



## External Affairs

- **Monthly Activity Report for August 2025**

### Summary

---

This report provides a summary of External Affairs activities for August 1 through August 18, 2025.

### Purpose

---

Informational

### Attachments

---

Detailed Report – External Affairs Group’s Monthly Activities for August 1 through August 18, 2025

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## Monthly Activity Report

### Activities Supporting the General Manager's Business Plan Goals

#### Goal: Develop Post-2026 Guidelines and Negotiate Implementation Agreements

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

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

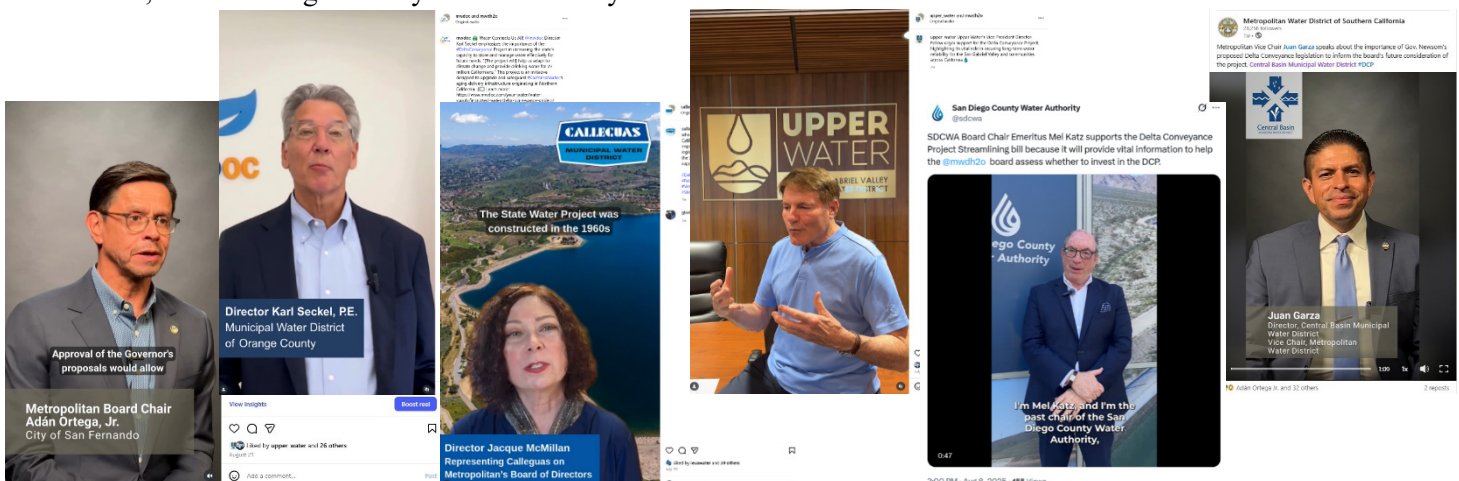
The Press Office coordinated an interview between CalMatters reporter Rachel Becker and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp on Colorado River negotiations, including current conditions and negotiation status.

#### Goal: Decide on Sites Reservoir and Protect our Bay-Delta Interests

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

Metropolitan, under the leadership of State Legislative staff, continued efforts to support the advancement of Gov. Newsom's Delta Conveyance Project streamlining proposal. Additional legislators have agreed to support the proposal. Coalition partners are planning an advocacy day on August 20 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.

Media Services completed the partnership with member agencies to feature directors on social media talking about the significance of Gov. Newsom's Delta Conveyance Project streamlining proposal for their member agency. The following directors participated: Chair Adán Ortega, Jr., Calleguas Municipal Water District Director Jacque McMillan, Central Basin Municipal Water District Director Juan Garza, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District Director Jay Lewitt, Municipal Water District of Orange County Director Karl Seckel, and San Diego County Water Authority Director Mel Katz.



# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## Monthly Activity Report

The Press Office issued a media statement supporting the inclusion of Healthy Rivers and Landscapes in the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

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

- **Complete EIR analyses and public process**

Community Relations continued outreach efforts to inform and engage the public on Pure Water Southern California. Presentations were made to the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District and the Glendale Chamber of Commerce. Tours of the Napolitano Innovation Center were provided for the public, Pacoima Beautiful, Southeast Water Coalition, Cal Water's local offices and executive team, and Heal the Bay.

### Goal: Improve the Workplace and Promote START Values

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

Working in collaboration with Conveyance & Distribution, Creative Design created a fact sheet and posters and produced a video in-house for the launch of a new Operator Certification Program that provides work hours for test preparation and taking for distribution and treatment certifications.

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

Media Services recognized more than 20 interns district-wide through a fun reel on social media featuring all of them in their work environments for National Intern Day. Metropolitan's Financial Reporting Section of the Controller's Office was highlighted for receiving national recognition for transparency and fiscal responsibility.



# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## Monthly Activity Report

### Other Activities Supporting the General Manager's Strategic Priorities

#### Adapt to changing climate and water resources

Creative Design produced two videos in collaboration with Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation featuring GM Upadhyay speaking about the importance of data sharing within the water industry.

The Press Office issued a press release on the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure awarding its prestigious Envision Silver Award to Metropolitan's Casa Loma Siphon project, making it an earthquake-resistant pipeline.

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

Metropolitan continues to work with 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 continues in 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's authority to regulate wastewater discharges. Staff is working with the bills' authors to address concerns.

Community Relations conducted outreach on nitrification flushing activities to the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Councilmember McOskey's Office, and local residents.





# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## Monthly Activity Report

Creative Design produced an in-house video on the Lake Mathews Gate Repair, which included staff and contractor interviews with aerial, ground and underwater footage. The video explained the complexity of repairing infrastructure that is over 100 feet deep in our reservoir.

Metropolitan celebrated National Water Quality Month with a video posted on National Backflow Prevention Day showing staff dedicated to the maintenance of backflow prevention equipment, and a video featuring Quality Assurance Officer Socorro Baldonado introducing the Annual Water Quality Report.

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

#### Legislative Services

Legislative Services provided briefings on Metropolitan's legislative priorities and local programs to district office staff for Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove and Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo.

Conservation resources and Metropolitan-branded items were provided to the district offices of Senator Henry Stern and Assemblymember Avelino Valencia for distribution at summer community events.

Metropolitan sponsored the Building Industry Association San Bernardino County Chapter's Southern California Water Conference and the Orange County Business Council's Legislative Day.

The Government Affairs Representatives presented, monitored, and/or participated in 59 webinars, meetings, and events with community groups, business organizations, and trade associations on Metropolitan activities and other related topics.

#### Community Relations

Five water conservation and education projects and/or events were supported this month by the Community Partnering Program: Friends of the Los Angeles River River Fest 2025, City of Rosemead Collaborative Water Wise Rain Garden Events, Greater West Covina Business Association Community Resource Fair, Water Insecurity Correction Coalition Watts Resilient: Reimagining Stormwater Infrastructure for Environmental Equity and Olivenhain Municipal Water District Community Open House.

Member Services and Public Outreach staff coordinated a tour of the Diemer Water Treatment Plant for City of Fullerton management and staff.

# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## Monthly Activity Report

### Education

The Education Team hosted three CORO High School Fellows for a two-week internship. The students toured Diamond Valley Lake and the Pure Water Southern California Napolitano Innovation Center. They assisted with the student art program and met with several career panels, including representatives from Metropolitan's Apprenticeship Program, Engineering, and Water Resources Management. At the completion of their internship, they presented their projects on Water Careers, Tap Water Day, and a High School Media Day at Pure Water.

In partnership with internal departments and community groups, the Education Team distributed school supplies and conservation pledge cards at the Tarzana School Backpack Event.

The Education Team provided an overview of Metropolitan's education programs and hosted a resource table featuring curriculum, career info, and classroom supplies for the Water Energy Education Alliance.

Twenty-nine member and retail agencies submitted 227 student art images for the 2026 student art calendar contest; participating agencies collectively received over 2,000 entries celebrating youth voices and their conservation messages.

### Media Services

Media Services collaborated with two influencers on social media. A video, produced in-house, featured Evan Lovett of LA in a Minute talking about the history of Metropolitan and how the district provides reliable drinking water to Southern California. We also partnered with jazz musician, Jeff Parker, on a video highlighting how nature inspires his music and his experience with transforming his yard with native and California-friendly plants, and how it is still thriving despite the January fires in Altadena.

