Water Resource Management Group

- **WRM Monthly Activities for March 2024**

Summary

The Water Resource Management Group March 2024 Monthly Activities

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Implement Water Surplus and Drought Management Plan (WSDM)

Consistent with the WSDM plan staff is exploring opportunities to purchase water transfers from willing sellers. Staff is regularly coordinating with potential sellers north of the Delta on developing hydrologic conditions and operations outlooks to be positioned to purchase additional water if needed in 2024.
(Strategic Priority 3 - Goal 3.2)

Ensure Access to Sufficient Water Supplies to Operate a Full Colorado River Aqueduct in Times of drought.

Staff chaired a three-day meeting of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum (Forum) Technical Work Group in San Diego, CA. Topics discussed included (1) progress toward federal legislation to reduce the state cost-share requirement; (2) a report that ongoing operation of the Paradox Valley Unit at 2/3-capacity has yielded no unusual seismic or well pressure results; (3) preparations for the 2026 "Triennial Review," in which the Forum communicates salinity control progress to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and (4) updates from key federal agencies involved in the Program, including United States Beuro of Reclamation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Geological Survey. *(Strategic Priority 3 - Goal 3.2 - Outcome 3.2.1)*

Staff participated in the 2024 Quantitative Settlement Agreement (QSA) Workshop hosted by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). Staff delivered a presentation on Metropolitan's 2023 operations and listened to presentations from other agencies party to the 2003 QSA—including IID, Coachella Valley Water District, and the San Diego County Water Authority—on progress toward QSA implementation.
(Strategic Priority 3 - Goal 3.2 - Outcome 3.2.1)

Implement Regional Conservation Program

Staff presented on AB 1572 at a California Water Efficiency Partnership Plenary meeting for other conservation coordinators throughout the state. Metropolitan co-sponsored AB 1752 (Friedman), which prohibits using potable water to irrigate non-functional turf located on most commercial, industrial, and institutional properties. This legislation is seen as one vehicle to drive additional water conservation throughout Southern California and the State. *(Strategic Priority 3 - Goal 3.2 - Outcome 3.2.8)*

Date of Report: April 8, 2024

Collaborate with Member Agencies, Water Agencies and Associations, and Provide Leadership for Policy Development, Advocacy, Outreach and Education

Staff attended the Metropolitan sponsored Multi-State Salinity Coalition's (MSSC) annual conference, which was held on February 29 and March 1 in Las Vegas. Dr. Maria-Elena Giner, the United States Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission for the United States and Mexico gave the keynote speech on the complexities of the supply and salinity of the water that crosses the United States' southern border with Mexico. Eastern Municipal Water District and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority staff participated in a panel discussion on concentrate management. Metropolitan is a founding and board member of the MSSC.

On March 4, Metropolitan Water Resource Management and Engineering Services (ES) staff attended a peer-to-peer workshop with Mekorot, which is the national water company and the top agency for water management in Israel. At this online workshop, staff from the two agencies exchanged information related to the advanced tools used for pipeline monitoring, inspection, and protection. Merkorot shared their experience in implementing artificial intelligence in their water planning and their cathodic protection pilot project. Metropolitan ES staff shared their knowledge in fiber optic monitoring of large-diameter pipelines and tunnel 3D mobile inspection surveys. *(Strategic Priority 5 - Goal 5.1), (Strategic Priority 5 - Goal 5.1 - Outcome 5.1.1)*