



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## External Affairs

- **Monthly Activity Report for July 2025**

### Summary

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This report provides a summary of External Affairs activities for the month of July 2025.

### Purpose

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Informational

### Attachments

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Detailed Report – External Affairs Group’s Monthly Activities for July 2025

# Activities in Support of the Business Plan

## Develop Post-2026 Guidelines and Negotiate Implementation Agreements

- **Educate legislators so they will champion the District's interests**

Metropolitan provided updates to congressional staff on the status of discussions on post-2026 Colorado River operations and what is at risk for Metropolitan.

Media Services coordinated an interview between AP reporter Dorany Pineda and Bill Hasencamp regarding "beneficial" and "reasonable" use of the Colorado River water.

H.R. 831, the Lower Colorado River Multispecies Habitat Conservation Amendment Act sponsored by Rep. Calvert passed the House Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent on July 15. If enacted this bill will allow Reclamation to collect interest on the non-federal contributions to the LCR MSCP program.

## Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect our Bay Delta Interests

- **Maintain and advocate for Metropolitan's interests in DCP planning and associated funding**

Metropolitan is continuing efforts to support the advancement of the Governor's Delta Conveyance Project streamlining proposal. Additional legislators have agreed to support the proposal. Coalition partners are planning an advocacy day following the Legislative Summer Recess and are pushing to see this proposal emerge in trailer bill form soon thereafter. The Governor has identified this as a priority for the end of session and Metropolitan is actively working to garner support.

Legislative Services organized a district office meeting with State Senator Dr. Steven Choi (R-Irvine) to discuss Metropolitan's state legislative priorities and local issues, including DCP. Directors Ackerman, Jung, and Seckel attended.

Media Services partnered with member agencies to feature directors on social media talking about the significance of Gov. Newsom's Delta Conveyance Project trailer bill proposal. Upper Water kicked off the series with a video of Director Anthony Fellow and Municipal Water District of Orange County posted a video of Director Karl Seckel. Metropolitan produced a short, "5 things to know about the State Water Project" video to emphasize the importance of the SWP to California.



## Complete EIR and Planning, for Board to Consider Pure Water Southern California

- **Complete EIR analyses and public process**

The Community Relations Team completed an extensive outreach campaign for the PWSC Draft EIR public comment period that ended on July 14. The campaign sought to inform and engage the public through public meetings, community events, social media, and tours of the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center. A collection of materials in English and Spanish were created including postcards, flyers, display ads and a video encouraging involvement in the review process.

Presentations on PWSC were made to the Carson City Council, National Water Research Institute (NWRI), and City of Los Angeles Cabinet on Water Resiliency. Tours were provided to Assemblymember Sade Elhawary and ASCE LA and MWD Engineering Services Group Student Interns. Information was shared at two community events: City of Lakewood Summer Concert in the Park and Active San Gabriel Valley Bike Ride.

## Improve the Workplace and Promote START Values

- **Use annual assessments to inform workplace improvement strategies**

Metropolitan's procurement team toured the PWSC Napolitano Innovation Center, helping them to understand this major initiative and the role they will play in its future development if the project moves forward.

The Creative Design Team collaborated with Conveyance and Distribution to draft a video script to introduce new operator certification training opportunities, along with collateral materials.

External Affairs launched the development of an internal communications plan to identify creative strategies and tools to reach employees across the district.

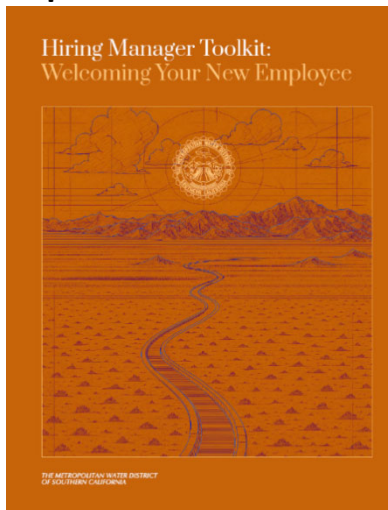
- **Promote START values (Safety, Trust, Accountability, Respect, Teamwork)**

To continue the spotlight on safety, the Creative Design Team collaborated with the Office of Safety, Security and Protection on the HQ newsletter issued in July. They also created a short slideshow video to highlight employees recognized for safety achievements.



## Other Activities in Support of Strategic Priorities

### Empower the workforce and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion

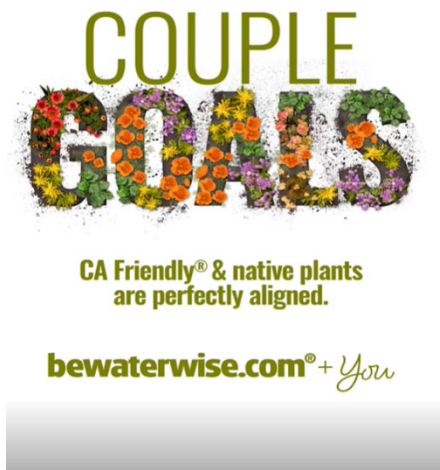


The new Hiring Manager Toolkit, prepared by HR and designed by the Creative Design Team, was completed. The toolkit will be a valuable resource for managers as they onboard new staff.

### Adapt to changing climate and water resources

Metropolitan's summer outreach campaign to encourage Southern Californians to say, "Goodbye Grass" continued on many platforms and included new assets for the flight with planning underway for a fall campaign. This campaign is designed completely in-house. The posts are being boosted on Facebook and Instagram, generating more than 2 million impressions so far and solid cost-per-click rates.

Media Services supported BDI with the announcement of significant achievements for the Webb Tract Restoration Project through a post explaining the important project in the Delta.



The Press Office coordinated:

- An interview between KUNC's Alex Hagar and Elise Goldman regarding potential cuts to WaterSMART funding.
- Participation of Liz Crosson in a panel discussion regarding Southern California's water use, supplies and future on KQED's Forum show, based on the recent New York Times article on water challenges and solutions in LA.
- An interview with Fresno Bee reporter Erik Galicia and John Bednarski and Sarah Bartlett regarding the effect of subsidence on the California Aqueduct.

A press release was issued on additional funding for the Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations project, which will allow more DVL and Colorado River water to be delivered to the SWP dependent area.

### Protect public health, the regional economy, and Metropolitan's assets

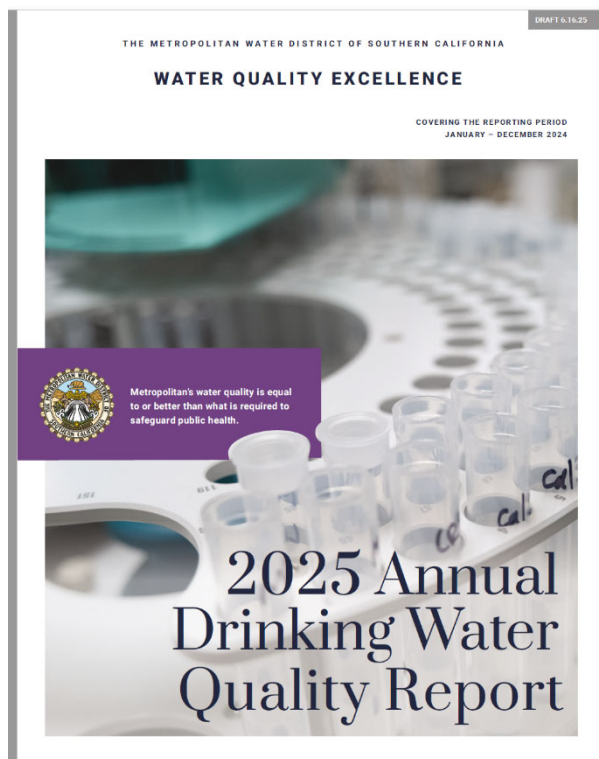
Metropolitan has formed a coalition of over 40 agencies to advance legislation that updates current law to ensure California is able to effectively control the spread of invasive golden mussels. Since their initial discovery in October 2024, they have spread rapidly throughout the Bay-Delta, creating an urgent need to move forward with

policy solutions. The coalition is working to move language as part of a budget trailer bill before session adjourns for recess on September 12.

AB 580 (Wallis) to extend Metropolitan's alternate authority under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act moved to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

Metropolitan staff worked to advance the following bills: AB 532 (Ransom) for local water agencies to establish low-income rate assistance programs; SB 31 (McNerney) increasing the use of recycled water in non-potable applications; SB 72 (Caballero) to improve future planning of California water supplies; SB 394 (Allen) increasing penalties for fire hydrant water theft; and SB 454 (McNerney) establishing a PFAS Mitigation Fund to address PFAS contamination in California's drinking water and wastewater systems. Metropolitan maintains an oppose unless amended position on AB 794 (Gabriel) which would allow for an emergency regulatory process for the State Water Board's PFAS regulations on drinking water standards; this bill was moved to the Assembly Inactive File. Metropolitan also maintains an oppose unless amended on AB 1319 (Schultz) which would amend the California Endangered Species Act to authorize the California Fish and Game Commission to adopt an emergency regulation that adds a federally listed species that is native to California to the list of endangered or threatened species on an emergency basis under certain conditions. Metropolitan maintains an oppose position on SB 601 (Allen) increasing the State Water Board authority to regulate wastewater discharges. Staff is working with the bills' authors to address concerns.

Metropolitan's annual drinking water quality report was completed and posted online, with a Spanish version to come. An mwdh2o.com homepage story highlighting the report draws reader attention to the posting, and the water quality page of our website was updated with new materials.



The Community Relations Team notified local communities of upcoming construction work for the following projects:

- City of Rolling Hills Estates residents adjacent to PV Reservoir for information on upcoming Helicopter dip facility
- Oak Street PCS driveway asphalt repair

Date of Report: August 18, 2025



Metropolitan provided updates to the City of La Verne on the Weymouth Improvement Project and The Getty on the Sepulveda Feeder Rehabilitation project.

## **Partner with interested parties and the communities we serve**

### **Legislative Services**

Metropolitan hosted district office staff of Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino) for a tour of the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant.

Legislative Services provided briefings on Metropolitan's legislative priorities and local programs to district office staff for the following elected officials: Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Senator Carolyn Menjivar, Assemblymember Sade Elhawary, Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, Orange County Supervisor Doug Chaffee, Orange County Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento, and Orange County Supervisor Donald Wagner.

Staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 50 webinars, meetings, and events with community groups, business organizations, and trade associations on Metropolitan activities and other related topics.

### **Education**

The Education Team held its Annual Member Agency Education Coordinators Meeting, with the theme "Game On – Water Education All-Stars." Attendees explored Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways and learned about EMWD's innovative teacher institute. Michael Collins of Project Lead the Way emphasized the importance of project-based learning related to college prep and vocational education.

Metropolitan hosted the California Environmental Education Foundation (CEEF) Teacher Institute for the first of four full-day workshops. This institute focuses on climate change, water reuse, and strategies for integrating environmental literacy into the classroom. There were guest speakers from LADWP, MWD and Project WET.

The Education Team supported EMWD's IGNITE Summer Teacher Institute where teachers engaged in hands-on, place-based learning aboard pontoon boats on Diamond Valley Lake, deepening their understanding of watershed health, water quality, and conservation education.



In partnership with Legislative Services, school supplies and conservation pledge cards were provided to youth at the Boys & Girls Club of the San Fernando Valley. The team also supported Back-to-School Drives led by local elected officials, expanding visibility and impact in underserved communities.

### **Media Services**

Media Services collaborated with Influencer Tim Biskup on a conservation video, produced in-house. The video highlights how nature inspires Tim's artwork, with a call out to Metropolitan's tree rebate at the end.

Metropolitan celebrated the Fourth of July on social media with a video featuring flags waving majestically at Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant. The video, shot by our video team this year, received the strongest engagement on LinkedIn in July – with more than 400 interactions.



I am Tim Biskup

**TIM BISKUP**

tbiskup and mwdh2o  
Original audio

tbiskup Trees are some of my favorite forms of inspiration. So many shapes to play with! Climb, swing or just hang around under one today.

#bewaterwise and add some trees to your California Friendly® landscape.

For water-saving tips and tree rebates, visit [bewaterwise.com/trees](https://www.bewaterwise.com/trees).

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👍 Liked by pride\_at\_metropolitan and 656 others  
July 9

Add a comment...

Post



**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**

27,833 followers

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Wishing everyone a wonderful [#FourthofJuly](#) from Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant, a vital part of the Colorado River Aqueduct system. Have a safe and happy holiday with your loved ones. [#4thofJuly](#) [#EagleMountainPumpingPlant](#) ...more



🌐🍌🍌 Ian Whyte, MSPA and 144 others

5 comments