



Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee

2/9/2026 Subcommittee Meeting

6a

Subject

2025 System Operations: A Year in Review

Executive Summary

This report provides operational highlights for calendar year 2025, including hydrologic conditions, system operations, various operational challenges that occurred throughout the year, and how Metropolitan continued to maintain reliability.

2025 marked the third consecutive year of surplus conditions for Metropolitan. Through proactive planning and operations, Metropolitan responded to the surplus conditions and challenges of 2025, achieving record-breaking dry-year storage levels that ensure continued water supply reliability for the region.

With improved supply conditions, Metropolitan took steps to manage the surplus water and support partners outside the service area while enhancing its financial stability. These efforts included water sales outside the service area, pre-delivery of future obligations, and contributions to Lake Mead under the System Conservation Implementation Agreements.

The aging infrastructure, devastating wildfires, major storms, and the detection of Golden Mussels underscored the need for continued reinvestment through the asset management program and Capital Improvement Plan.

Entering 2026, Metropolitan is well-positioned on supplies and remains focused on system reliability through targeted infrastructure upgrades and proactive operations.

Fiscal Impact

Not applicable

Applicable Policy

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

Details and Background

In the years leading up to 2025, Metropolitan experienced three successive drought years, followed by two successive years of surplus supplies. In 2025, a modest final State Water Project (SWP) allocation combined with low in-region demands resulted in surplus supplies for a third consecutive year.

Northern Sierra had above-average precipitation, snowpack, and runoff conditions. These favorable conditions contributed to strong storage levels on the SWP side and ultimately led to a 50 percent SWP allocation. In contrast, the Upper Colorado River Basin experienced below-normal precipitation and snowpack throughout the

year, highlighting the ongoing drought that continues to put pressure on the system and contributes to declining water levels in Lake Mead.

With a 50 percent SWP allocation and low in-region demands, operational and resource strategies were adjusted to maximize storage and apply innovative approaches to manage the surplus water. For a third consecutive year, Metropolitan maximized groundwater deliveries through the cyclic program, resulting in about 90 TAF of deliveries. Metropolitan closed the year with a record 473 TAF in carryover storage and with a total dry-year storage balance of 3.81 MAF, maintaining a high storage level for the third consecutive year. This helps strengthen the region’s dry-year reliability.

Metropolitan maintained regional water reliability, meeting about 1.23 MAF of member agency demand.

The improved supply conditions enabled Metropolitan to implement strategic measures that supported partners outside its service area while enhancing financial stability. These efforts included water sales outside the service area to Westside Districts, Semitropic Water Storage District, and San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District; pre-delivery of 200 TAF to fulfill part of the 2027-2035 obligations to Coachella Valley Water District; and approximately 242 TAF in contributions to Lake Mead under the Bucket 2 System Conservation Implementation Agreement.

Metropolitan continued its commitment to maintain its aging infrastructure and ensure reliable operation through capital project improvements made during major shutdowns. Several challenges associated with aging facilities limited operational flexibility. These include mechanical issues with the Lake Mathews Tower 1 gate, a tear in the Garvey Reservoir floating cover, and a transformer oil leak at Hinds Pumping Plant. Metropolitan addressed these conditions through operational adjustments and close coordination.

Events such as wildfires and significant storms highlighted the critical role of Metropolitan’s emergency response planning. Additionally, the emergence of the invasive Golden Mussel in the SWP system added to operational challenges in 2025. Metropolitan established an interdisciplinary task force to address this issue, demonstrating preparedness, adaptability, and proactive management.

Following a surplus year in 2025 with record-breaking storage levels, Metropolitan is ready for a range of shortage and surplus conditions in 2026. Metropolitan will continue to work in close coordination with its member agencies and regional partners, continue delivering high-quality water to meet its member agency demands, strategically operate and manage its portfolio of resources, and maintain a robust water system for continued reliability. Metropolitan’s effective planning, operations, and investments ensure the region is ready for 2026 and beyond.


 _____ 1/30/2026
 Keith Nobriga Date
 Group Manager, Integrated Operations
 Planning & Support Services


 _____ 1/30/2026
 Shivaji Deshmukh Date
 General Manager