



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

● Chair of the Board Adán Ortega Jr.'s Monthly Activity Report – June 2025

Summary

This report highlights my activities as Chair of the Board, as well as Board Member highlights during the month of June 2025 on matters relating to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's business.

Monthly Activities

Key Activities

- I attended a ceremony on June 2 to mark the signing of an agreement to settle litigation between the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority, ending a 15-year-long dispute. While many thought such a settlement was impossible in 2022 when I was elected Chairman of the Board, this milestone reflects dedicated efforts by board leaders of both entities, as well as our member agencies, to build trust that has been lacking for over 25 years. Following this remarkable event, I was interviewed by KPBS News San Diego and CBS8 San Diego, where I shared that increasing climate volatility that has cascaded into resource management, rate and financial uncertainty we are managing together through CAMP4W, helped us find a common cause that will benefit the entire region.



- Joined the swearing-in of Director Raymond Jay, who was appointed to the Metropolitan Board to represent the City of Torrance. Director Jay brings 35 years of experience in water resources to the board. Director Jay retired from Metropolitan earlier this year after working for 18 years in local water supplies and grants, primarily within the Water Resource Management Group. He has served on Torrance's Water Commission for eight years, including two years as chair, where he focused on keeping water rates affordable and expanding local water conservation. He succeeds Russell Lefevre, who represented Torrance on Metropolitan's 38-member board since 2013. Director Jay brings diverse expertise from his time in the regulatory arena, as well as from his experience at Metropolitan and his years serving on Torrance's water commission.



- I was honored to provide remarks at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) 75th Anniversary Board Workshop - a milestone celebrating decades of partnership, progress, and a shared commitment to preserving public health and supporting water supply reliability. I congratulated IEUA on 75 years of service and partnership. From their early beginnings as the Chino Basin Municipal Water District to its current role as a pioneer in water recycling and conservation, IEUA has been instrumental in advancing water reliability across the Inland Empire and all of Southern California. We look forward to continuing this strong collaboration for the next 75 years and beyond.



- Participated in a two-day educational visit to the areas of origin of our water supplies from the Northern Sierra Nevada in Plumas and Summit Counties, 250 miles northeast of the decaying Sacramento Delta. Arranged by Metropolitan's Resource Specialist Jennifer Nevilles, I was joined by Director Jacque McMillan and Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer Liz Crosson. We were hosted by the Sierra Institute for Community & Environment and Blue Forest, and the Watershed Solutions Network. The area has been struggling to recover from the Dixie and Paradise fires that compromised the watershed with erosion and resulting sediments affecting the Feather River and its tributaries. The two counties with a combined population of 23,000 have been on their own with limited success in getting grant funding to protect the quality of the water supply that 27 million people depend upon. On the first day, we visited several key locations, including the Emergency Authority Treatment Area in Taylorsville, Round Valley, the Town of Greenville, and the Sierra Institute's office in Taylorsville. The second day

included site visits to the Calpine Forest Health Project and the New Mill potential site and groundwater recharge projects near Loyalton. The trip has inspired me to organize an inspection trip beginning in the two counties so we can educate Southern California leaders about the need to help leaders of Plumas and Summit Counties; and increase awareness of how policy positions as well as municipal and economic activities in the Delta degrade the quality of our water supplies; and imperil its reliability. Again, special thanks to Metropolitan Water District expert Jennifer Nevills and CEO Watershed Solutions Network Debbie (Davis) Franco, along with their partners at Watershed Solutions Network and Blue Forest, for making the visit possible.



- Participated in the 2025 Los Angeles County Water Resiliency Summit panel "Water Governance: State & Federal Outlooks" alongside Chair Juakin Esquivel of the State Water Resources Control Board, and Wade Crowfoot-California Natural Resources Secretary. Moderated by LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horwath, the panel brought together policymakers to explore opportunities for federal, state, and regional collaboration on long-term water resilience in the face of climate change. I emphasized Metropolitan's Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) and the importance of a 100-year vision for planning and projects while managing affordability. During the Q&A, I addressed key issues including infrastructure investment, climate impacts, rising service costs, and water quality.



- Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer Liz Crosson and I visited Eastern Municipal Water District, where we spoke to 100 members of the Southwest Riverside County Water Alliance about how our Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water supports a forward-thinking approach to water planning that addresses the many challenges brought by a changing climate. In attendance were Metropolitan Directors Garza, Dennsted, and Armstrong



- Attended the San Diego County Water Authority Board meeting, where Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer Liz Crosson and I spoke about the connections between CAMP4Water, the Biennial Budget process, Bay-Delta issues, and the Colorado River. I emphasized the ongoing need to develop forward-looking solutions to climate impacts and system vulnerabilities, advancing strategies for a more equitable and resilient water future.



- Attended the Municipal Water District of Orange County's 2025 Water Policy Forum and Dinner featuring The Honorable Troy Edgar, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Deputy Secretary Edgar provided insights into the new administration's policies and their implications for California's water future. Discussions included recent federal initiatives aimed at enhancing water infrastructure, ensuring sustainability, and addressing the unique challenges faced by our region.



Other Activities

- Celebrating Pride Month at Metropolitan, I stopped by to support staff as they greeted and welcomed everyone with sweet and colorful treats to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, embracing diversity and inclusion, and honoring our progress toward equality.
- Recorded a podcast with We Grow California about the Governor's Delta Conveyance Budget Trailer Bills.

["We Grow California" Podcast – ECPAC](#)



Regularly Scheduled/Ongoing Meetings

I continue to meet regularly to review the Board's organizational issues and coordinate activities with the Board Vice Chairs, the General Manager, and his executive team.