



One Water and Adaptation Committee

5/11/2026 Committee Meeting

6b

Subject

Update on Water Surplus and Drought Management

Executive Summary

This report provides a preliminary accounting for water supply, demand, and storage conditions for calendar year (CY) 2026 as of April 15, 2026, and tracks the hydrologic conditions for water year (WY) 2025/26. Updated supply and hydrologic information will be provided during the May One Water and Adaptation Committee presentation.

Northern Sierra snowpack levels are well below normal at 11 percent, and precipitation levels are normal at 101 percent. The Upper Colorado River Basin snowpack is also well below normal at 23 percent, and precipitation levels are below normal at 85 percent. With a water year runoff forecast of only 40 percent of normal, Lake Powell is forecast to fall below 3,490 feet, the minimum elevation for power production, later this year unless actions are taken. These actions include reducing the amount of water that was planned to be released from Glen Canyon Dam by as much as 1.48 million acre-feet (MAF) this water year.

Metropolitan's total imported supply is estimated to be 1.46 MAF for CY 2026 at current allocation levels, before any WSDM actions. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) State Water Project (SWP) Table A Allocation remains at 30 percent. Metropolitan's SWP supply is 574 thousand acre-feet (TAF). The Colorado River Lower Basin is at a Level 1 shortage in CY 2026, which does not impact Metropolitan's operations or water supply. Metropolitan's Colorado River supply is currently estimated at 882 TAF, which includes temporarily turning over some programs to the Bureau of Reclamation to add water to Lake Mead. Metropolitan's Colorado River supply may change based on higher-priority water use in California and future water management actions by Metropolitan.

Metropolitan's CY 2026 demands, including other obligations, are estimated to be 1.49 MAF. Holding the current estimated demand and available imported supply constant, Metropolitan projects a supply deficit of approximately 38 TAF. Metropolitan has available dry-year storage to meet this demand deficit, even as it may increase, including within the SWP Dependent Area. The following is the status of WSDM and other actions:

- **Cyclic Deliveries:** Initiated for in-region partners accepting water for groundwater replenishment.
- **SWP Groundwater Banking Deliveries:** Puts into Semitropic in March for SWP carryover management.
- **Desert Water and Coachella Valley Exchange (DWCV):** Ramping up deliveries to DWCV to increase supply flexibility for future operations and managing Colorado River supplies.
- **Diamond Valley Lake:** Paused deliveries of SWP supplies in late March due to dry conditions.
- **External Agency Water Sales:** Sold 20 TAF of supply to Semitropic Water Storage District to generate revenue. In accordance with prior Board authorizations, staff is negotiating additional water sales for SWP supplies.

- **Cyclic Cost Offset Program (CCOP):** Initiated in February in anticipation of Article 21 supplies becoming available. CCOP was suspended in early April due to changing conditions in the SWP Share of San Luis, which reduced Metropolitan’s risk of carryover spill.
- **Conjunctive Use Program (CUP) Takes:** Metropolitan has initiated a call to withdraw storage for programs approaching agreement expiration.

Applicable Policy

By Minute Item 43514, dated April 13, 1999, the Board adopted the Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan.

Related Board Action(s)/Future Action(s)

Not applicable

Details and Background

Hydrologic Conditions

Figures 1-6 below show the SWP and Colorado River system snowpack, precipitation, and forecast water year runoff for WY 2025-2026 (as of 4/15/2026).

Figure 1: Northern Sierra Snowpack

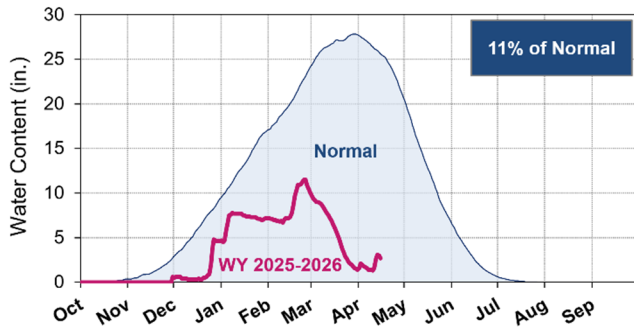


Figure 2: Upper Colorado Basin Snowpack

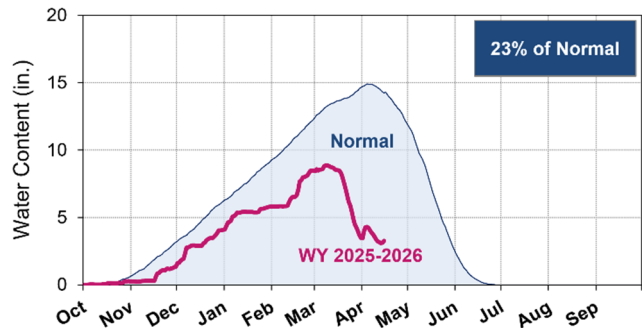


Figure 3: Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation

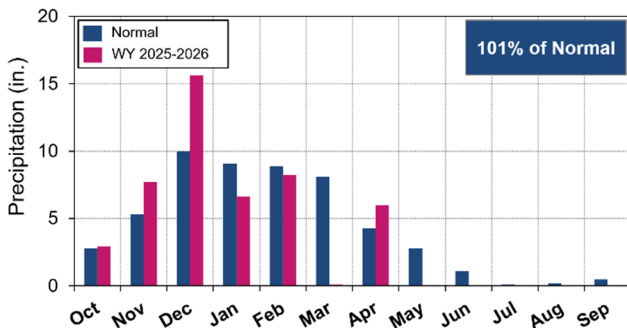


Figure 4: Upper Colorado River Basin Precipitation

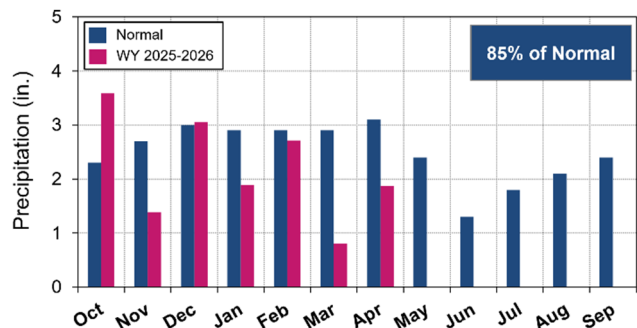


Figure 5: Sacramento River Water Year Runoff

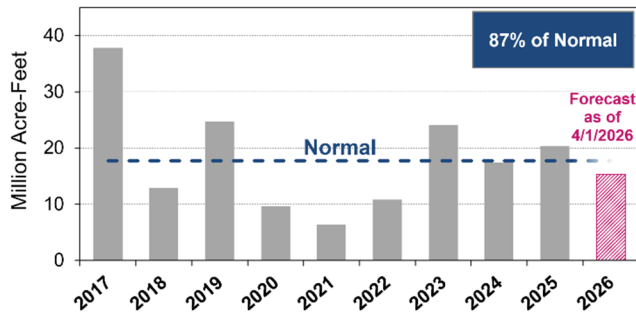
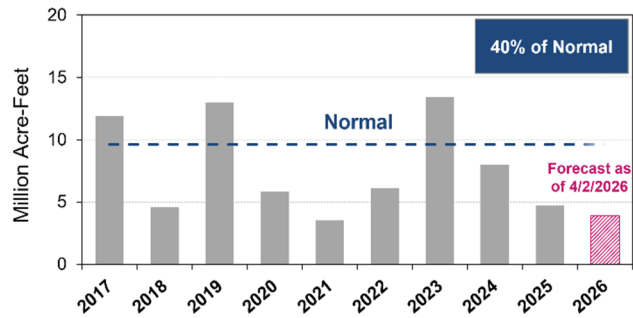


Figure 6: Powell Unregulated Water Year Runoff



2026 Supply Conditions

Table 1 shows the total CRA supply by apportionment and program entitlement, and Table 2 shows total SWP supplies based on the current SWP allocation by source as of 4/15/2026.

Table 1: CRA Supplies

CRA Supplies	Acre-Feet
Basic Apportionment	550,000
IID/MWD Conservation Program	105,000
PVID Following Program ¹	0
Exchange w/ SDCWA (IID/Canal Lining)	278,000
Exchange w/ USBR (San Luis Rey Tribe)	16,000
Lower Colorado Water Supply Project	9,000
Bard Seasonal Following Program ¹	0
Quechan Diversion Forbearance ¹	0
Quechan Seasonal Following Program ²	1,000
Higher-Priority Water Use Adjustment	-81,000
CVWD - 2nd Amendment, Exchange of Additional Water	4,000
Total CRA Supplies³	882,000

Table 2: SWP Supplies

SWP Supplies	Acre-Feet
Table A (30 percent SWP allocation)	573,000
Port Hueneme ¹	1,000
Total SWP Supplies²	574,000
Total Supplies (CRA + SWP)	
(Prior to storage actions)²	1,456,000

¹ Not a supply for Metropolitan in 2026. Water generated from these programs becomes system water as part of USBR’s Lower Colorado Conservation Program to help protect Lake Mead.

² Rounded to the nearest thousand. Supply is 780 AF.

³ Per Metropolitan’s Initial Estimate of the Colorado River Diversion. Total may not sum due to rounding. CRA supply is limited by an operational constraint of 1.25 MAF.

¹ Rounded to the nearest thousand. Supply is 555 AF.

² Total may not sum due to rounding.

2026 Demand Conditions

Table 3 summarizes current demands as of 4/15/2026. Figure 7 visually shows the surplus based on current supply and demand projections.

Table 3: Summary of Current Demands

Current Demand	Acre-Feet
Member Agency Consumptive ¹	1,326,000
Member Agency Replenishment	40,000
Coachella Valley Water District Agreement	
2nd Agreement	35,000
Imperial Irrigation District Return ²	0
Exchange w/ San Luis Rey Tribe	16,000
System and Storage Losses	52,000
Cyclic Deliveries	5,000
Reverse Cyclic Deliveries	0
Water Sales Outside Service Area	20,000
Total Demands ³	1,493,000

¹ Includes exchange w/SDCWA (IID/Canal Lining) and CUP sales.

² Per USBR Forecast (4/13/2026).

³ Total may not sum due to rounding.

*Figure 7: Supply and Demand Balance
Balancing Supply and Demand*

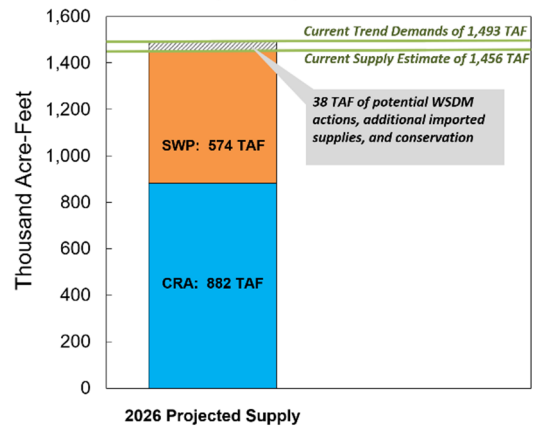


Table 4 shows WSDM Storage Detail as of 4/15/2026.

Table 4: WSDM Storage Detail

	1/1/2026 Estimated Storage Levels ¹	CY 2026 Put Capacity ²	CY 2026 Take Capacity ²	2026 Total Storage Capacity
WSDM Storage				
Colorado River Aqueduct Delivery System	1,622,000	0	131,000	1,622,000
Lake Mead ICS	1,622,000 ³	0	131,000 ⁴	1,622,000 ³
State Water Project System	1,265,000	356,000	768,000	2,430,000
MWD and DVCV SWP Carryover	473,000 ⁵	149,000	473,000	621,000 ⁶
MWD Articles 14(b) and 12(e)	0	0	0	0
Castaic and Perris DWR Flex Storage	219,000	0	219,000	219,000
Arvin-Edison Storage Program	100,000	0 ⁷	0	350,000
Semitropic Storage Program	237,000	92,000	45,000	350,000
Kern Delta Storage Program	142,000	45,000	32,000	250,000
Mojave Storage Program	19,000	0	0	330,000
AVEK Storage Program	30,000	0	0	30,000
AVEK High Desert Water Bank Program	45,000	70,000	0	280,000
In-Region Supplies & WSDM Actions	1,042,000	71,000	633,000	1,151,000
Diamond Valley Lake	760,000	50,000	503,000	810,000
Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner	204,000	22,000	92,000	226,000
Conjunctive Use Programs	77,000	0	38,000	115,000
Other Programs	684,000	118,000	93,000	1,181,000
Other Emergency Storage	381,000	0	0	381,000
DVCV Advanced Delivery Account	303,000	118,000	93,000	800,000
Total	4,613,000	545,000	1,626,000	6,384,000
Emergency	750,000	0	0	750,000
Total WSDM Storage (AF)⁸	3,863,000	545,000	1,626,000	5,634,000

¹ Preliminary start of year balances, subject to DWR adjustments and USBR final accounting in May 2026.

² Put and Take capacity assumed under a 30 percent SWP Table A Allocation. Storage program losses were included where applicable.

³ This amount is net of the water Metropolitan stored for IID in Lake Mead in an ICS sub-account.

⁴ Take capacity is based on planned maintenance activities and the current CRA supply estimate.

⁵ The carryover beginning balance is subject to change based on actual December 2025 conditions.

⁶ Total storage capacity varies year-to-year as the contractual annual storage limit, based on the current SWP Table A allocation of 30 percent, is combined with the remaining balance from the previous year. There is a potential risk that Metropolitan's stored water may be converted to SWP contractor water if the San Luis Reservoir approaches full capacity. Metropolitan is actively monitoring the storage in San Luis Reservoir and has plans to manage carryover supply should the reservoir fill.

⁷ Puts are limited due to water quality considerations.

⁸ Total WSDM Storage level subject to change based on accounting adjustments. Total may not sum due to rounding.

Table 5 shows WSDM Future Obligations as of 4/15/2026.

Table 5: WSDM Future Obligations

Description	Beginning of Year 2026 Balance ¹
Water Stored for IID under the California ICS Agreement and its Amendment or the 2021 Settlement Agreement with IID ²	207,000
Storage and Interstate Release Agreement with Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) ³	330,000
Coachella Valley Water District Agreement ⁴	35,000
Total (AF) ⁵	572,000

¹ Rounded to the nearest thousand AF. Subject to change based on accounting adjustments.

² Reflects final accounting under USBR's 2025 Water Accounting Report released May 15, 2025. IID can request a return in any year, conditional on agreement terms. The Beginning of Year Balance excludes the IID ICS sub-account water and includes evaporation and system losses charges to IID.

³ SNWA is not expected to call upon Metropolitan to return water until after 2026. SNWA may request up to 30,000 AF per year.

⁴ Obligation must be met by the end of 2026. Metropolitan is projecting to decrease the CVWD agreement obligation by 35,000 AF by the end of this year.

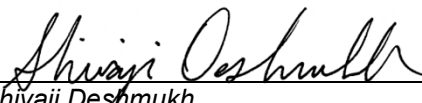
⁵ Total may not sum due to rounding.



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4/28/2026

Date



Shivaji Deshmukh
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4/28/2026

Date