foundational Actions approach and revised the program's name to the "Future Supply Actions Funding Program." In 2018, the Board approved a follow-up to the original FSA Program that included two components:

1. A \$975,000 funding agreement with the Water Research Foundation (WRF) for seven potable and non-potable reuse studies.
2. A second round of member agency funding totaling \$3.1 million for 14 studies.

The 21 studies funded under the FSA Program produced valuable regional benefits for the targeted local resources. These benefits included progressing in the fields of artificial intelligence applications in recycled water projects, stormwater diversion and percolation analysis, desalination brine diffusion, and groundwater utilization analysis. The studies within the program have concluded with MWD and WRF-hosted webinars. Webinar recordings and final reports for each study are available on the FSA Program's website: <https://www.mwdh2o.com/FSA>. Attachment 1 contains a list of Round 1 and Round 2 studies.

Proposed Third and Fourth Rounds of the FSA Program

In 2023, Metropolitan initiated a new planning process as climate change accelerates. CAMP4W will determine near-term capital investments, inform adaptive management strategies, and guide the evolution of Metropolitan's business model to confront the changing climate in the years and decades ahead. The FSA Program complements CAMP4W by advancing technical studies and pilot tests to address critical resource development barriers.

Metropolitan staff is proposing to issue RFPs for a third and fourth round of the FSA Program with the goal of funding up to \$6 million for member agency technical studies and pilot tests over a five-year period. The total number of studies per round will be determined by the amount of funding requested per selected study, the amount of available MWD funding, and staff resources. This increased frequency will provide the member agencies with more opportunities for research funding.

Key elements of the FSA Program are summarized below:

- Total funding requested cannot exceed \$500,000 for any member agency or proposal.
- Metropolitan would issue an RFP to the member agencies in the fall of 2023 and likely in the fall of 2025, inviting proposals under the FSA Program. The max funding level is \$3 million per round. Staff would limit the number of studies funded to between six and eight studies per round.
- Each proposal would require a non-Metropolitan match of at least 100 percent of the Metropolitan funded amount, dollar-for-dollar, by the member agency. No in-kind services would be allowed within this match.
- Member agencies may submit multiple proposals for consideration.
- All proposal submissions must be directly from a single lead member agency. Member agencies are encouraged to partner with each other, with their sub-agencies, or with outside entities. Studies that have three or more member agency partners will receive a five percent scoring bonus.
- Recommended studies would be presented to the Board for final authorization.
- The FSA Program is funded through budgeted Demand Management expenditures.

Metropolitan would form a technical review panel of internal and external experts to review compliance with the proposed FSA Program guidelines. The panel would rank study proposals based on selection criteria in the general areas described below:

- Reduces barriers to future production and increases supply resiliency.
- Provides regional benefits.
- Addresses a critical development pathway with an innovative approach or technology.
- Features a well-defined work plan and budget for completing the study.

These criteria are meant to be consistent with the program goals approved by the Board. Staff would develop a list of recommended studies and funding levels for board consideration based on input from the technical panel.

Certain activities would not be eligible for funding under the proposed FSA Program. These include but are not limited to:

- CEQA documentation.
- Design of full-scale projects.
- Construction of full-scale projects.
- Acquisition of property.

Alternatives Considered

Staff considered an alternative where the Board would authorize only a third round of funding, with Board authorization of the fourth round at a later date. This alternative is included as Option 2 for Board consideration. Staff's preferred alternative, Option 1, is designed to align program implementation to the program's budget and staff resources. Option 1 provides flexibility by allowing staff to issue an RFP for a fourth round of funding based on the results of the third-round RFP and how the studies are completed over time. It would ensure funding an equivalent number of studies over a five-year period as the 2013 and 2018 rounds. Option 1 also provides the member agencies certainty of continued funding, which would support their active research programs to develop new supplies. Returning to the Board for authorization of the fourth round could delay funding an equivalent number of studies.

Next Steps

Following approval of the proposed next rounds of the FSA Program, staff would issue an RFP to solicit member agency study proposals and host a meeting to review program guidelines and answer member agency questions. Staff would return to the Board to seek approval to enter into funding agreements for the recommended proposals. Staff will provide periodic updates to the Board on the progress of both rounds of the proposed FSA Program and host a concluding symposium for each round. **Attachment 2** contains a proposed timeline for Round 3 and Round 4.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities

By Minute Item 48449, dated October 12, 2010, the Board adopted the CEQA determination and the 2010 Integrated Resources Plan Update, as set forth in the letter signed by the General Manager.

By Minute Item 49381, dated April 9, 2013, the Board adopted the CEQA determination and approved the proposal. Foundational Actions Funding Program, and directed staff to issue a Request for Proposals.

By Minute Item 51168, dated April 10, 2018, the Board adopted the CEQA determination and approved an approach to issue a Request for Proposals to fund member agency studies and research under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Options #1 and 2:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21065, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378) because it would not cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and it involves the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines)

CEQA determination for Option #3:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Authorize up to \$6 million in additional funding for member agency studies and research under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Fiscal Impact: Up to \$6 million would be committed to co-funding two more rounds (Rounds 3 and 4) of member agency studies under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program over the next four to five years. The proposed expenditures have been budgeted in this biennium and in the 10-year projected budget as part of Demand Management expenditures.

Business Analysis: Funding the third and fourth rounds of the Future Supply Actions Funding Program would allow the region to increase water supply resiliency by reducing barriers to local supply development, helping to prepare the region for climate change and other uncertainties.

Option #2

Authorize up to \$3 million in additional funding for member agency studies and research under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Fiscal Impact: A total of up to \$3 million would be committed to co-funding one more round (Round 3) of member agency studies under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program over the next three years. The proposed expenditures have been budgeted as part of Demand Management expenditures.

Business Analysis: Funding the third round of member agency studies would allow the region to increase water supply resiliency through the future development of local supplies, helping to prepare the region for climate change and other uncertainties. Staff would seek Board authorization for Round 4 of the program at the conclusion of Round 3.

Option #3

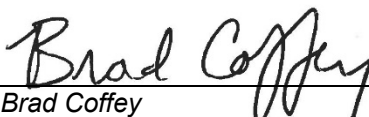
Do not approve a further round of the Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Fiscal Impact: Metropolitan would not implement a process for co-funding up to \$6 million in member agency studies over a four- to five-year period.

Business Analysis: Metropolitan would miss an opportunity to accelerate much-needed studies with the potential to remove barriers to local supply development. Staff would investigate alternative approaches for supporting member agency studies.

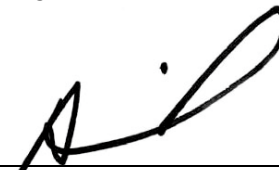
Staff Recommendation

Option #1



Brad Coffey
Manager, Water Resource Management

10/2/2023
Date



Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

10/3/2023
Date

Attachment 1 – Future Supply Actions Funding Program Round 1 and 2 Studies

Attachment 2 – Proposed Timeline for FSA Rounds III and IV

Ref# wrm12698312

Future Supply Actions Funding Program Round 1 and 2 Studies

2013 Round 1 Foundational Actions Funding Program Studies		
Study	Lead Agency (Participating Agencies)	Funding
Enhanced Research Using RCF for Hexavalent Chromium Removal	City of Glendale Water and Power	\$180,000
Pilot-scale Groundwater Desalter Brine Concentrator Study	Eastern Municipal Water District	\$192,214
San Juan Basin Groundwater and Desalination Optimization Program	Municipal Water District of Orange County	\$200,000
Pilot-scale Biological Treatment Process (BIOTTTA)	Inland Empire Utilities Agency	\$239,600
	Western Municipal Water District	\$175,600
Pilot-scale 3-D Fluorescence Excitation-Emission Matrix	Inland Empire Utilities Agency	\$25,000
	Western Municipal Water District	\$25,000
Recycled Water Intertie Study	Inland Empire Utilities Agency	\$12,500
	Western Municipal Water District	\$12,500
Direct Potable Reuse Research Initiative	West Basin Municipal Water District	\$100,000
	Burbank Water and Power	\$20,000
	City of Torrance	\$30,000
	Eastern Municipal Water District	\$50,000
	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	\$50,000
	Municipal Water District of Orange County	\$100,000
	Three Valleys Municipal Water District	\$50,000
	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	\$50,000
Innovative Indirect Potable Reuse Treatment Train	Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	\$150,000
Tracer Alternative Research	West Basin Municipal Water District	\$82,250
Ocean Water Desalination Intake Biofouling and Corrosion Study	West Basin Municipal Water District	\$125,000
Advancement of Slant Well Technology for Seawater Desalination	Municipal Water District of Orange County	\$200,000
Stormwater Capture Master Plan	City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	\$414,034
Stormwater Harvesting and Direct Use Demonstration Project	City of Santa Monica	\$400,000
Total Metropolitan Funding		\$2,933,700

2018 Round 2 Future Supply Actions Funding Program Studies		
Study	Lead Agency (Participating Agencies)	Funding
Regional Assessment of Stormwater Capture, Treatment, and Infiltration for Groundwater Enhancement	City of Anaheim	\$200,000
Arroyo Las Posas Stormwater Diversion Feasibility Study and Percolation Test	Calleguas Municipal Water District	\$120,000
Los Robles Golf Course Groundwater Utilization Pilot Study	Calleguas Municipal Water District	\$292,800
Purified Water Replenishment Brine Concentration Pilot Project	Eastern Municipal Water District	\$500,000
Demonstrating Virus Log Removal for Potable Reuse to Increase Regulatory Confidence	City of Fullerton	\$150,000
Pilot Study of Nitrification- Denitrification Membrane Bioreactor Treatment at Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant	City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	\$500,000
	<i>West Basin Municipal Water District</i>	
Phase 2 White Paper: Tapping into Available Capacity in Existing Infrastructure to Create Water Supply and Water Quality Solutions	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	\$339,500
Application of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning to Advanced Water Treatment Facilities for Indirect Potable Reuse	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	\$34,575
Smart Watershed Network	Municipal Water District of Orange County	\$205,754
Restoration of Local Recharge Sources from Invasive Dreissenid Mussels	City of Santa Ana	\$122,796
Demonstration of Preformed Chloramines for Biofouling Control and California Toxics Rule Compliance	San Diego County Water Authority	\$80,000
Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant Wedge Wire Screen Demonstration Project study	San Diego County Water Authority	\$175,000
Multi-Jurisdictional Optimization of Surface and Groundwater Supplies in the San Dieguito River Watershed	San Diego County Water Authority	\$175,000*
Development of a Modeling Tool for the Evaluation of Brine Diffuser Shear Mortality	West Basin Municipal Water District	\$190,000
Total Metropolitan Funding		\$3,085,400

*Amended from \$245,000 to \$175,000 due to COVID-related funding challenges.

2018 Future Supply Actions Funding Program Studies with the Water Research Foundation		
Study	Funding Partner	Funding
Understanding the Impacts of Wastewater Treatment Performance on Advanced Water Treatment Processes and Finished Water Quality	State Water Resources Control Board: Grant 1	\$100,000
DPR-1: Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment Implementation	State Water Resources Control Board: Grant 1	\$100,000
Considerations and Blending Strategies for Drinking Water System Integration with Alternative Water Supplies	State Water Resources Control Board: Grant 2	\$200,000
Integration of High-Frequency Performance Data for Microbial and Chemical Compounds Control in Potable Reuse Treatment Systems	State Water Resources Control Board: Grant 2	\$125,000
Pathogen Monitoring in Untreated Wastewater	State Water Resources Control Board: Grant 2	\$200,000
Indicator Viruses to Confirm Performance of Advanced Physical Treatment	State Water Resources Control Board: Grant 2	\$200,000
Addressing Impediments and Incentives for Agricultural Reuse	The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR)	\$50,000
Total Funding		\$975,000

Proposed Timeline for FSA Rounds III and IV

2023

10/9/23	Board Approval
Mid-October	Release RFP for Round 3
Early Nov.	Host informational webinar
December	Proposals due

2024

Q1	Proposal awards (contingent upon board action)
Q1	Target for signing agreements

2026

Q1	Round 3 symposium
Q2	Launch FSA Round 4



One Water and Stewardship Committee

Future Supply Actions Funding Program

Item 7-4

October 9, 2023

Item 7-4

Future Supply Actions Funding Program

Subject

Authorize up to \$6 million in additional funding for member agency studies and research under the Future Supply Actions Program.

Purpose

The Future Supply Actions Program co-funds member agency studies to accelerate the development of new local supplies by addressing technical, regulatory, and institutional challenges. The studies advance the reliability and resiliency objectives of CAMP4W by assisting Member Agencies in their pursuit of climate-resilient local supplies.

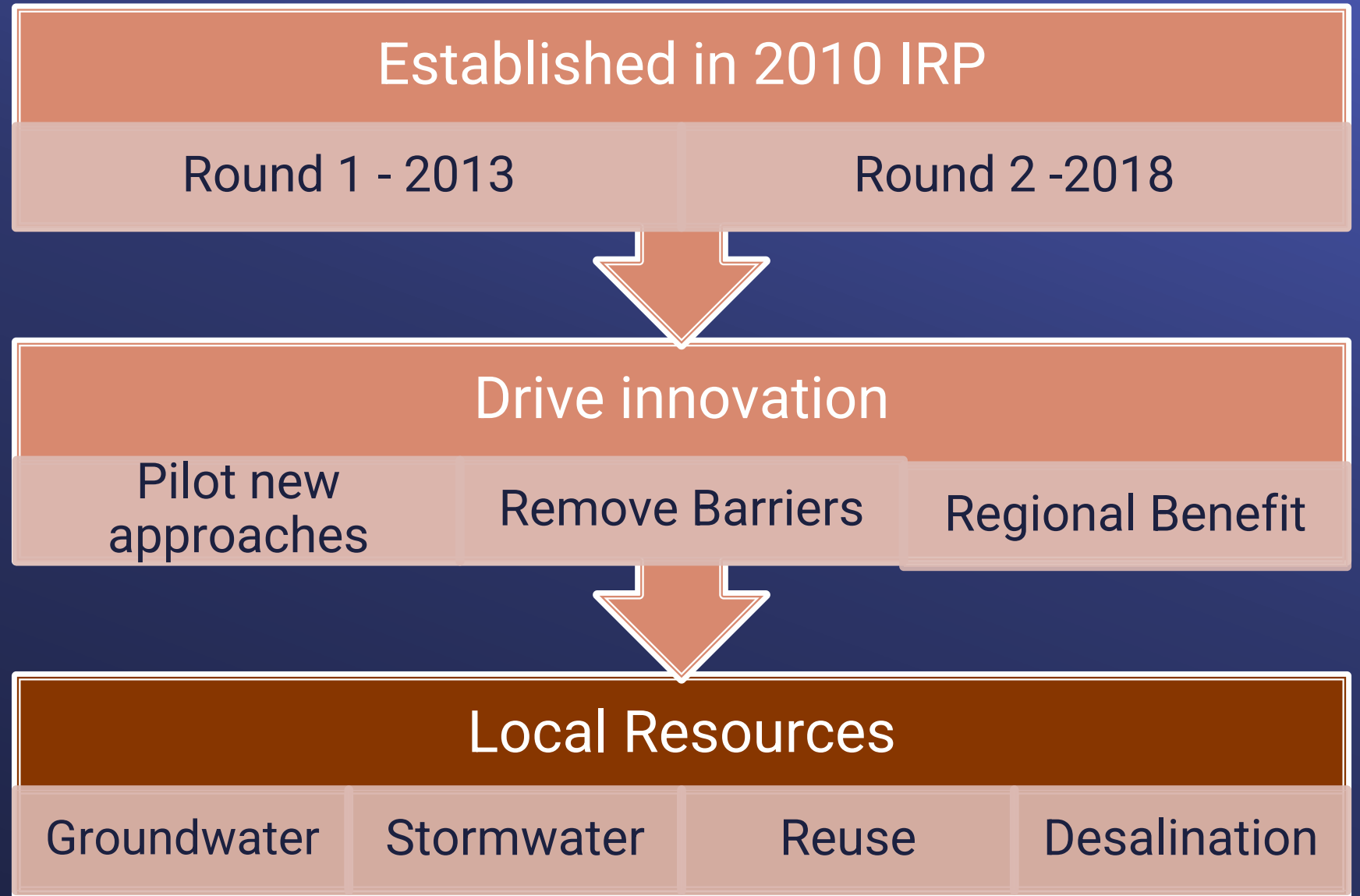
Recommendation

As described in the Subject line above.

Overview

- Background
- Future Supply Actions Funding Program
- Proposed Round 3
- Next Steps

Background



Foundational Actions Funding Program

Round 1

- Approved in 2013
- Funded 13 studies
- \$2.9 million invested
- Technical conference ~230 participants



Groundwater

- 4 studies
- 6 agencies
- \$987,000



Recycling

- 5 studies
- 10 agencies
- \$807,000



Desalination

- 2 studies
- 2 agencies
- \$325,000



Storm Water

- 2 studies
- 2 agencies
- \$814,000

FSA Funding Program

Round 2

- Approved in 2018
- 14 Webinars

Member Agency

- 14 studies
- \$3.1 million

Water Research Foundation

- 6 potable reuse studies
- 1 agricultural reuse study
- \$975k

LAS VIRGENES MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STUDY



Future Supply Actions Program Webinar Series

Learn more about the implementation of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning control algorithms that Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Carolla Engineers are using to reduce energy consumption in water reuse. Learn from the study partners as they demonstrate the use of these new technologies to improve advanced treatment processes and create a more reliable water supply.

PREPARING FOR Tomorrow, TODAY

Thursday, March 23, 2 p.m.

[Click here to register for the webinar](#)

To learn more about the Future Supply Actions Program, visit www.mwdh2o.com/fsa



FSA Example Studies



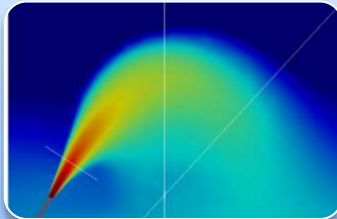
Groundwater

Calleguas MWD – Groundwater Utilization Pilot Study



Recycled Water

Las Virgenes MWD – Application of AI / Machine Learning to AWP for IPR



Seawater Desalination

West Basin – Brine Diffuser Shear Mortality



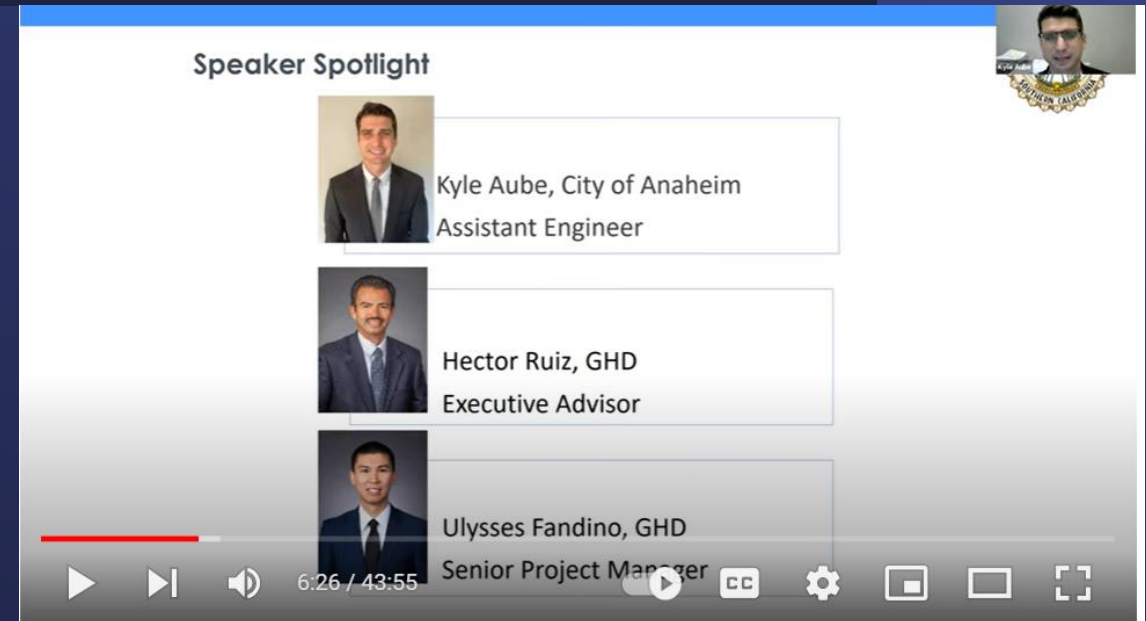
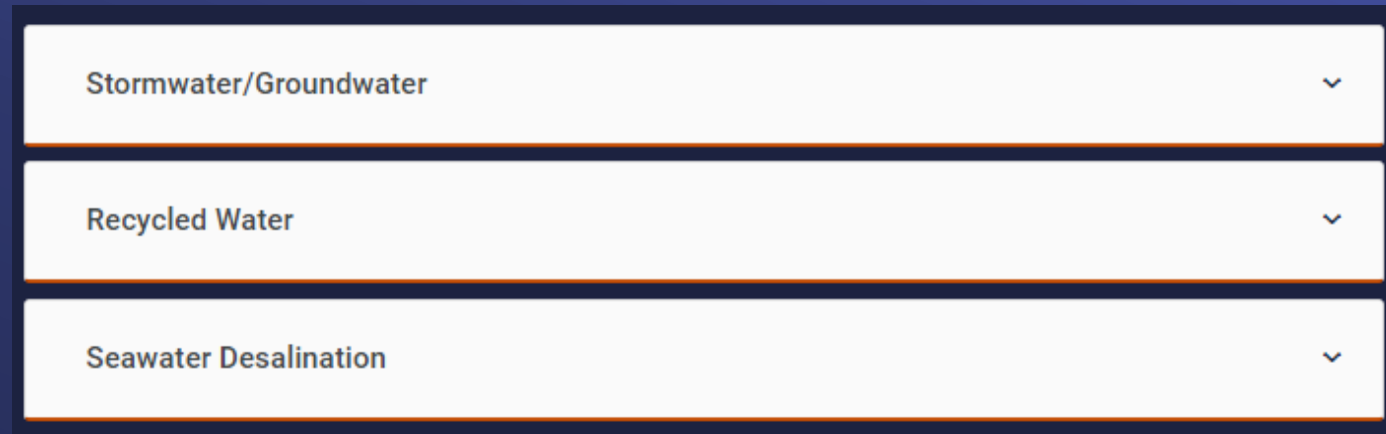
Stormwater

MWDOC – Smart Watershed Network Pilot







Final Reports and Webinars

Final reports and webinars are posted on Metropolitan's website.

- <https://www.mwdh2o.com/FSA>



FSA Core Program Elements

-  Up to \$500k per member agency or per study
-  100% dollar-for-dollar match
-  2-year studies
-  Selected through RFP
-  Studies must meet minimum criteria
-  Selected by expert panel

Proposed Changes for Next Rounds

Goal: Align program
implementation with
available funding
and staff resources

Example Frequency



- More frequent funding opportunity
- Funds a similar number of studies
- FSA budget of \$3 million / two years

Administrative Changes



Agreement Terms

- No retention
- One year extension provision



Member Agency Partnership

- 5% scoring benefit
- Requires one lead member agency and two or more member agency partners

Final Hybrid Symposium



Next Steps

Oct. Board Action → Issue RFP

Expert Review and Study Selection

2024 Q1: Fund Studies

Execute Agreements Early 2024

Launch Round 4 RFP in 2025/26

Options

- Option #1
 - Authorize up to \$6 million in additional funding for member agency studies and research under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program.
- Option #2
 - Authorize up to \$3 million in additional funding for member agency studies and research under the Future Supply Actions Funding Program.
- Option #3
 - Do not approve an RFP process for FSA Funding Program rounds 3 or 4.

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1





● **Board of Directors**
One Water and Stewardship Committee

10/10/2023 Board Meeting

8-4

Subject

Express support for the goals of the Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group and, by a two-thirds vote, approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000; the General Manager has determined the proposed action is exempt or otherwise not subject to CEQA

Executive Summary

The Climate Mayors is a bipartisan, peer-to-peer non-governmental organization network that has mobilized more than 750 U.S. mayors who demonstrate climate leadership. The Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group has 54 members in states within the Colorado River Basin and will collaborate with water users to promote turf replacement, water reuse, and recycling programs that will help bring the supply and use of the river into balance. A financial sponsorship of \$50,000 establishes Metropolitan as a partner to support projects that will reduce demands on the Colorado River and further demonstrate the District's climate change leadership.

Details

Background

Forging a sustainable future for the Colorado River in the face of climate change requires all water users to reduce water demands. Over the past two decades, Metropolitan has responded to declining conditions on the river through the investment of billions of dollars, with hard-earned partnerships to lower demands, and through purchases and agreements with agricultural users in the Imperial and Palo Verde valleys. In 2022, Metropolitan joined with public water providers in the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins as signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding to implement comprehensive and innovative water conservation programs, initiatives, policies, and actions within their communities.

Founded in 2014, Climate Mayors has mobilized more than 750 U.S. mayors to advance projects that demonstrate climate leadership and promote meaningful actions in their communities. The Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group, which represents western mayors whose cities rely on the Colorado River for water supply, is a fiscally sponsored project of the Resources Legacy Fund. Metropolitan will work in partnership with the organization to support the mayors in achieving the following goals:

- Encourage mayors to pass resolutions and/or adopt policy (i.e., model ordinances) through a phased approach to reduce water consumption and increase reuse and recycling.
- Identify and promote conservation and reuse best practices through fact sheets and virtual roundtables for mayors, sustainability directors, and public works directors.
- Uplift successful programs and policy adoption through social and traditional media.
- Provide talking points and other communication tools to support mayors with outreach to property owners and residents.
- Reduce non-functional turf grass as long-term water savings; map non-functional turf and conduct targeted outreach to property owners on turf replacement program; pass ordinance that bans watering non-functional turf with potable water on commercial, institutional, and industrial properties; pass ordinances

that require replacement of non-functional turf by a date certain and prohibiting installation of non-functional turf on all new development.

The project budget is \$150,000. Metropolitan's share of the budget is \$50,000, which will be funded by the Conservation Credits Program budget. In addition to the \$50,000 sponsorship from Metropolitan, the organization will be seeking funding commitments from additional urban water providers in the Colorado River Basin.

Policy

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11102: Payment of Dues.

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11103: Participation in Projects or Programs Serving District Purposes.

Metropolitan Water District Administrative Code Section 11104: Delegation of Responsibilities.

Metropolitan Water District Act Section 126: Dissemination of Information (subject to a two-thirds vote requirement)

By Minute Item 44813, dated March 12, 2002, the Board adopted the proposed policy principles regarding global climate change and water resources, as set forth in the letter signed by the Chief Executive Officer on February 27, 2002.

By Minute Item 50358, dated January 12, 2016, the Board adopted the 2015 Integrated Water Resources Plan Update, as set forth in Agenda Item 8-3 board letter.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA determination for Option #1:

The proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21065, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378) because it involves continuing administrative activities, such as general policy and procedure making, which will not cause either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (Section 15378(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines). In addition, the proposed action is not defined as a project under CEQA because it involves the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment (Section 15378(b)(4) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

CEQA determination for Option #2:

None required

Board Options

Option #1

Express support for the goals of the Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group and, by a two-thirds vote, approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000

Fiscal Impact: \$50,000. Metropolitan's share of the budget is \$50,000, which will be funded by the Conservation Credits Program budget.

Business Analysis: Allows Metropolitan to visibly participate and provide sponsorship of climate resilient conservation and adaptation projects that will support projects that will reduce demands on the Colorado River and demonstrate the District's climate change leadership.

Option #2

Take no action.

Fiscal Impact: None

Business Analysis: Will not allow Metropolitan to visibly participate and provide sponsorship of climate resilient conservation and adaptation projects that will support projects that will reduce demands on the Colorado River and demonstrate the District's climate change leadership.

Staff Recommendation

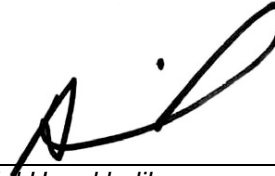
Option #1



Liz Crosson
Chief Sustainability, Resiliency, and
Innovation Officer

10/4/2023

Date



Adel Hagekhalil
General Manager

10/4/2023

Date

Ref #sri12694333



One Water and Stewardship Committee

Authorize \$50k Sponsorship for Climate Mayors

Item 8-4

October 9, 2023

8-4 Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group

Subject

Express Support for the goals of the Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group and, by a two-thirds vote, approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000.

Purpose

The Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group will collaborate with water users throughout the Basin to promote turf replacement, water reuse, and recycling programs that will help bring the supply and use of the river into balance. A financial sponsorship of \$50,000 establishes Metropolitan as a partner to support projects that will reduce demands on the Colorado River and further demonstrate the District's climate change leadership.

Recommendation

Staff recommends expressing support for the goals of the Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group and, by a two-thirds vote, approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000.

Fiscal and Budget Impact

\$50,000. Metropolitan's share of the budget is \$50,000, which will be funded by the Conservation Credits Program budget.

Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group



Climate Mayors Sponsorship

- Climate Mayors is a bipartisan peer-to-peer network that has mobilized more than 750 U.S. mayors who demonstrate climate leadership
- Climate Mayors will develop a Colorado River Basin Working Group aimed to enlist the 52 Climate Mayors in the upper and lower Colorado basins
- The Working Group of mayors will work with their local water districts to promote demand management and local water supply development including, but not limited to:
 - Turf replacement
 - Enhanced incentives and rebates
 - Programs in underserved communities
 - Water reuse and stormwater capture
- A financial sponsorship of \$50,000 establishes Metropolitan's continued commitment to demand reduction and climate adaptation leadership

Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group



SUSTAINABILITY
RESILIENCE
INNOVATION

Program Goals

- Encourage mayors to pass resolutions and/or adopt policy to reduce water consumption and increase reuse and recycling
- Identify and promote conservation and reuse best practices
- Uplift successful programs and policy adoption through social and traditional media
- Provide talking points and other communication tools to support mayors and water districts with outreach to property owners and residents
- Reduce non-functional turf grass through a suite of actions and policies

Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group



SUSTAINABILITY
RESILIENCE
INNOVATION

Builds on Recent Metropolitan Efforts

- Metropolitan, and nearly half of its Member Agencies, joined urban water providers throughout the upper and lower Colorado River Basin on an MOU committing to comprehensive and innovative water conservation programs, policies and initiatives
- Metropolitan co-sponsored AB 1572 with NGOs to phase out non-functional turf on commercial, institutional and industrial properties
- Supports Metropolitan funding proposals to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation seeking support for additional demand management and regional water supply projects
- Builds cohesion between upper and lower basin urban water providers in adapting to changing climate conditions on the Colorado River

Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group



Board Options

Option #1

Express Support for the goals of the Climate Mayors Colorado River Conservation Working Group and, by two-thirds vote, approve a financial sponsorship of \$50,000

Option #2

Take no action

Staff Recommendation

Option #1

Climate Mayors
Colorado River
Conservation
Working Group







One Water and Stewardship Committee

The 20th Anniversary of the Quantification Settlement Agreement

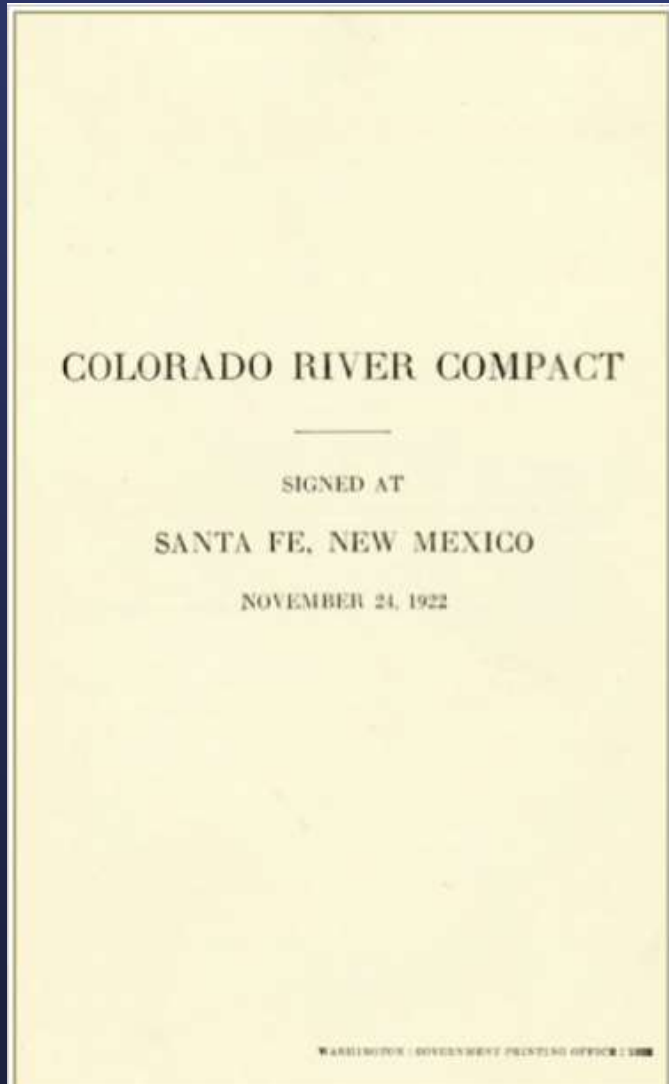
Item 6a

October 9, 2023

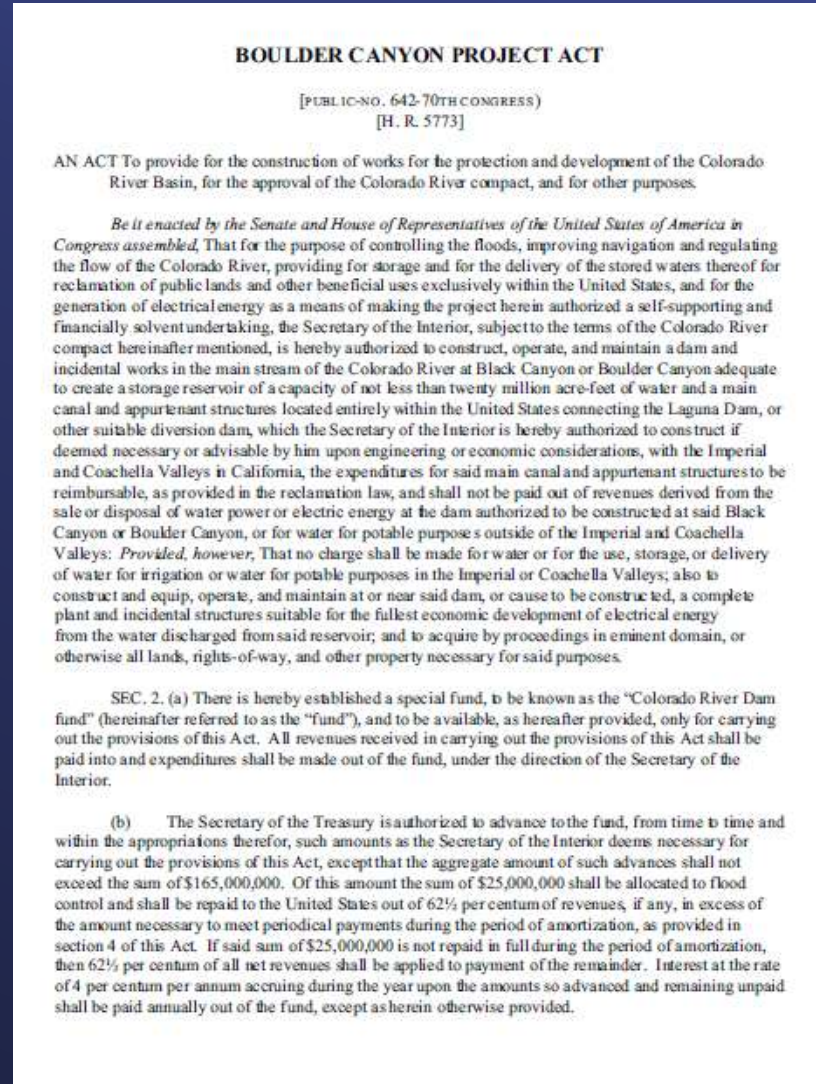
Changing Conditions Challenged the Historic Framework



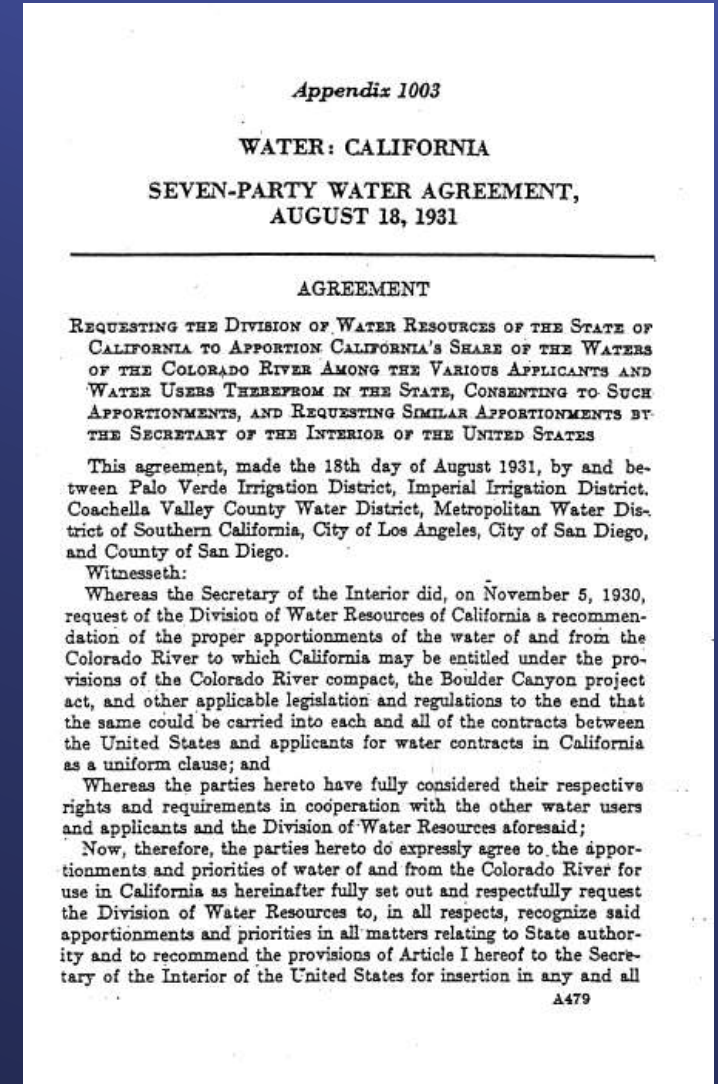
1922 Colorado River Compact



1928 Boulder Canyon Project Act



1931 Seven Party Agreement



Metropolitan is the Junior Priority User in California With Access to Surplus, But Higher Priorities Were Unquantified

California Priority System (1931)

1.	Palo Verde Irrigation District	}	3.85 MAF
2.	Yuma Project		
3.	(a) Imperial Irrigation District Coachella Valley Water District		
	(b) Palo Verde Irrigation District		
4.	Metropolitan Water District	→	0.55 MAF
<hr/>			
	Total CA Basic Apportionment		4.4 MAF
5.	Metropolitan Water District		0.662 MAF



The 1988 Imperial Irrigation District – Metropolitan Water Transfer

Many Lessons
Were Learned



- Demonstrated that transfers could help fill Colorado River Aqueduct
- Funded IID System Conservation (~105 TAFY)
- Unfortunately, MWD sometimes didn't get the benefit
- Quantification would provide greater certainty for future transfer programs

Highlights



Quantification Settlement Agreement

- All American and Coachella Canal Lining
- San Luis Rey Indian Rights Settlement
- Water Conservation, Banking and Transfers
 - IID to San Diego County Water Authority
 - IID to Coachella Valley Water District
- Mitigation of the Salton Sea
- **Quantification** of Coachella Valley Water District and Imperial Irrigation District, but not Palo Verde Irrigation District

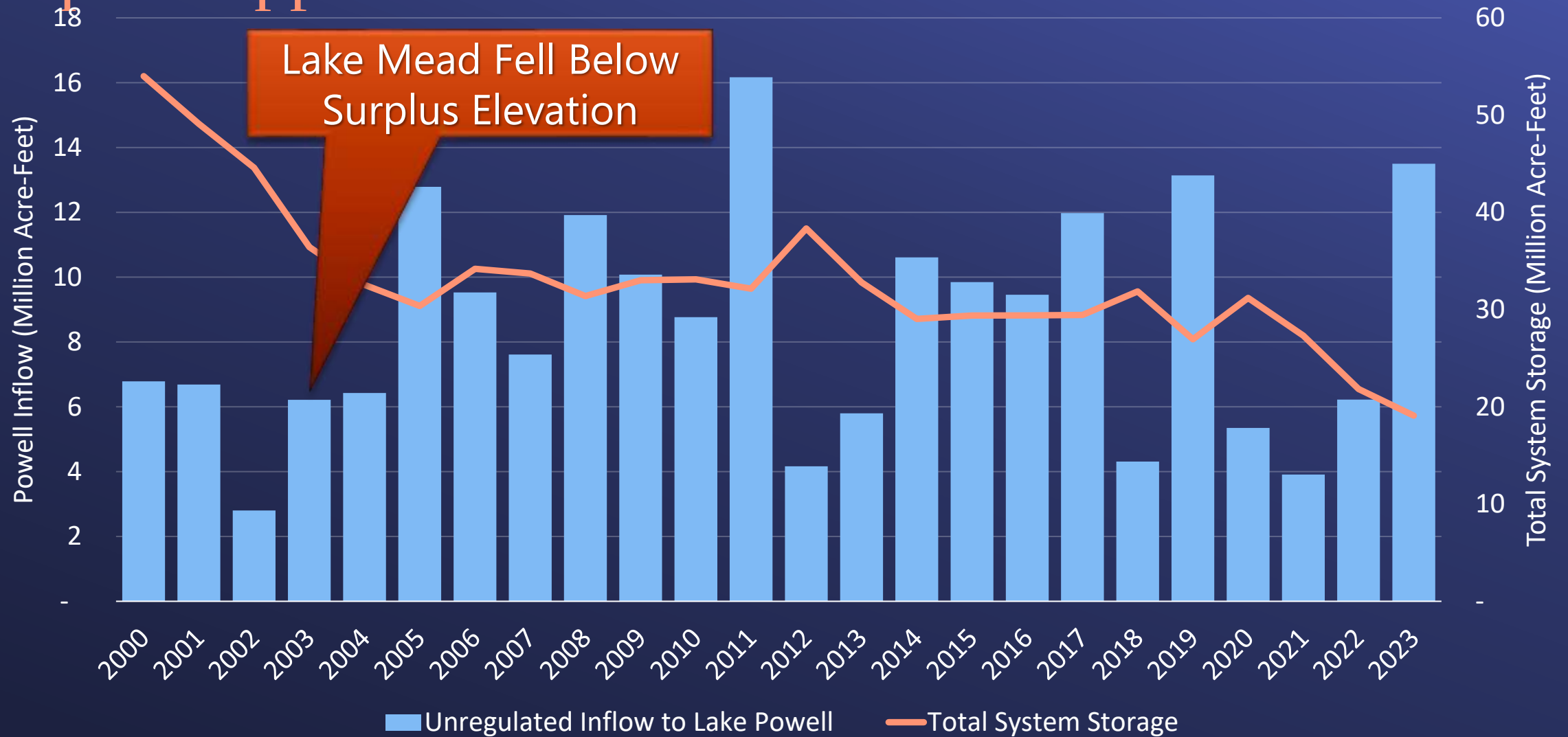


New Era of Cooperation

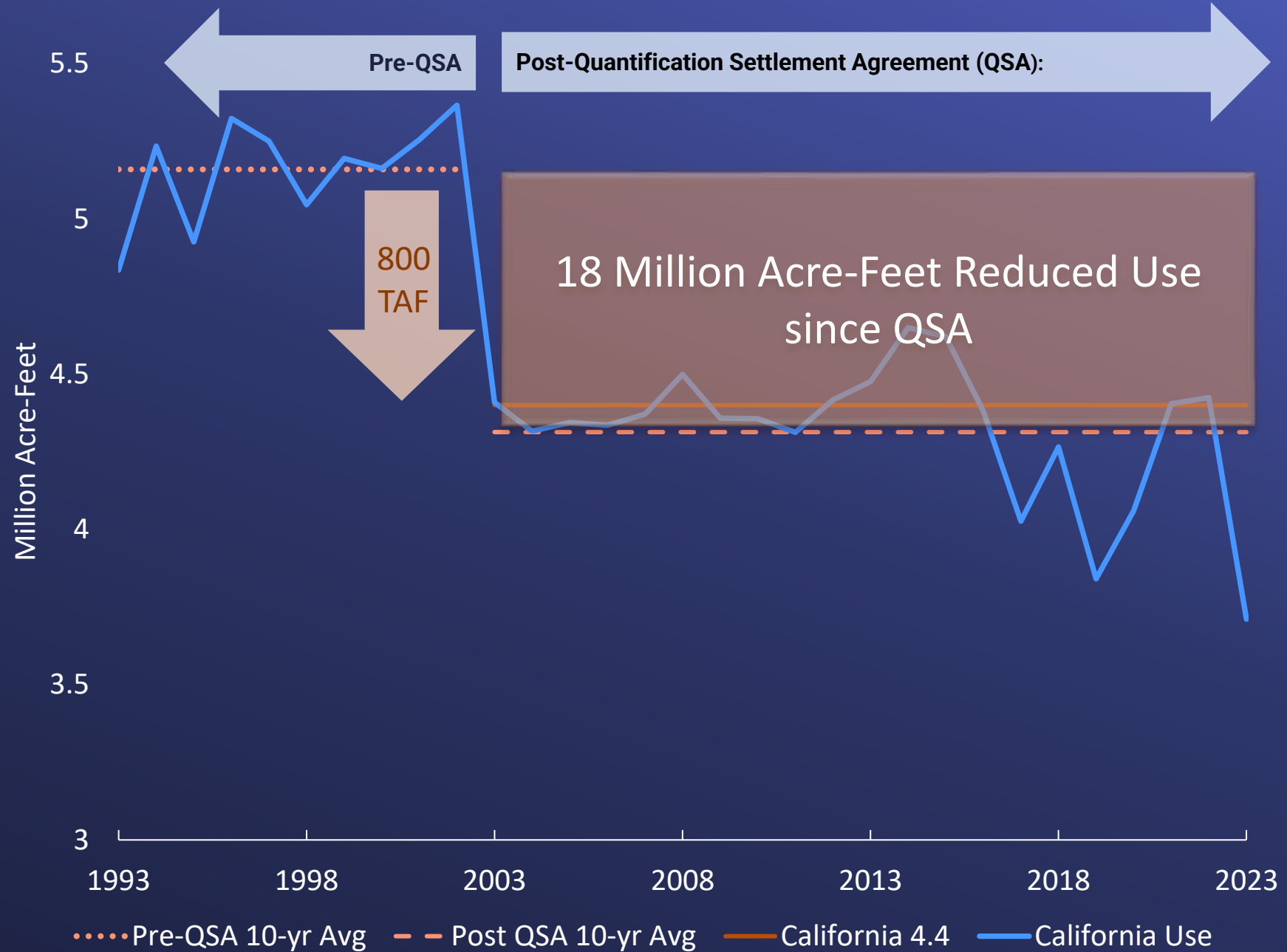


20 Years of California at 4.4 MAF

5 Years of Low Runoff Reduced System Storage Surplus Supplies Did Not Materialize



Reduced Colorado River Reliance by 800,000 AF



Continued Adaptation 2003 - 2013

2004

Water Sharing Agreement with SNWA



2005

PVID Fallowing Program
Quechan Settlement Agreement/Forbearance

2007

Storage in Lake Mead
Lower Colorado Water Supply Project



2008

Brock Reservoir
(MWD funds system efficiency)



2010

Yuma Desalting Plant
Pilot run
(MWD funds system efficiency)



2012

Minute 319
(MWD funds conservation in Mexico)

Continued Adaptation 2014 - 2023

2014

Implementation of Water Sharing Agreement with IID

2017

Minute 323
(MWD funds conservation in Mexico)



2022

Quechan Seasonal Following Pilot



2016

Bard Seasonal Following Pilot

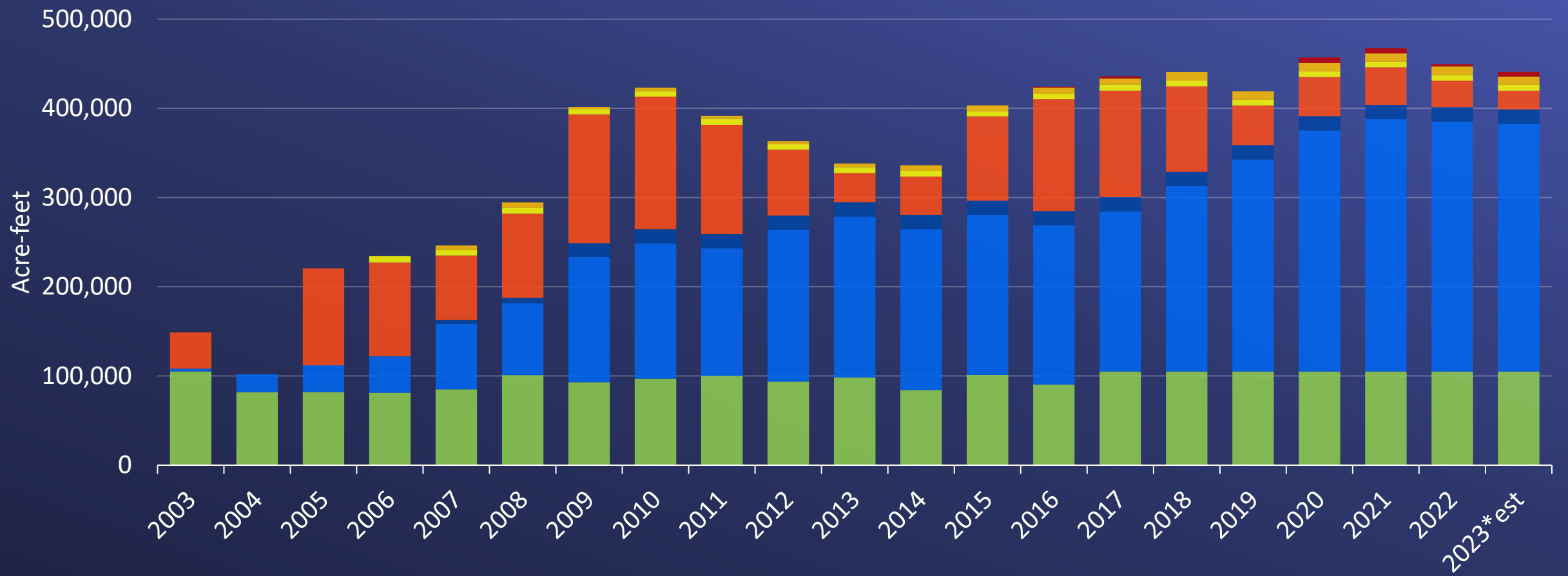


2019

Drought Contingency Plan
(guaranteed access to storage)
at lower Lake Mead elevations)



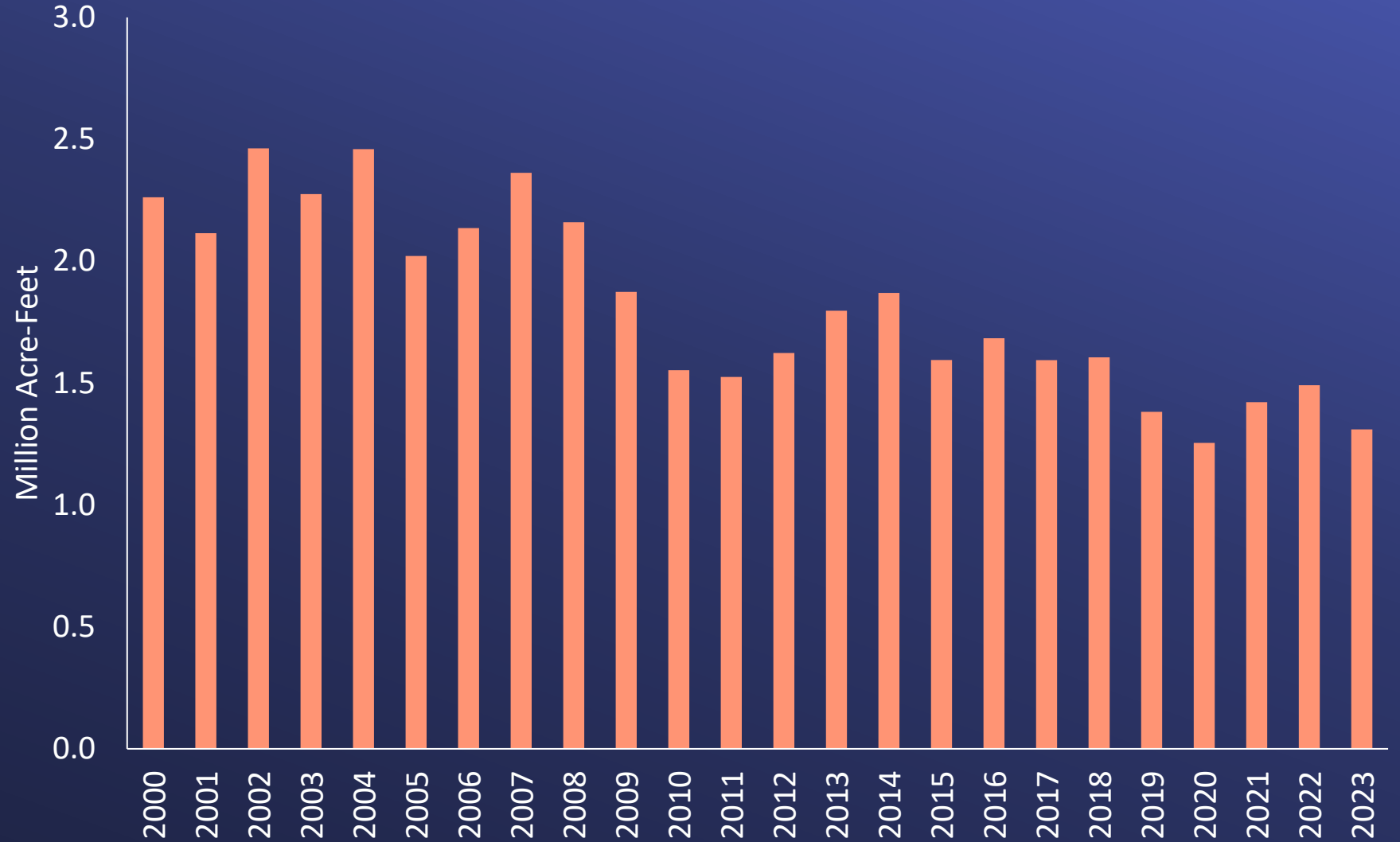
Rebuilding A Base of Supplies Through Programs



- Quechan Seasonal Fallowing Program
- Lower Colorado Water Supply Project
- PVID/MWD Forbearance and Fallowing Program
- SDCWA Exchange Supplies (IID Transfer and Canal Lining Projects)
- Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program
- Quechan Diversion Forbearance
- Canal Lining Projects (MWD Exchange with USBR)
- IID/MWD Water Conservation Program

Metropolitan
Has Worked
to Reduce
Demand for
Imports

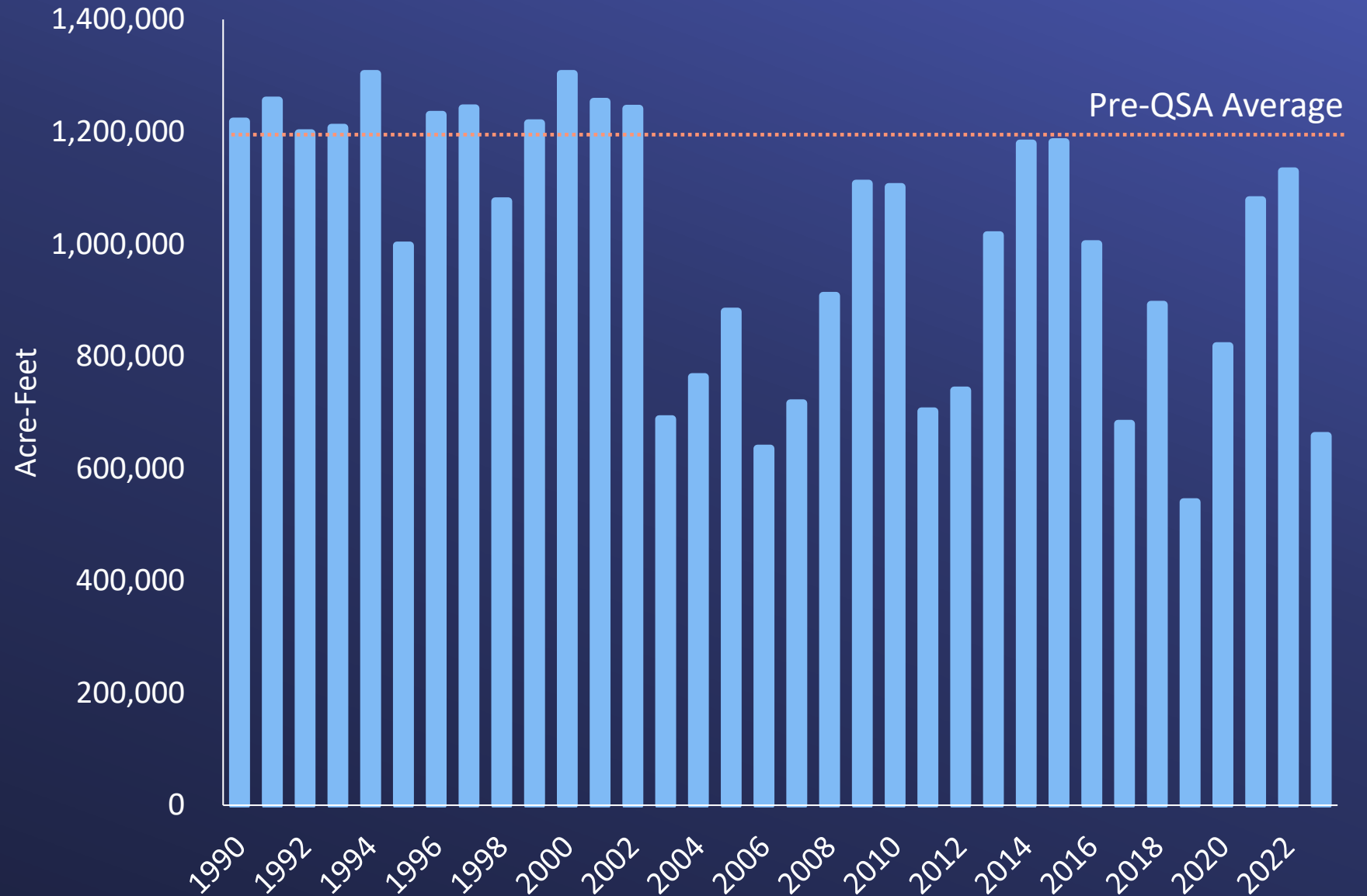
Metropolitan Fiscal Year Sales



Full Aqueduct When Needed

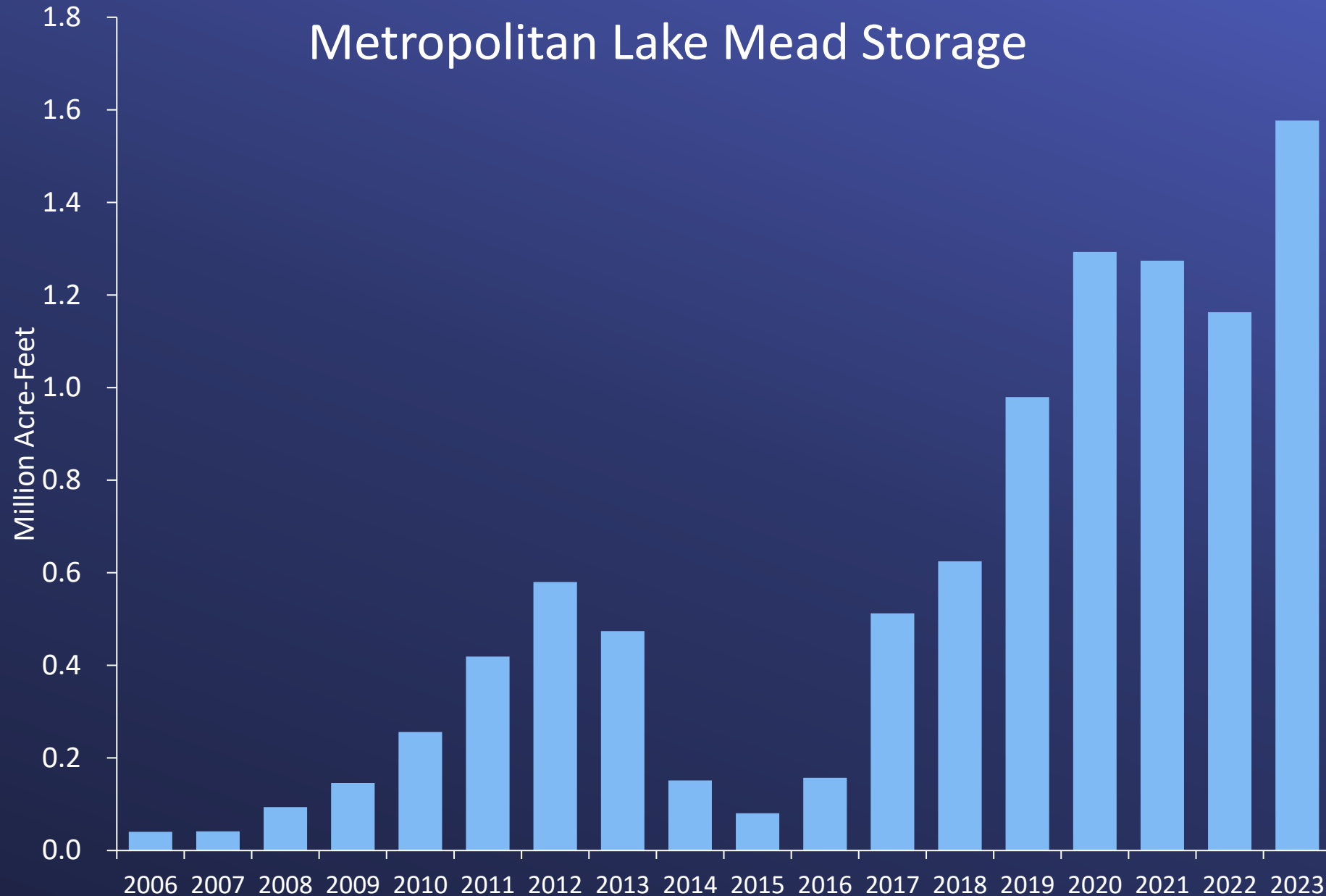


Colorado River Aqueduct Flows



Lake Mead Storage

Put a lot
Take a Little



Summary of Living without Surplus

- California permanently reduced its use of Colorado River water by 800,000 acre-feet per year
- QSA allowed programs to be developed that augment our Colorado River Supplies
- With storage in Lake Mead, we can fill the aqueduct when needed
- A framework others can learn from

California
continues to
live within its
4.4 million
acre-feet per
year







One Water and Stewardship Committee

Conservation Update

Item 6b

October 9, 2023

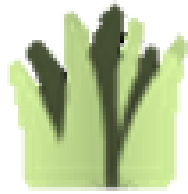
Current Conservation Program Expenditures

FYs 2022/23 & 2023/24⁽¹⁾

	Paid ⁽²⁾	Committed ⁽³⁾
Regional Devices	\$7.2 M	\$5.1 M
Member Agency Administered	\$8.8 M	\$4.4 M
Turf Replacement	\$27.3 M	\$32.9 M
Advertising	\$6.9 M	\$3.6 M
Other	\$2.6 M	\$1.5 M
TOTAL	\$52.8 M	\$47.5 M

- (1) The Conservation Program biennial expenditure authorization is \$86M.
- (2) Paid as of 7/1/2022-8/31/2023 Financial reporting on cash basis.
- (3) Committed dollars as of September 10, 2023.

Current
Conservation
Program
Activity
FYs 2022/23 &
2023/24⁽¹⁾



Turf Replacement Rebates:

August: 1,320,532 ft² removed

FY2022/23-FY2023/24: 12,772,945 ft² removed



Clothes Washers:

August: 1,141 units rebated

FY2022/23-FY2023/24: 14,865 units rebated



Sprinkler Nozzles:

August: 2,120 units rebated

FY2022/23-FY2023/24: 28,470 units rebated

Lifetime Water Savings to be achieved by all rebates in August 2023: 7,334 AF

FY2022/23-FY2023/24: 75,520 AF lifetime water savings

Metropolitan recognized by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



2023 EPA WaterSense Excellence Award in Certification Program Growth







● Bay-Delta Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to the Bay-Delta for September 2023.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Long-Term Delta Actions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources recently announced an expected late 2023 release date for the proposed project Final EIR. The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will describe potential environmental impacts, identify mitigation measures that would help avoid or minimize impacts, and provide responses to all substantive comments received on the Draft EIR.

Sites Reservoir

At the joint Sites Project Authority Board and Sites Reservoir Committee Meeting on September 22, the Reservoir Committee and Authority Board adopted a Board Resolution to establish guidelines for the Sites Project's use of the Lower Colusa Basin Drain (CBD) and Knights Landing Ridge Cut (collectively called the Lower CBD System). These guidelines provide a framework for Sites Authority staff in communicating with multiple partner agencies and individuals along the Lower CBD System and help guide the drafting of land use, operations and maintenance, and other agreements required for the integration of the Lower CBD System and the Sites Project. The guidelines address existing operations in the Lower CBD System, collaboration with local partners, water rights and water accounting, and maintenance and capital improvements.

Near-Term Delta Actions

Science Update

In the month of September, science staff presented to multiple forums including the Northern California Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry and Collaborative Science Adaptive Management Program policy group on topics including contaminant modeling, water project management, and San Joaquin salmonid thru-Delta survival. Additionally, staff also submitted a \$1.6 million-dollar grant proposal to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to continue work on the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project on Bouldin Island.

Regulatory Update

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) released a Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Draft Staff Report and Substitute Environmental Document on September 28, 2023. This report will be open for public comment and evaluates the impacts of the different Bay-Delta Plan update alternatives, including the State Water Board's unimpaired flow based 2018 Framework staff proposal and the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (also known as Voluntary Agreements). Staff is reviewing this document and plans to present an update to Metropolitan's Board in November 2023.

● Colorado River Management Report

Summary

This report provides a summary of activities related to management of Metropolitan's Colorado River resources for the month of September 2023.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Bureau of Reclamation Annual Operating Plan Second Consultation

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) held the second of four consultation meetings regarding its Annual Operating Plan for Colorado River Reservoirs (AOP) for 2024. Each year Reclamation prepares an AOP that reports on operations of Colorado River Reservoirs during the past year, and projects operations and releases for the current year based on current and projected reservoir elevations and hydrologic conditions throughout the basin. The AOP provides Metropolitan with significant operational information regarding projected releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead and whether the Lower Division States (California, Arizona, and Nevada) will be at normal, surplus, or shortage conditions. Metropolitan uses information in the AOP to plan diversions, Intentionally Created Surplus creation and/or delivery, interstate banking determinations, and Drought Contingency Plan Contributions. In most years the AOP is finalized in September, but the 2024 AOP is expected to be finalized in October 2023 due to the anticipated schedule of the 2007 Interim Guidelines Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. A Tier 1 shortage has been declared for next year. This determination does not affect Metropolitan's operations.

Post-2026 Tribal-States Technical/Legal Workgroup Meeting

Reclamation held a meeting for technical and legal staff from the Colorado River Basin States and Tribes to provide updates on public comments submitted on the scoping of the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and next steps in the process. The Tribal-States Technical/Legal Workgroup came out of Reclamation's joint sovereigns meeting of both the Colorado River Basin's Tribes and States. These meetings are part of Reclamation's ongoing efforts to provide an inclusive process for the Colorado River Basin States and Tribes in development of the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines.

Metropolitan's Initial 2024 Colorado River Diversion Request

Metropolitan's 2024 Colorado River Diversion Request and Part 417 Consultation Questionnaire were submitted to Reclamation. This request includes all transfer water and water that becomes available through the Colorado River priority system in 2024, except that Metropolitan anticipates that conserved water under the Palo Verde Irrigation District/Metropolitan Forbearance and Fallowing Program and Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program will be contracted for system water under Inflation Reduction Act funding in 2024. That water would be left in Lake Mead as system water and was not included as part of Metropolitan's 2024 diversion estimate. For 2024, staff submitted an estimated total diversion amount of about 960 thousand acre-feet.

In addition, Metropolitan's Part 417 consultation questionnaire explains the dramatic transition from dry to wet hydrologic conditions in California and the importance of the Colorado River supplies to Metropolitan's service area. The document also highlights Metropolitan's actions on conservation and continued outreach efforts to encourage conservation and reduce water use. Reclamation will be conducting Part 417 consultation meetings in the coming months with contractors regarding water conservation measures and operating practices in the delivery, distribution, and use of Colorado River water. Information gathered during the consultation process is

Board Report (Colorado River Management Report)

used by the Regional Director of Reclamation to make a determination regarding a contractor's estimated water requirements for the following year.