



General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of December 2022



Table of Contents

Message from the GM	3
Strategic Priorities Update	4-6
Executive Summary	7-8
Upcoming Board Items	9
Reflections	10
Water Resources and Engineering	
Water Resource Management	11-15
Bay-Delta	16-17
Colorado River	18
Engineering	19-23
Operations	
Water System Operations	24-41
Information Technology	42
Real Property	43-44
Security	45-46
Finance and Administration	
Finance	47-48
Administrative Services	49
Human Resources	50-51
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	52
External Affairs	53-56
Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation	57-61

Message from the General Manager

I want to wish you and your families a happy new year!

As we ring in the new year, I want to celebrate our many successes in 2022, and also send my best wishes to those who are embarking on retirement after decades of service to the communities of Southern California.

We will begin the year with a new Chair of the Board of Directors, Adán Ortega. Chair Ortega will draw on decades of water industry experience to provide invaluable insight and oversight of our agency, and I am excited to work with him in 2023.

On January 11, we will convene a managers forum to kick the year off right by reinforcing our agenda for this year with our managers.

At Metropolitan, we must continue to embrace change to prepare for the future. That includes supporting staff development, career growth, and expanding pathways for hiring and economic opportunity.

That's why last month we held a signing ceremony for the recently approved Project Labor Agreement (PLA). Applying to the largest of our capital improvement projects, the PLA requires contractors to follow certain labor requirements and to provide for local hiring, worker training, and apprenticeship programs.

The PLA includes a goal of 60 percent employment of local workers. It also sets a goal of 15 percent transitional-worker engagement, aiming to employ workers from at-risk situations. These are the highest such goals in the region, and we felt it was important to establish such high goals because ensuring our projects have a skilled, agile and diverse workforce will help us provide the water infrastructure we will need for the future.

In 2023, we will make major investments to support adequate, reliable, high-quality water for Southern California and with increased attention to sustainability and climate action, equity, collaboration, and resiliency.

I look forward to working with you in 2023.

We are one,

Adel



“Do the things that need to be done. Do all the good you can each day. The future will unfold”

**- Mildred Norman,
American activist aka
Peace Pilgrim**



Strategic Priorities Update

The General Manager's Strategic Priorities guide actions in key areas of focus, investment, and transformation for Metropolitan.

Empower the workforce and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion

Build a safe, inclusive, and accountable workplace where all employees feel valued, respected, and able to meaningfully contribute to decisions about their work.

December's management training session focused on how managers can enhance their self-motivation and their assertive and persuasive communication skills. There was also a module from Franklin Covey on "Multipliers" (how to inspire the best results from your team). All managers will be gathering in January for the semiannual Management Forum. The Leadership Academy cohort will be starting in early 2023 and will include new modules from EEO and DE&I.

Prepare and support the workforce by expanding training and skill development and updating strategies to recruit and retain diverse talent at a time when Metropolitan's needs are evolving and employee expectations about the workplace are changing.

New recruitment training procedures having been submitted to the State Auditor in October, training on the new procedures is underway and will be completed by April 2023. Training in Envision Sustainable Infrastructure Standards is in development and will be provided beginning in February.

Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model

Conduct a careful, deliberative and inclusive review of the rate structure to ensure the business model can adapt to changing needs of the member agencies and support sustainable local and imported supplies.

Board member interviews are expected to be completed in January; feedback will be summarized at the upcoming board retreat.

Manage rate pressure on member agencies through attention to programmatic costs, organizational efficiencies and efforts to secure external funding for projects with broad and multi-purpose benefits.

Staff is preparing an RFI to gauge interest and evaluate options on several Metropolitan properties for renewable energy and storage development, with desired outcomes to include revenue and climate action credits as well as energy benefits. We aim to issue the RFI in January.

Adapt to changing climate and water resources

Provide each member agency access to an equivalent level of water supply reliability through necessary adaptive implementation of the IRP findings.

Staff regularly met with State Water Project-dependent agencies to develop volumetric limits for SWP Table A, Human Health & Safety, and Water Surplus & Drought Management (WSDM) supplies. Staff also is developing a board resolution to prepare the region for a potential Water Supply Allocation for FY2023–24.

Bids for construction of the Wadsworth Pumping Plant Bypass were opened on December 13, 2022. Board award of the contract is scheduled for January 2023.

The Colorado River Basin States agreed in December to work together to develop a seven-state consensus alternative that can be included in the Bureau of Reclamation's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the 2007 Interim Guidelines. We are working with partner agencies in California and the Basin States to attempt to develop an acceptable alternative, which needs to be provided by the end of January 2023 to have time to include it as an alternative in the SEIS.

Advance the long-term reliability and resilience of the region's water sources through a One Water approach that recognizes the interconnected nature of imported and local supplies, meets both community and ecosystem needs, and adapts to a changing climate.

SRI is engaging a consultant to help facilitate the development of a district-wide SRI Strategy that will include Guiding Principles, Goals and Key Performance Metrics that integrate Metropolitan efforts on sustainability, resilience, and innovation. This will include Engineering's efforts on its Infrastructure Resilience Plan and the Seismic Resilience Plan, both of which are underway. Engineering is continuing to assess the potential for ENVISION certification in two capital projects and is exploring test installations to allow for use of a greater percentage of reclaimed asphalt in paving projects.

Staff reported to the Board this month on Climate Action progress to green our energy portfolio, transition to zero emission vehicles, and build renewable energy; they also launched a public-facing dashboard tracking Metropolitan's greenhouse gas emissions and reported to the Board on a quarterly science update related to Bay-Delta issues.

The public comment period for the Delta Conveyance Project EIR is complete, and the USACE Draft EIS is now out for comment until mid-February.

The Board approved the use of the \$80-million state grant to help expedite the Pure Water project, including the hiring of a select number of staff. An RFP for early-start pipeline design was advertised this month and the Program Manager procurement is nearly complete.

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

Proactively identify, assess, and reduce potential vulnerabilities to Metropolitan's system, operations, and infrastructure.

Staff continued efforts to enhance Metropolitan's emergency preparedness, including conducting an after-action meeting with Orange County first responders during a full-scale exercise at the Diemer plant and planning the next seismic resiliency emergency exercise with DWR and LADWP for late 2023. We collaborated with federal and local partners to address physical security risks and attended the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management workshop to present Metropolitan's pipeline condition assessment program.

Construction of the Cybersecurity Operations Center is expected to be complete in January 2023. As part of Metropolitan's Data Center Modernization Relocation Project, the project team successfully completed its final migration wave including the desktop virtualization infrastructure (VDI), the Enterprise GIS System, and IT hardware.

Apply innovation, technology, and sustainable practices across project lifecycles (design, construction, operations, maintenance, and replacement).

A Sustainable Procurement task force has been convened and meeting weekly since August 2022. We have accomplished research and benchmarking of public agency sustainable policies and engaged Empower Procurement consultants for policy development support. Since November 2022, the task force has begun drafting revisions to Procurement/Contracting Operating Policy (OP) G-05 and new OP for Sustainable Procurement.

SRI has hired a new Unit Manager to help lead innovation efforts. Priorities include fostering grassroots innovation throughout the district, pursuing new renewable energy including floating solar, and building partnerships in innovative project development and funding.

Engineering and its consultant are initiating the upgrade and procurement of equipment to replace the entire existing control system at the Mills plant. Because of delays in executing the consulting agreement, the completion date has been extended from July 2023 to September 2023.

Partner with interested parties and the communities we serve

Grow and deepen collaboration and relationships among member agencies, interested parties, and leaders on the issues most important to them and toward mutual and/or regional benefits.

Staff has completed an assessment of the Community Partnering Program and is preparing a report summarizing key findings and recommendations. We are also in process of assembling information and recommendations that could help facilitate public input into Metropolitan policies and projects.

The Project Labor Agreement having been established, all three projects which are planned for board award in January will be covered by the PLA.

Reach underserved communities and non-traditional interested parties to better understand their needs and ensure their inclusion in decision making.

Staff is inventorying recent projects with underserved communities and tribal interests to prepare assessments and propose strategies to reach and deepen relationships with these parties, including through outreach, education, business/job development, and partnerships.

Executive Summary

This executive summary is added to this report to provide a high-level snapshot of a key accomplishment from each area of the organization. Detailed information is reported in the pages following this summary.

Administrative Services

Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1330—Pure Water Southern California Program—Program Management Support Services. Metropolitan and the Los Angeles County Sanitation District are exploring the potential of a large-scale recycled water infrastructure system called the Pure Water Southern California Program (Program or PWSC) to beneficially reuse water currently discharged to the Pacific Ocean. The solicitation will make available consultant services to support Metropolitan’s Pure Water Southern California efforts in the management, administration, control, engineering, and construction management of the Program.

Bay-Delta Initiatives

The public comment period for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) Draft Environmental Impact Report concluded on Friday, December 16. Also on December 16, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released the public Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the DCP. The public comment period runs from December 16, 2022, to February 14, 2023. The USACE will also hold three virtual public meetings in January 2023 to receive comments from the public on the project and the draft document.

Chief Financial Officer

Participated in planning meetings to develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with FEMA requirements that would enable Metropolitan to seek grant funding for projects.

Colorado River

The Colorado River Basin States met in Las Vegas on December 12 and agreed to work together to develop a seven-state consensus alternative that can be included in the Bureau of Reclamation’s (Reclamation) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Reclamation would need an alternative developed by the end of January 2023 to have time to include it as an alternative in the SEIS. Metropolitan staff will be working with its partner agencies in California and the Basin States to attempt to develop an acceptable alternative.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The DEI office continues to make impact advancing diversity, equity and inclusion across all stakeholder groups at Met. In December, staff attended the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Orange County (FACCOC) business awards and was presented with the “Advocate of the Year” award, honoring outreach and engagement efforts to the Filipino-American community. Members of the SRI office joined DEI and attended the United States Green Building Council LA 18th Annual Gala and Sustainable Innovation and Community Awards. The DEI office also participated in the Women Business Enterprise Council – West virtual conference with attendance from over 200 women owned enterprises. Tribal Relations and Workforce Development (TRWD) staff and members of the MWD Native American Alaska Native Advocates (NAANEA) met with the Chairman and department management staff of the Chemehuevi Tribe of the Colorado River, discussing ways to make impact in workforce development efforts as well as reduction of water usage from the Colorado River using tribal knowledge of plants that consume a disproportionate amount of water resources. With respect to internal workforce efforts, the DEI Office conducted a number of exit interviews for retiring staff, garnering additional feedback to inform a DEI strategy and roadmap to be released in early 2023.

Engineering Services

In December, Engineering Services opened bids for three large construction contracts: 1) construction of the Interstate 215 freeway tunnel crossing to complete the 96-inch-diameter Perris Valley Pipeline; 2) installation of three 48-inch valves and approximately 19,500 feet of steel-liner to rehabilitate a portion of the Second Lower Feeder in the cities of Lomita, Los Angeles and Torrance; and 3) construction of the Wadsworth Bypass Pipeline

which is the first of four drought-related contracts to enable the direct delivery of water from DVL to the Rialto Pipeline. All three contracts will go to the January 2023 board for approval and will be conducted under the terms of Metropolitan's project labor agreement. To facilitate PLA administration, Metropolitan is conducting training for internal staff and contractors, coordinating with the MC3 apprenticeship-ready programs, and procuring certified payroll tracking software to monitor compliance with PLA requirements.

External Affairs

Chairwoman Gray and GM Hagekhalil joined with Southern California labor organizations and leaders for a signing ceremony for the Project Labor Agreement. (December 20)

Human Resources

The HR Group Manager continued to work with the board in the recruitment process for the General Auditor position. Final interviews were conducted, and a selection was made with an anticipated start date in early February.

Information Technology

Coordinated work between teams in IT to perform the applicable tax update in PeopleSoft for employee's leave pay down.

Real Property

Obtained six temporary access permits from six property owners in Carson and Long Beach to facilitate the placement of a total of 11 aerial control targets, necessary for an aerial survey in support of Pure Water Southern California. This survey work is integral to planning Reaches 1 and 2 of the project's alignment, which covers the City of Carson and Long Beach.

Security Management

Members of Metropolitan's Security Unit participated in a series of six value engineering workshops for Stage 1 of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Security Upgrades. The workshops, coordinated by Metropolitan's Technical Control Team, allowed valuable collaboration between multiple stakeholders to ensure the future reliability, security and resiliency of critical infrastructure along Metropolitan's CRA.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

The Chief SRI Officer presented at ACWA and at WaterStart's Channels for Innovation Summit on the Climate Action Plan. The team also presented an update to the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee on Climate Action Plan and SRI activities. The Executive ZEV Task Force is making progress on developing a strategy to transition the fleet and the team launched the CAPDash, a public-facing dashboard tracking Met's greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental Planning initiated the 45-day review related to the Weymouth and La Verne Site Improvements Program and is reviewing comments received on the Pure Water Program Notice of Preparation.

Water Resource Management

Staff worked closely with the SWP-dependent area agencies to modify the Emergency Water Conservation Program (EWCP) to preserve severely limited SWP system water supplies from January through June 2023. As additional supplies become available, volumetric limits will be updated to reflect the most current conditions.

Water System Operations

CRA power prices rose sharply in December in response to rising natural gas prices during the cold front that spread across the United States. In response, staff reduced the CRA from 8- to 7-pump flow which saved an estimated \$200,000 per day, and potentially about \$4 million for the month depending on actual power prices. Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner, both terminal reservoirs for the CRA system, will be at high storage levels entering the CRA shutdown in February as CRA deliveries were maximized in 2022. This operational change is an excellent example of staff's adaptability to effectively balance water and power resources.

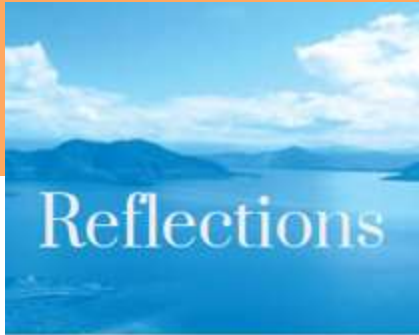
Upcoming Board Items

ANTICIPATED KEY ITEMS OF FOCUS – NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST
SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Retreat (Metropolitan Priorities Visioning)
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorize Colorado River Protection Volume Agreements Board Report on Portfolio of Recommended Actions for State Water Project Dependent Areas
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on Alternatives being Considered by Reclamation in Supplemental EIS for Colorado River Basin Operations Approve implementation of Water Supply Allocation Plan, adopt the supporting resolution, and conduct public hearing (if needed) Quarterly Desert Housing Update
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Direct Potable Reuse Regulations
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long Range Finance Plan – Phase 1
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly Desert Housing Update

The schedule of the following upcoming board items has not yet been determined:

August - January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metropolitan Storage Portfolio Workshop Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation Strategic Plan Workshop Board Consideration Related to VA Package - (draft agreements and appendices, coupled with potentially required federal legislation) Federal Grants for Large Recycled Water Projects Pure Water Cost of Service Report
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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Reverse Cyclic Program was a new dry-year action approved by the Metropolitan Board in response to the 2021 and 2022 drought conditions and the low allocation on the State Water Project (SWP). Approved in February 2022, the General Manager was authorized to enter into a reverse-cyclic agreement with participating agencies to preserve the availability of SWP supplies to Metropolitan by deferring the delivery of water some agencies purchased in calendar year 2022 to a future wet year. Only water purchases that Metropolitan certifies reduce SWP deliveries may be deferred and that deferred water must be delivered within 5 years of the purchase date.

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

With consecutive years of very low SWP allocations, Metropolitan needed to take action to help ensure all of its service area has the water it needed to withstand severe dry conditions and the impacts of climate change. This included withdrawing a significant amount of its SWP related storage reserves and strategically working with the member agencies to reduce SWP deliveries during these drought years. These reduced deliveries help preserve SWP supplies for those member agencies that have an immediate need in extreme dry years and avoid additional resource and operational costs that would be necessary without demand deferment.

MEMORABLE MOMENT

Starting in the summer of 2021, staff from WRM and WSO were brought together over multiple virtual meetings to discuss every and any possible action that Metropolitan could take to mitigate worsening drought conditions. The Reverse Cyclic Program was one of the first dry-year actions brainstormed by staff. WRM staff first presented the program to member agencies and then brought it forward to Metropolitan's February 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

Since the Board's approval, three Reverse Cyclic agreements have been executed and 24,612 AF have been purchased under this Program.

"It has been inspirational to see the program go from a line on a spreadsheet full of hundreds of great ideas, to a MAMM presentation, to being approved by Metropolitan's Board within the span of half a year. All of these programs are truly collaborative efforts."

***Anna Garcia, Associate Engineer,
Supply Acquisition Team***



Water Resources and Engineering



Water Resource Management

Ensure reliable State Water Project (SWP).

Water Resource Management (WRM) staff participated in two workshops presented by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on the upcoming safety assessment as part of the Pyramid Dam Modernization Program. DWR presented on independent reviews that recommended improvements to dam safety, including additional risk analyses. Staff provided feedback on the approaches proposed by DWR and also indicated Metropolitan’s concerns regarding potential temporary and permanent impacts to water supply and delivery.



Components of the Pyramid Dam Complex that will be investigated by DWR. For more information: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/State-Water-Project/SWP-Facilities/Southern/Pyramid-Dam-Modernization>

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

The annual Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) conference was held in Las Vegas. Representatives and officials from many organizations raised concerns over the dire condition of the two main reservoirs on the river—Lakes Powell and Mead—and repeated the call for collaborative efforts to address the related challenges of rising temperatures and declining runoff in the Basin. Staff discussed these challenges in side-meetings and informal gatherings with colleagues from across the Basin.

Support Capital Investment Program planning.

Staff continues to support the Capital Investment Program (CIP) office by reviewing minor cap (under \$400,000) proposals. In December, one of the proposals reviewed requested funding for modifications to the fuel pump stations in the desert facilities that have been becoming inoperable during the high heat of summer.

Manage Existing and Develop New Regional Water Management Programs to Maintain Water Supply Reliability in the Face of Increasing Water Supply Volatility.

Staff continues engagement with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the development of the Lake Perris Seepage Program. This program would provide a maximum of 7,500 acre-feet per year of additional water to Metropolitan, Desert Water Agency, and Coachella Valley Water District by capturing seepage from previously-delivered State Water Project from Lake Perris using a proposed wellfield.

Implement Regional Conservation Program

Staff presented the current regional water supply status and Metropolitan's drought response activities to the California Resource Management Association (CalRMA) for their Vision 2023 Conference. CalRMA promotes standards, regulations, and best management practices for industrial waste management and treatment.

Staff attended a demonstration held by Ventura County Fire Department to showcase new technology available to save water during training exercises. The demonstration showed firefighters flowing water into training units that recycle water. Metropolitan provides incentives for these units through its Water Savings Incentive Program. Staff was featured in an interview by ABC 7 News (<https://abc7.com/firefighters-recirculation-machine-new-technology-ventura-county/12459564/>).

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

Staff provided a recycled water legislation and regulation presentation to approximately 75 members at the Los Angeles WaterReuse Chapter meeting sponsored by Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency. Staff highlighted 2022 legislation and regulations that may affect development of new recycled water programs. A discussion of the proposed Direct Potable Reuse regulations, and some concerns from the regulated community on pathogen reductions and treatment flexibility followed. Water Use Efficiency, On-Site Reuse, and cross-connection control regulations were also briefly reviewed.

On December 12, Metropolitan held its annual public hearing to review its Urban Water Management Plan for adequacy in achieving increased emphasis on cost-effective conservation, recycling, and groundwater recharge and to release a draft Annual Progress Report to the California State Legislature on Achievements in Conservation, Recycling, and Groundwater Recharge. Metropolitan submits this report to the California State Legislature on or before February 1 of each year. The public hearing highlighted the achievements of Metropolitan's conservation, local resources, and groundwater recharge programs during fiscal year 2021/22. Subject area experts and members of the public spoke in support of Metropolitan's efforts including the Municipal Water District of Orange County, Chino Basin Water Conservation District, Garden Life Xeriscapes, Southern California Watershed Alliance, California Water Efficiency Partnership, Southern California Gas Company, Sierra Club, National Parks Conservation Association, and Los Angeles Waterkeeper.

On December 13, Metropolitan's Board adopted a resolution declaring a Regional Drought Emergency for all member agencies emphasizing the need to preserve both SWP and Colorado River supplies. The resolution called upon all member agencies to continue and increase efforts to reduce their demands for the duration of the emergency and to implement all appropriate voluntary and mandatory drought actions from their Water Shortage Contingency Plans. Should drought conditions persist, Metropolitan may consider mandatory allocation of imported supplies later in 2023, which would require member agencies to meet limits on their use of imported water or face steep additional fees.

Staff continued implementing the Emergency Water Conservation Program (EWCP) to address severely limited SWP system water supplies. Since the June 1 start date, there has been a positive demand response across the SWP-Dependent Area. The affected member agencies continued to show reductions in purchases from Metropolitan compared with historical and projected levels, indicating consumer responsiveness with demand-cutting measures. Path One watering day limit compliance requirements remained at one day-per-week watering restrictions during December. Staff is continuously monitoring and reporting water use performance to the affected member agencies to ensure that SWP water usage stays on track to remain within the available supplies. New agency-specific monthly volumetric limits were established for January through June 2023. Unlike the volumetric limits for 2022, the volume available during 2023 will be dynamic, based on changing supply conditions developing through the year. For these reasons, staff will reevaluate the volumetric limits each month in 2023.

Staff participated in a Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC) board meeting on December 1. During the meeting, the board selected a new executive slate including electing Greg Woodside from Orange County Water District as the new chair of the coalition. The meeting also covered results and next steps from the SCSC's Salinity Workshop held in October and attended by over 70 stakeholders. The workshop featured breakout sessions where participants shared their salinity management challenges and potential solutions. SCSC staff will be sharing a report out in the Spring of 2023.

Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Staff provided a support letter and in-person testimony on behalf of the South Coast Water District's (SCWD) Doheny Ocean Desalination Project (Project). During a hearing held in Sacramento on December 9, the California State Lands Commission unanimously approved a lease of state lands for the 5 MGD project. The Project also received support from several member agencies and other water agencies in South Orange County where the Project is located. Several environmental, tribal entities, and environmental justice groups opposed the Project. South Coast received approval from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in March and from the California Coastal Commission in October. As part of the approval, SCWD will prioritize local greenhouse gas offsets as opposed to offsets from outside the region. SCWD is working with the California Department of Parks for a final agreement. SCWD has applied for LRP funding for the project through the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

The next Future Supply Actions Funding Program (FSA) webinar is scheduled for Friday, January 13 at 10:00 AM. The webinar will present findings from a study evaluating the use of electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) and other methods to improve recharge performance at the Moorpark Water Reclamation Facility.

Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Staff met with representatives from the City of South Pasadena to discuss the city's Stormwater for Recharge Pilot project. The project is advancing and is anticipated for board action in the Fall of 2023 pending approval of the project's CEQA documents.

Position Metropolitan as a leader in Open Water Data.

Staff participated in several California Water Data Consortium board and committee meetings. The meetings covered the consortium's governance and acceptance of grants from the Department of Water Resources and USBR. The grants will be used to advance pilot studies related to groundwater.

Promote Metropolitan's Technical Capabilities and Innovation Efforts to Advance the Understanding of Water Resources Management

Staff participated in several Peer-to-Peer (P2P) innovation meetings in December. On December 19, staff exchanged best practices and new approaches on distribution system modeling and water quality sensor validation with representatives from the city of Barcelona, Spain. During the meeting, staff discussed lessons learned from Metropolitan's development of a comprehensive distribution system model. Barcelona staff showcased their innovative platform for validating water quality and related sensors. Barcelona staff developed and implemented the platform in-house and shared their innovation journey. Staff from Engineering, Operations, Water Quality, and Water Resource Management participated in the meeting. Staff also participated in P2P meetings on asset condition assessment, achieving net-zero GHG emissions, workforce development, Delta-Island management, and preparing the Olympics and other large-events.

Water Resources and Engineering

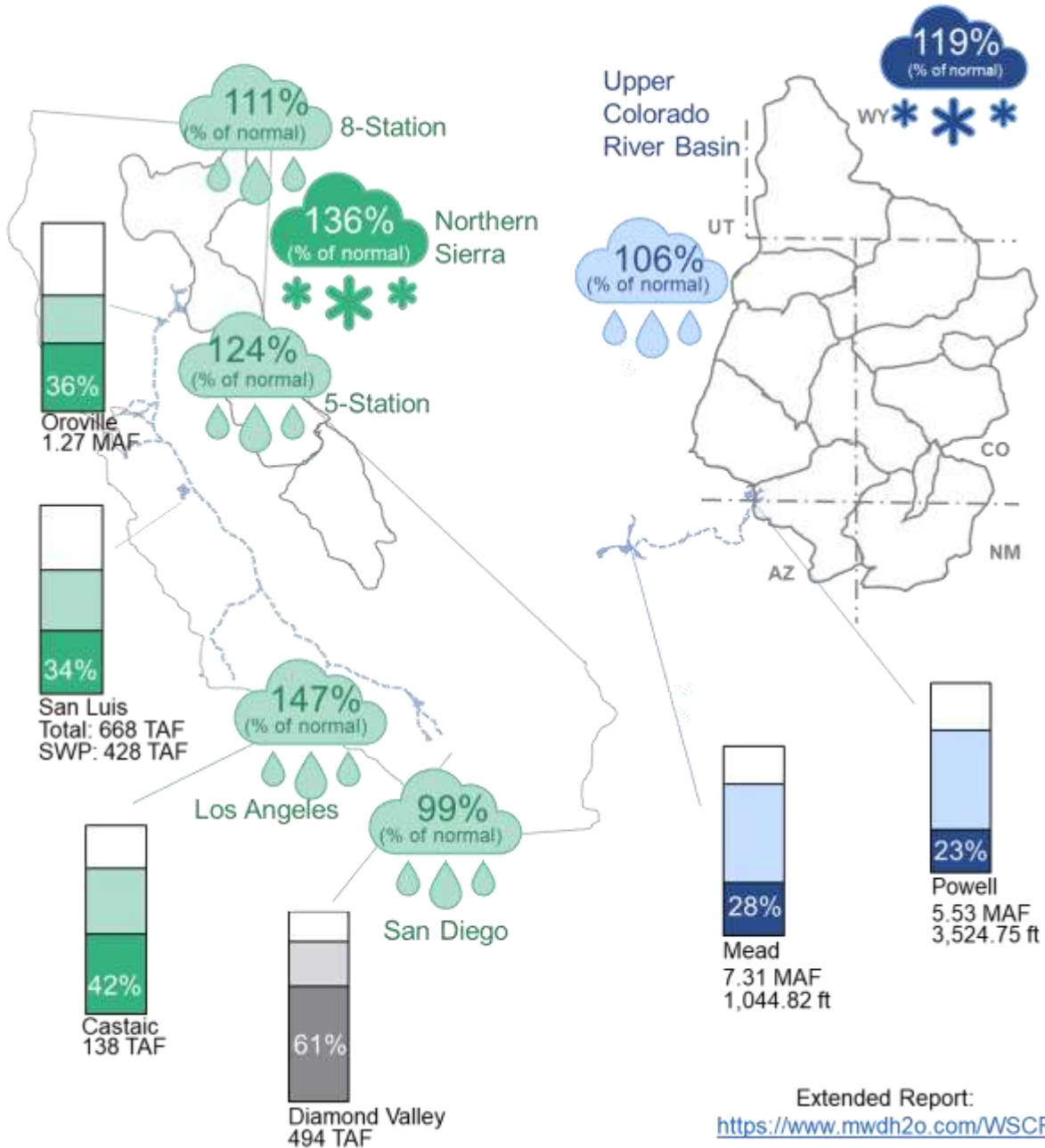
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State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A – 5% - 95,575 AF

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions – 1,136,000 AF



Extended Report:
<https://www.mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

As of December 31, 2022

Bay-Delta Initiatives

Project Highlights

Delta Conveyance

The public comment period for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) closed on Friday, December 16. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Draft EIR for public review and comment on July 27, 2022.

On December 16, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released the public Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the DCP ([SPK-2019-00899, Public Notice of Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(DEIS\) for the Delta Conveyance Project, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, and Alameda Counties, CA > Sacramento District > Sacramento District Regulatory Public Notices \(army.mil\)](#)). The public comment period runs from December 16, 2022, to February 14, 2023. The USACE will hold three virtual public meetings in January to receive comments from the public on the project and the draft document. Affected Federal, State, regional, and local agencies, Native American Tribes, other interested private organizations, and the public are invited to participate.

Joint Powers Authorities

During the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on December 15, the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority Board of Directors approved to extend a resolution authorizing virtual board and committee meetings pursuant to AB 361.

The December 15 regularly scheduled Delta Conveyance Finance Authority meeting was cancelled.

Sites Reservoir

In their December Joint meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board and the Sites Reservoir Committee approved the actions for the 2023–2024 Proposed Sites Reservoir Test Pits, Fault Studies, and Quarry Studies (Project), adopted the CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, adopted the associated Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program document, and approved the Project.

Ecosystem Restoration

The Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project, or Big Notch Project, is a joint state and federal project between DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The project is a 30,000-acre floodplain habitat restoration and fish passage project in the Yolo Bypass that will provide essential benefits to native fish species, including threatened and endangered Chinook salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon. The Big Notch Project provides a critical point of entry back into the Sacramento River, allowing fish migrating upstream through the Yolo Bypass to continue their migration, and provides access to the Yolo Basin floodplain rearing habitat through the operable Big Notch gates for juvenile salmon and steelhead moving downstream to the Pacific Ocean. The Big Notch project construction is proceeding ahead of schedule. Work is proceeding on the intake channel and transport channel (see picture of the site below), and focus will shift to construction of the head works structure and pedestrian bridge during the winter. Construction completion is scheduled for November 30, 2023, and may be completed sooner if the weather allows.



Science Activities

Staff worked with researchers from UC Davis to continue the Delta Smelt Pilot Propagation study. The study uses the impoundments on Bouldin Island to conduct a proof-of-concept study by placing hatchery Delta smelt in the impoundments and monitoring their condition. The results are promising so far, and the Delta smelt are still doing well after three weeks, suggesting that culture in larger impoundments is feasible with limited management during the winter. Future work will include repeating the experiment in January to verify the results and inform further studies in the next few years.

Staff also continued to work on Phase 2 of the Reorienting to Salmonid Recovery project. Staff worked with the Project Planning team to organize and conduct three half day workshops to identify how social, cultural, economic, and ecological interests related to salmonid recovery will be quantified and measured. By developing these values, the project can evaluate how different actions to recover salmonids may affect these important values. Over 60 people from different interest groups participated, including tribal, environmental, commercial, and recreational fishing, agriculture, water agencies, and state and federal resource agencies. The values identified in the workshops will feed into Phase 3 of the project, which begins at the end of December and includes a structured decision-making process to identify, develop, model, and prioritize different actions to recover salmonids.

Regulatory Activities

On October 7, 2022, the US Fish and Wildlife Service issued a proposed rule to list the San Francisco Bay-Delta distinct population segment of longfin smelt as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Staff reviewed the proposed rule and worked with the State Water Contractors to develop comments, and joint comments by the State Water Contractors and San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority were submitted on December 6.

Colorado River

Basin States Agree to Collaborate on Colorado River Alternative

On December 20, Metropolitan submitted scoping comments for the development of the supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Those comments included recognition for the need to provide sufficient water for public health and safety needs in the Colorado River Basin, including Metropolitan's service area. Metropolitan staff also collaborated with Southern Nevada Water Authority and Central Arizona Project to submit similar comments highlighting the need to protect some level of municipal water supplies. Metropolitan staff also provided input to the Colorado River Board of California comments, highlighting the need to consider the existing agreements and compacts when making water supply reduction. With those comments submitted, the Colorado River Basin states are now working on developing a seven-state consensus alternative that can be included in the SEIS. The Bureau of Reclamation would need an alternative developed by the end of January 2023 to have time to include it as an alternative in the SEIS. The alternative would include proposed changes to the coordinated operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead and additional shortage reductions to the Colorado River Basin states beyond what is included in the 2007 Interim Guidelines and the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan. The alternative does not need to have all the details of what intrastate arrangements would be needed; however, it does need to have enough information about the effects to the Colorado River and its resources to show how it would be affected. If the states are successful in reaching an agreement for an alternative for the SEIS, the agencies would then need to develop details and ultimately agree on how this alternative could be implemented. For agencies within California, it is likely that the section 5 water right contractors, including Metropolitan, would need to have their respective boards consider and approve agreements for the alternative to be implemented. It is anticipated that if agreements are developed and approved, they would cover water supply operations from 2024 through 2026.

Engineering

Core Business Function – Execute Capital Investment Plan projects

Engineering Services manages and executes projects within the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) to maintain infrastructure resiliency, ensure regulatory compliance, enhance sustainability, and provide flexibility in system operations to address uncertain water supply conditions.

Distribution System Reliability Program

This program maintains reliable water deliveries through specific rehabilitation and upgrade projects on Metropolitan’s pipelines, reservoirs, and control structures. Recent activities include the following:

- **Lake Mathews Wastewater Replacement**—The project consists of replacing the existing septic tank system with a wastewater collection system at Lake Mathews. The new wastewater system connects to a nearby off-site Western Municipal Water District main wastewater line. The contractor continues to install the sewer line and manholes. Construction is approximately 73 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in April 2023.
- **OC-88 Fire Sprinkler**—This project will replace portions of the existing fire sprinkler system. Construction was completed in December 2022.
- **Orange County Feeder Lining Repairs**—This project replaces the deteriorated internal lining along an 11-mile portion of the Orange County Feeder within the cities of Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, and Newport Beach. Rehabilitation is proceeding in three stages. Construction of Stages 1 and 2 is complete. The shutdown for Stage 3 began in September 2022. The contractor is currently performing construction at multiple sites; work includes excavation for access pits, removal of the existing coal tar lining, welding butt-straps on all the joints, and installing new mortar lining. Construction is approximately 25 percent complete and is anticipated to be complete by September 2023.
- **OC-88 Pump Station Chillers Replacement**—This project replaces three existing chillers and two chilled water pumps at the OC-88 Pump Station. The submittals for the pumps and the chillers have been approved, and the contract is mobilizing into the field office. Construction is 4 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in June 2023.



OC-88 Fire Sprinkler—New backflow preventer and piping

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program

This program was established to enhance the reliability of Metropolitan’s water distribution system and to reduce the risk of costly emergency repairs of PCCP. The priority pipelines included in the program are the Second Lower Feeder, Sepulveda Feeder, Calabasas Feeder, Rialto Pipeline, and the Allen-McColloch Pipeline. A total of 100 miles of PCCP pipelines will eventually be relined with new steel pipe liners under this 20-year program. Recent activities include the following:

- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 3A**—This project enhances distribution system reliability by rehabilitating PCCP segments of the Second Lower Feeder. Reach 3A is the southernmost portion of the feeder, spanning 1.1 miles through the City of Rolling Hills Estates. Reach 3A is under construction, and the contractor is currently fabricating coiled steel liners and preparing to mobilize. Fabrication and construction are approximately 31 percent complete and are scheduled to be complete by August 2023.
- **Sepulveda PCCP Reach 1**—This project enhances distribution system reliability by rehabilitating PCCP segments of the Sepulveda Feeder. Reach 1 spans 4.7 miles through several cities, including the City of Hawthorne, City of Inglewood, and City of Los Angeles. Final design is approximately 72 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2023.
- **PCCP Rehabilitation Valve Storage Building**—This project constructs a 18,160 square-foot pre-engineered metal building on a reinforced concrete slab at Lake Mathews for valve and equipment storage. The contractor has completed the installation of the formwork and reinforcing steel for the building concrete pad, and the concrete placement is complete. Construction is 58 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in September 2023.

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

This program maintains the reliability of Metropolitan’s CRA conveyance system. Recent activities include the following:

- **CRA Domestic Water Treatment System Replacement**—This project replaces the membrane filtration system and associated water treatment equipment at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. Procurement of water treatment equipment is underway with expected deliveries in two shipments, in mid-2022 and early 2024. The contractor has mobilized at Intake Pumping Plant, is installing electrical conduit to the domestic water tank, and has started work inside the machine shop area to install treatment skids. Construction is 12 percent complete is scheduled to be complete by March 2025.
- **Cabazon Radial Gate**—This project replaces two radial gates and makes security, access, and safety improvements to the Cabazon Radial Gate Structure. Preliminary design is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by January 2023.
- **Structural Protection**—This project consists of installing new reinforced concrete slab protection crossings over portions of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). Final design is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in January 2023.
- **Copper Basin Discharge Valve Rehabilitation**—This project will replace a 54-inch fixed-cone valve and actuator, refurbish the existing valve house and a slide gate, and improve the access road and ladders to the discharge valve structure. Final design is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in March 2023. Environmental permits will follow completion of final design and a request to the Board for award of a construction contract is planned for December 2023.

System Flexibility/Supply Reliability

Projects under this program will enhance the flexibility and/or increase the capacity of Metropolitan's water supply and delivery infrastructure to meet current and projected service demands. Projects under this program address climate change affecting water supply, regional drought, and alternative water sources for areas dependent on State Project Water. The following projects are part of a series of projects that are being undertaken to improve supply reliability for State Water Project dependent member agencies.

- **Inland Feeder—Rialto Pipeline Intertie**—This project constructs an intertie between the Inland Feeder and Rialto Pipeline that will allow for the direct transfer of water supplies from the Inland Feeder to the Rialto Pipeline. Final design is 75 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in April 2023.
- **Inland Feeder/Badlands Surge Protection**—This project constructs a surge protection facility on the Inland Feeder just south of the Badlands Tunnel. This infrastructure will protect the Inland Feeder from excessive negative pressures should the pumps at Wadsworth Pumping Plant at DVL trip off unexpectedly while pumping water to the Rialto Pipeline. Final design is 75 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2023.
- **Foothill Pump Station Intertie**—This project will connect San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's (SBVMWD) Foothill Pump Station with the Inland Feeder to provide the needed hydraulic lift to deliver water from DVL to Rialto service area upon completion. Final design is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 2023.
- **Sepulveda Feeder Pump Stations**—This project will construct two pump stations to reverse the normal flow in the Sepulveda Feeder and augment treated water deliveries to the west service area portion of Metropolitan's distribution system. Conceptual design development is 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2023. Metropolitan plans to use a progressive design-build approach on this project to expedite its completion.

Treatment Plant Reliability Program

This program was initiated to maintain reliability and improve the operating efficiency of Metropolitan's water treatment plants through specific improvement projects. Recent activities include the following:

Weymouth Basins 5–8 and Filter Building No. 2 Rehabilitation—This project rehabilitates major mechanical and structural components including the flocculation/sedimentation equipment, sludge pumps, baffle boards and walls, launders, inlet gates, and outlet drop gates. Other improvements included in this contract are seismic upgrades of basin walls and inlet channel, abatement of hazardous materials in the basins, and replacement of filter valves and actuators in Filter Building No. 2. The contractor is currently installing filter valves and critical electrical equipment during the half-plant shutdown, which started on December 5 and will continue through mid-January 2023. Metropolitan has procured remote terminal units to support the half-plant shutdown. Construction is 15 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by May 2025.

Mills Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2—This project upgrades the electrical system with dual-power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practices; improves plant reliability; and enhances worker safety. Stage 1 construction is complete. Stage 2 improvements will add a second incoming 12 kV service from Riverside Public Utilities (RPU), reconfigure the existing 4160-volt switchgear, and replace the standby generator switchgear and the emergency generator programmable logic controller. The contractor has started installation of duct banks and electrical vaults and is preparing to expand the ORP switchgear building. Construction is 20 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by December 2024.



Weymouth Basins 5–8 and Filter Building No. 2 Rehabilitation—Removing existing 30” Backwash Header Flow Control Valve

System Reliability Program

The System Reliability Program consists of projects to improve or modify facilities located throughout Metropolitan’s service area in order to use new processes and/or technologies and improve facility safety and overall reliability. Recent activities include the following:

- **Headquarters Physical Security Upgrades**—This project implements comprehensive security upgrades for the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. These upgrades are consistent with federally recommended best practices for government buildings. This work has been prioritized and staged to minimize rework and impacts on day-to-day operations within the building. Stage 1 work is complete and provides enhanced security related to perimeter windows and doors. Stage 2 improvements provide security system upgrades inside the building with a focus on the main entry rotunda area, boardroom, executive dining lounge, and security control room. Construction of Stage 2 improvements is complete. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. Design for Stage 3 improvements is complete, and the Board awarded a construction contract for the Stage 3 project in December 2022.
- **Headquarters Building Fire Alarm and Smoke Control System Upgrades**—This project upgrades the Metropolitan Headquarters Building fire life safety systems, which includes replacement of the fire detection and alarm system and HVAC system improvements for smoke control. The fire alarm and smoke control systems in the Metropolitan Headquarters Building provide detection, notification, and control of building functions so that occupants and visitors can safely exit in the event of a fire. The contractor completed the fire alarm system upgrades and is currently working on the smoke control upgrades, including installation of smoke fire dampers and control panels on Floors 1–7. Construction is 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2023.

- **SCADA System Upgrades**—This project will upgrade Metropolitan’s entire control system in incremental stages, spanning the Colorado River Aqueduct, the five water treatment plants, and the conveyance and distribution system. The first stage of this project is to replace the control system at the Mills plant, starting with a pilot effort on one of the plant’s remote terminal units. The pilot effort will demonstrate the proposed technology and the consultant’s approach for the plant and the overall project. Staff has executed the consultant agreement for the project and is initiating the pilot phase, which is anticipated to be complete by August 2023. The full system upgrade at the Mills plant is anticipated to be complete by April 2026.



Water System Operations

Core Business Objectives

Prepare Employees for New Opportunities

The Water System Operations Apprentice and Technical Training Programs develop and train personnel to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan’s water treatment and distribution systems. This month, the Class of 2023 electricians finished instruction that included grounding, bonding, and lighting circuits. Apprentices also completed project planning training designed to solidify the job planning, materials preparation, conduit bending, and switch installation skills necessary for an electrical journey in the field.



Class of 2023 electrical apprentice with completed lighting project

Manage Vacancies

WSO filled seven vacant positions in November 2022.

Provide Reliable Water Deliveries

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 108,900 acre-feet (AF) for December with an average of 3,513 AF per day, which was 84 AF per day lower than in November. Treated water deliveries increased by 1,600 AF from November for a total of 48,800 AF, or 45 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) transitioned from an eight to a seven-pump flow in mid-December, with a total of 101,000 AF pumped in December. This change in operations was to address significant increases in CRA power costs due to extraordinarily high natural gas prices and their impact on the power market. The transition to seven-pump flow was estimated to save about \$200,000 per day in power costs but only reduced the end-of-year storage at Lake Mathews by about 5,500 AF. Lake Mathews storage would remain over 90 percent full going into the CRA shutdown in February 2023.

State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,039 AF per day, totaling about 32,200 AF for the month, which accounted for approximately 30 percent of Metropolitan’s deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

Manage Water Reserves

Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles, operational objectives, and the current 5 percent State Water Project (SWP) allocation. Deliveries to the Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District exchange account began this month to deliver the minimum contractual obligation of 15,000 AF. Deliveries of SWP supplies were minimized to preserve SWP Carryover and Flexible Storage. Releases from DVL through PC-1 to connections on the Lakeview Pipeline, as well as the DVL to Mills plant operation, continued in December to conserve SWP supply use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in December. In addition, staff continued coordination with member agencies, shifting their deliveries from SWP connections to Colorado River water connections, when possible. Staff continue to develop additional drought mitigation actions to help with the low SWP allocation in 2022 and to prepare for 2023.

Support the Pure Water Southern California Program

During December, staff continued baseline testing for secondary membrane bioreactor (MBR) operations at the Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) demonstration plant in Carson. The influent drum screen developed corrosion-induced leaks, requiring ongoing maintenance and temporary repair, with complete rehabilitation planned for 2023. Various chemical feed system issues and membrane testing protocols were fine-tuned in the SCADA system. Staff also began collecting samples to test for nitrosamines, nitrosamine precursors, and low molecular weight compounds, and to develop bioassays at the Water Quality Laboratory in La Verne for analyzing emerging contaminants.



Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts staff collecting RO concentrate samples to assess toxicity



Staff prepare to coat the steel plates used to reinforce pump bases at the demonstration plant

Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner

The CRA dropped from an eight-pump flow to a seven-pump flow this month because of extraordinarily high power costs tied to the spikes in natural gas market prices. This flow change provided effective power resource management while maintaining water supply reliability. The drop to a seven-pump flow about three weeks earlier than originally planned is expected to save over \$4 million in CRA power costs. Lake Mathews and Lake Skinner, both terminus reservoirs of the CRA system, are projected to be at their typical maximum levels before the CRA shutdown in February, indicating that the CRA deliveries were effectively maximized in 2022. Staff continue to monitor the cost and operational impacts of reduced US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) hydropower generation and increased energy prices in the electricity and natural gas markets, and to monitor the Resource Adequacy (RA) capacity needs of the CRA and obtain supplemental RA as required.

Because of low SWP allocations and system operating conditions, Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of about 10 megawatts or 7,500 megawatt-hours and \$589,880 in revenue for the month of October 2022. Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated approximately 680 megawatt-hours in October 2022.

Staff participated in a Drought & Energy Dialogue session hosted by the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and USBR at WAPA-LC headquarters in Phoenix, AZ. The purpose of the discussion was to promote a dialogue on the impact of the drought and low water levels on the Colorado River and the electric system in the western United States and was attended by numerous Hoover, Parker, and other USBR hydropower contractors.


Ensure Water Quality Compliance, Worker Safety, and Environmental Protection

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during November 2022.

Staff rolled out updated COVID-19 Prevention Training consisting of the new *MWD Safety Talk – COVID-19 Prevention Refresher*. This training ensures that all employees have the most updated information on COVID-19 prevention measures. All employees were required to take the training by the end of 2022.

MWD Safety Talk

Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for COVID-19 Prevention Refresher



In preparation for winter season, it is important to remain vigilant in following universal precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Below are the basic requirements to protect yourself and your co-workers.

Mandatory Requirements

1. **Self Screen and check** for symptoms prior to reporting to any Metropolitan facility.
2. **Stay home and immediately notify Human Resources (HR)** at HR@metwa.com or call (213) 217-7736 if you are sick, have COVID-19 symptoms, or have recently tested positive (within last 10 days) for COVID-19. Even if your symptoms or illness is not work-related, it is important to notify HR so that they can follow-up and provide you with additional guidance. The COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave Act of 2022 (SPLA) covers time off taken due to COVID-related illness. This is in place until December 31, 2022. More information can be found [here](#).
3. **Wash hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an approved FDA hand sanitizer, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Wiping with soap and water is preferred especially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
4. A **Facility Access Request Form** is still required to be submitted when visiting a non-regular work location. Requests are then screened and approved by your manager and the work location manager.
5. **COVID-19 Prevention Programs (PPE 113)** and other Health and Safety Programs (such as Injury Illness Prevention Program) are available on the [intranet](#) for everyone to access and review.

Recommended Precautions


1. **Get vaccinated** for COVID-19 or get your booster shot, if needed. The SPLA covers time off taken to obtain COVID-19 vaccinations or time off due to side effects after vaccination. This SPLA is in place until December 31, 2022.
2. **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces. Use an EPA-approved disinfectant. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product. Consult with IT before cleaning electrical equipment such as computer screens. Some cleaning supplies are not compatible with these surfaces.
3. **Wear a face covering** to provide additional protection. MWD provides face coverings for free to all employees, regardless of vaccination status.
4. **Social Distancing**, if possible, especially in common areas or crowded places. Stay six (6) feet away from others when feasible.
5. **Contact HR** at HR@metwa.com, or call (213) 217-7736 if you have any questions or need guidance.

COVID-19 Prevention Refresher Safety Talk

Staff published and posted a new Safety Talk on *Chemical Line Breaking Safe Work Practices* that provides the proper process to safely break into work on chemical lines.

MWD Safety Talk

Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Chemical Line Breaking Safe Work Practices



In Metropolitan, maintenance, non-routine, or shutdown activities may require staff to open or break into chemical or process line systems. Breaking into a chemical line can cause chemical exposure and injuries if not performed properly.

REMINDERS

- Only **TRAINED** and **QAURED** staff may break chemical and/or process lines.
- All chemical and/or process piping must be appropriately purged, cleaned, and verified safe to work on by **TRAINED** and **QAURED** staff prior to handing it over to non-Treated Plant or non-CSC staff to work on. Trained and qualified staff will perform the initial inspection of equipment or piping as part of the verification process.
- **Non-Treatment Plant or non-CSC staff** may only work on chemical and/or process lines once the lines have been appropriately cleaned and verified safe to work on.
- **Non-Treatment Plant or non-CSC staff** may only work (including repair, adjustment, final test, and pressure testing) on the locked out, tagged chemical line, up to the isolation points.
- Whenever conditions change from the original job plan, stop and reassess. If there is any doubt, do not proceed until the situation is resolved.
- Throughout the job, continue to discuss and ensure all staff know the emergency and evacuation plans, LOCK/OUT/ TAG/CHASERS, etc. Utilize daily toolbox/defueling meetings to communicate current conditions.
- Ensure the correct PPE is worn. This is the best line of defense against potential chemical exposures.
- Confirm safety shut-off/wash stations are working properly before start of job.
- Inspect all equipment (i.e., power tools, ventilation, monitoring devices) prior to use. Do not use defective tools.
- Contact your manager or OHS Site Support Representative if you need additional information or assistance.

Required Training – Trained and qualified staff are defined as:

- OHS Tech-IV (Mechanics) assigned to and familiar with their specific facility's chemical and process piping systems and are current on their training.
- Required training courses include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (SAF70); Hazard Communication/OHS (SA230); Lockout/Tagout/Tag-out (SA100); Respiratory Protection and Safety (SA300); Water Treatment Plant Bulk Chemical Handling (Treatment Plants Only) (SA700); Process Safety Management: Foundations (Chlorine Systems Only) (SA400); Process Safety Management: System Operations (Chlorine Systems Only) (SA470)

CHEMICAL LINE BREAKING

WARNING: Breaking any process line(s) that could contain chemicals, **TRAINED** and **QAURED** staff shall:

1. **VERIFY** the scope of work. Create a job safety plan that details the following:

New Safety Talk on Chemical Line Breaking Safe Work Practices

Staff attended the Joint Utility Vendor Audit Consortium’s (JUVAC) meeting to discuss various hazardous waste issues and to plan meetings and activities for 2023. JUVAC is a consortium of utilities, including several California water/wastewater agencies, that conducts audits of hazardous waste treatment facilities used by its members.

Optimize Maintenance

Staff continued the system-wide coatings program aimed at preventing corrosion and extending the life of pipelines and infrastructure. Staff recently found excessive corrosion on plug and check valves, the meter, and piping inside the PM-24 service connection structure on the Middle Feeder. Staff removed the corrosion and applied protective coatings to ensure continued infrastructure reliability.



Before (left) and after (right) coating work on a plug valve at the PM-24 service connection

Staff performed mortar lining repairs inside the Rainbow Tunnel during a scheduled shutdown of San Diego Pipelines 1 and 2. A total of 54 previously identified leak locations were repaired using a hydrophilic sealing method. Portions of the tunnel will also be relined during a future shutdown.



Staff performing hydrophilic injection repairs inside the Rainbow Tunnel

Staff repaired storm drainage systems at the Skinner plant. These systems are essential to prevent flooding and erosion within the facility. Additionally, some of these drainage systems along dams are required for regulatory compliance and are inspected by the California Division of Safety of Dams. Staff removed and replaced 500 linear feet of concrete V-ditch and a 400 square foot concrete apron for a drainage system that runs along the toe of the Skinner Dam.



Staff removing old concrete (left) and a newly completed concrete V-ditch with apron (right) at the Skinner Dam

Staff began work to install additional level monitors along the CRA for continuous remote monitoring of flows and elevations at the key locations. With continued drought conditions is an increased need to operate the CRA at high flows, which requires increased monitoring of canal operations to ensure maximum capacity while also mitigating the risk of overtopping the canal. Eleven new level monitors or gauging stations will be installed along the CRA to provide continuous flow data and to ensure reliable operations.



Staff excavating (left) and drilling into a structure (right) to place a level transducer for CRA monitoring

The La Verne Shops fabricated a 16-inch carbon steel elbow and refurbished several pipe couplings for the Weymouth plant washwater pump to be installed during the current half-plant shutdown. The Shops also fabricated and coated several large-diameter carbon steel flanges for the Second Lower Feeder within a week to support the shutdown schedule.



Survey report of the existing elbow (left), fabrication of new elbow (middle), and installed new elbow (right) at the Weymouth plant



Victaulic and Dresser couplings before (left) and after refurbishment (right) for the Weymouth plant



Fabricated 30-inch blind flange before (left) and after (right) coating application for the Second Lower Feeder shutdown

On November 28, a successful four-day shutdown of the Box Springs Feeder, Mills plant, and Santa Ana Valley Pipeline allowed the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to install a bulkhead in the Santa Ana Valley Pipeline upstream of the turn-out to the Mills plant. This bulkhead allows DWR to make repairs to the Santa Ana Valley Pipeline while the Mills plant continues to be fed from the south from Diamond Valley Lake. Tentative bulkhead removal is planned for early February 2023. Staff completed biennial preventative maintenance of several unit power centers (UPCs) during the plant shutdown. The UPCs play an integral role in the power distribution taking 4,160v and stepping it down to a safer 480v through a transformer. The finished Mills water reservoirs remained operational during the shutdown, providing water supply reliability to the member agencies, in partnership with their actions to reduce demand on the Mills plant.



Staff safely racking out 4,160v breaker for maintenance at the Mills plant

Staff discovered an excessive temperature condition during the annual infrared thermography survey at the Weymouth plant solar farm. Combiner boxes aggregate cables from the solar panel arrays and then connect the generated electricity through larger cables into the facility's electrical system. After reviewing the temperature differentials, staff safely performed repairs and applied corrective measures to prevent potential failure of the affected solar array, thereby avoiding equipment downtime and replacement costs.



Staff recording combiner box post-repair temperatures at the Weymouth plant

Staff repaired a flow meter to a service connection that feeds an agency's hydroelectric power plant (HEP). A fault was found at the flow meter as the service connection was being placed into service. Staff performed troubleshooting and determined that the flow meter had a failed power supply. The power supply was replaced within a day and the flow meter was operational, allowing for the agency's power plant to be placed into service.



Staff repairing a flow meter at service connection

CRA facilities continue to reliably operate at maximum capacity because of the efforts of staff to monitor and maintain equipment. The 230kV transformers use forced-oil pumps and an external heat exchanger to keep the transformer oil within normal parameters under heavy loads. As the pumps operate continuously, parts subject to normal wear, such as seals and bearings, are replaced as part of a preventative maintenance program.



Staff replacing a 230kV transformer oil pump at a Desert facility

Surface preparation and the subsequent application of protective coatings are critical to ensuring equipment continues to remain in service for many years to come. The Desert Coatings Team performs these services at remote locations along the CRA system where challenging access and tight work areas are the norm. Staff use portable equipment, configured to operate at the remote worksites, to ensure that this critical work is successfully completed.



Staff setting up and testing abrasive blasting equipment for coating work

Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution

The State Water Project target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants and Lake Skinner was zero percent in December 2022.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from September 2021 through August 2022 for Metropolitan’s treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 599, 596, and 593 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Turbidity levels in Jensen plant influent increased significantly, up to 25 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU), in mid-December following recent storm events in the Castaic Lake watershed. The Jensen plant treatment processes were optimized to manage the increased source water turbidity. The plant performed well and met all operational and regulatory compliance standards.

Since 2005, ozone has been used as a primary disinfectant for conventional treatment at the Jensen plant. The plant has a total of five generators used in this process. A \$2.26M capital project to replace ozone power supply units at the Jensen plant is underway. Two of the generators have been removed from service for cleaning and refurbishment. New power supply units for the generators are also being installed, consistent with current industry standards with more readily available parts for service and maintenance. This work is scheduled for completion in December 2023.



Staff installing new dielectric tubes and fuses in the ozone generators at the Jensen plant

Staff fabricated and installed a new fluoride injection point at the Weymouth plant. The new injection piping consists of PVC piping within a clear secondary containment PVC pipe, which feeds the new injection lance. Staff fabricated the new injection lance with a stainless-steel sleeve for additional support.



Double containment piping for the fluoride injection system at the Weymouth plant

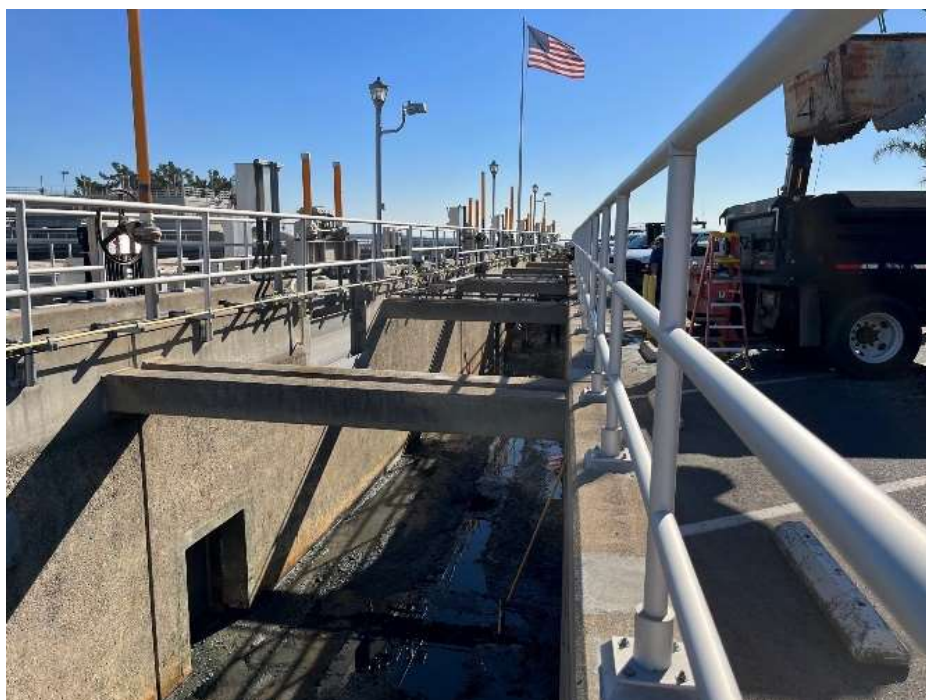


Staff fabricating new injection lance for the fluoride system at the Weymouth plant

Staff cleaned an influent channel of flocculation and sedimentation basins at the Diemer plant. This work involved removing deposited algae growth, solids, and quagga shells from the influent channel. The maintenance was performed sequentially to help control taste and odor production at the plant.



Staff removing solids and quagga mussel shells during maintenance of the basin influent channel at the Diemer plant



Basin influent channel at the Diemer plant

Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response

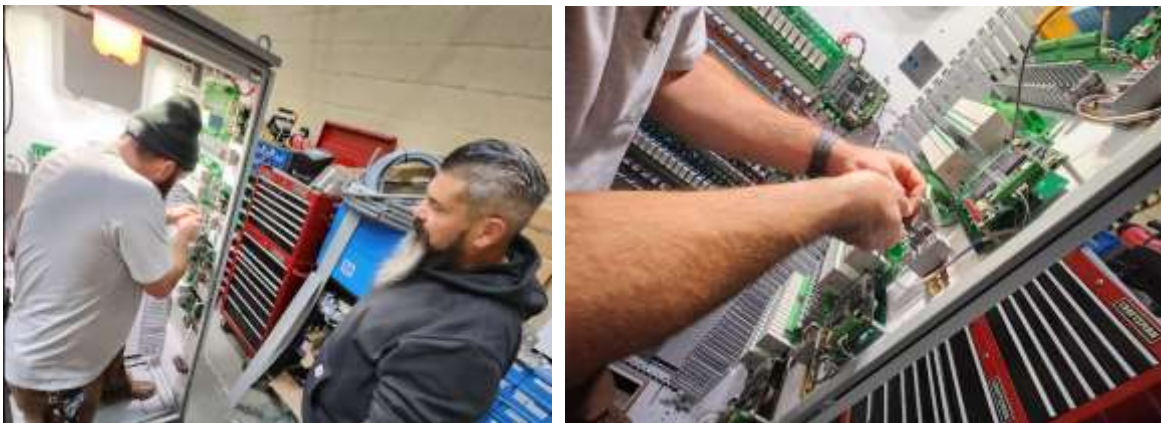
Metropolitan staff continued to reach out to external utilities and emergency response agencies to prepare for future emergencies. On December 6, staff held an after-action review meeting with Orange County first responders that participated in a recent full-scale exercise at the Diemer plant. Each agency shared lessons learned from the exercise so that all agencies can better collaborate during any future emergency events.

On December 8, staff participated in the quarterly board meeting for the California Utilities Emergency Association (CUEA). Board members discussed the CUEA budget, the recently updated Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan, and the latest state COVID-19 statistics. New staff were introduced, and Metropolitan's Chief of Operations advised the CUEA Board of his retirement at the end of the year.

On December 12, Metropolitan staff participated in an initial exercise planning meeting with San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E). This meeting was the first in future planning meetings for two multi-agency exercises SDG&E will be hosting in 2023.

Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution

Staff have been working on assembling a temporary RTU (remote terminal unit) and an I/O extension cabinet to support the half-plant shutdown for the Weymouth Basins 5–8 Rehabilitation capital project. This control equipment interfaces with sensors in the treatment process and allows communication with the SCADA system for process control. The older production RTU is being removed, and the SCADA data points for two basins will be relocated to a temporary RTU during the shutdown period.



Staff installing SCADA I/O hardware (left) and testing data points (right) at the Weymouth plant

Manage the Power System

Energy costs for the CRA for the 2022-23 fiscal year are currently projected to be about \$35 to 40 million higher than budgeted. Current estimates for the total CRA energy cost ranges from \$135 to 145 million. Several factors have led to the increased CRA energy cost this year, including high levels of pumping (eight-pump flow for the majority of 2022) because of the ongoing severe drought conditions; declining energy production at Hoover Dam with low water levels in Lake Mead, thereby increasing the need to be purchase more expensive supplemental energy; and energy price volatility caused by extreme weather events and geopolitical instability. CRA power cost increases are offset by the approximately \$40 million in lower SWP power costs anticipated this fiscal year because of the low SWP allocation.

Staff, in conjunction with Metropolitan’s scheduling coordinator, ACES Energy, continue to monitor the western energy markets to identify opportunities for potential cost savings.

Metropolitan NERC compliance staff held a tabletop exercise simulating an attack on one of Metropolitan’s Bulk Electric System (BES) cybersecurity assets. The tabletop exercise is required to meet NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection reliability standard CIP-003 and is required once every 36 months. The tabletop exercise examined a realistic cyber and physical security attack scenario and provided staff an opportunity to review, implement, and critique Metropolitan cybersecurity procedures. The results of the tabletop exercise and lessons learned were compiled into a report and will document Metropolitan’s compliance with NERC-CIP standards.

Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation

On November 17, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) amended its In-Use Off Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation that affects all of Metropolitan’s off-road diesel engines with 25 horsepower or more (e.g., construction equipment). Beginning January 1, 2024, the regulation mandates the phase-out of older Tier 0–2 engines, bans adding Tier 3 and Tier 4 engines, requires the use of specified renewable diesel, and requires affected entities to hire only compliant fleets. The regulation also allows flexibility when adding zero-emission vehicles to its fleet. Staff are working on a transitioning towards a near-zero or zero-emission fleet as part of Metropolitan’s Climate Action Plan. Staff will continue to monitor for further updates to the regulation.

On December 7, the State Water Resources Control Board extended the emergency regulation on Prohibited Wasteful Water Uses Emergency Regulation for Water Conservation to January 2024. The emergency regulation prohibits visible landscape irrigation runoff, washing a car without a shut-off nozzle, washing down hardscapes, and watering within 48 hours after a rainstorm. Metropolitan facilities have been notified of these regulations to ensure compliance.

On December 13, staff attended a virtual meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council Microbial/Disinfection Byproducts (MDBP) Rules Revision Working Group, which was formed to provide the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with advice and recommendations on key issues related to potential revisions to MDBP regulations. Key topics discussed by the working group include disinfectant residual levels, opportunistic pathogens, regulated and unregulated disinfection byproducts, consecutive drinking water systems, drinking water distribution systems, finished water storage, precursor removal and treatment, source water considerations, sanitary surveys, and water safety plans. Participation in such forums ensures that Metropolitan is properly informed and positioned to address revised and new regulations.

On December 15, the California Public Utilities Commission unanimously voted to approve the Net Energy Metering (NEM) 3.0 Proposed Decision. NEM is a program that credits a solar customer’s electric bill for surplus energy sent back to the grid. The NEM 2.0 standard will sunset in mid-April 2023. Solar systems installed before NEM 3.0 becomes effective will be grandfathered under NEM 2.0 for 15 years. Staff will track the roll-out of NEM 3.0 and its impacts on Metropolitan’s existing and future solar projects.

On December 15, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health adopted a Permanent COVID-19 Standard. The permanent standard replaces the emergency temporary standard. The new permanent COVID-19 standard is effective between January 2023 and January 2025. The less stringent permanent standard simplifies notification requirements, testing of close contacts, removes exclusion pay, and aligns with California Department of Public Health definitions such as “Close Contact.” Staff will adjust certain existing COVID-19 protocols to comply with the latest permanent standard.

Enhance Support Infrastructure at the Desert Facilities

Staff continued construction efforts to improve the Desert facility infrastructure for the residents by constructing carport canopies to protect the residents' vehicles from the intense desert sunlight and heat. The work includes concrete footing placement for the canopies needed to anchor the structures and protect them from damage by the frequent wind events experienced at the Desert facilities. Staff also performed electrical panel and wiring upgrades at Desert housing structures. These improvements were important for the reliability and safety of the facilities.



Staff excavating around buried utilities (left) and finished canopy footings (right) at a Desert facility residential structure



Staff performing electrical panel upgrades at Desert housing structure

Support and Engage with Member Agencies on Technical Matters

Apprenticeship Program staff conducted the first session of instruction for Eastern Municipal Water District electrical apprentices. EMWD staff have participated in Metropolitan's Apprenticeship Program over the years through a reimbursable agreement. This session focused on industrial safety and health with topics that included proper use of personal protective equipment, chemical safety, fire safety, and tool safety. These apprentices were provided with an understanding of potential workplace hazards and an effective foundation to ensure personal safety throughout their electrical careers.



Apprenticeship Program staff instructing EMWD electrical apprentices on industrial safety

Monthly Update as of:

12/31/2022

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	5,531,000	23%
Lake Mead	7,320,000	28%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	1,050,477	30%
Shasta Lake	1,523,673	33%
San Luis Total	687,554	34%
San Luis CDWR	428,198	40%
Castaic Lake	137,760	43%
Silverwood Lake	67,392	90%
Lake Perris	91,653	70%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	493,740	61%
Lake Mathews	153,729	84%
Lake Skinner	38,633	88%



Hoover Dam

Information Technology

Project Highlights

Enterprise Data Analytics Project

Metropolitan has numerous data repositories within the enterprise in systems such as Oracle Financials, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), Geographic Information System (GIS), Water Supply/Demand systems, and others. Data from these systems can be further optimized so that operational and financial information is easier to analyze, retrieve, govern, and share across various business groups. Understanding this data is key to making technology decisions and designing appropriate solutions that address the complexities and associated challenges in implementing data analytic solutions. This will further unlock new discoveries, functional use cases, and scalable efficiencies within Metropolitan’s Data Analytics portfolio to improve how Metropolitan interacts internally and with its customers.

As part of this effort, IT staff have completed Phase II of the Enterprise Data Analytics project. In a joint effort with our consultant, Gartner, the project team worked with Metropolitan business staff to document detailed requirement specifications for the top 25 analytics use cases as defined in Phase I. Phase III will consist of implementing one use case from the top 25 use cases list as a proof-of-concept showcasing the recommendations from Phase II. Phase III is expected to be complete in the coming months.

SCADA Partnering Session

The SCADA System Upgrade project will upgrade Metropolitan’s entire control system in incremental stages, spanning the Colorado River Aqueduct, the five water treatment plants, and the conveyance and distribution system. The first phase of the project is to replace the control system at the Mills plant. The project team has executed the consultant agreement and is working on initiating the pilot phase. The team held a partnering session to clarify the project intention and delivery expectations through a partnering charter at the Mills Plant.



Real Property

Project Highlights

Provide right-of-way planning, valuation, and real property acquisition support services for the protection and reliability of existing infrastructure.

Executed an amendment to the lease with the Los Angeles Community College District at their Los Angeles Harbor College campus in support of the Pre-Stressed Concrete Cylinder Pipeline Second Lower Feeder Project. The amendment will extend the current lease from February 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024, allowing Metropolitan to continue using the site for construction office trailers, parking, and storage of pipe sleeves and other construction-related equipment and materials.

Provide right-of-way planning, valuation, and real property acquisition support services for the sustainability and reliability of both imported and regional water supplies, and protection of water rights.

Obtained six temporary access permits from six property owners in Carson and Long Beach to facilitate the placement of a total of 11 aerial control targets, necessary for an aerial survey in support of Pure Water Southern California. This survey work is integral to planning Reaches 1 and 2 of the project's alignment, which covers the cities of Carson and Long Beach.

Provide valuation, land management, and real property disposition support services for the maximum return or use of Metropolitan-owned land and facilities.

A license has been issued to Kiewit-Parsons Joint Venture for construction laydown and staging purposes, comprising 0.4 acre of land within the Yorba Linda Feeder right-of-way in Pomona. The four-year license will help facilitate construction activities related to Metro's Gold Line Foothill Extension Project.

Efficiently maintain and operate assets not related to the treatment and distribution of water.

The Diamond Valley Lake Marina hosted the Anglers Marine Fishing Tournament this month. Over 85 boats and 150 Anglers participated in the competition to see who could reel in the heaviest bag of fish and the biggest fish. This year's biggest fish weighed in at over 10 pounds.



Metropolitan headquarters' staff completed the installation of the holiday tree and decoration.

This year posed a challenge as the tree had been in storage for over three years. The 20-foot tree and decorative balcony garland required over three days to set up, which included relighting the tree and systematically checking and replacing burned out sections with new incandescent lights.



District Housing Maintenance and Management.

Desert staff completed 50 work orders this past reporting period. Twenty-one of these work orders were Tenant Requested Work Orders that included requests to install new kitchen plumbing fixtures, remove and replace playground equipment, and repair/replace appliances.

Pre-occupancy repairs on one house were completed this reporting period. Repairs to this house consisted of interior/exterior painting, new windows, new flooring, new kitchen cabinets/countertops, new appliances, and a full bathroom remodel.

Desert Housing and Recreation Interim Action Plan (DHRIAP) has been implemented and continues to work on carport installations at Gene, site preparations for backyard shade structure installations, and resurfacing of the Iron Mountain multi-purpose sport court. In addition, 14 residential load centers were replaced or repaired, and 23 garage sub-panels were replaced at houses located at the Gene village.

Security

Project Highlights

Security and Emergency Response

Members of Metropolitan’s Security Management Unit (SMU) participated in a series of six value engineering workshops for Stage 1 of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Security Upgrades. The workshops, coordinated by Metropolitan’s Technical Control Team, allowed collaboration between multiple stakeholders to ensure the future reliability, security, and resiliency of critical infrastructure along Metropolitan’s CRA.

Workshop participants reviewed and brainstormed numerous agenda items including:

- Project goals
- Security objectives
- Project constraints
- Stakeholder concerns
- Construction schedule
- Cost reviews

Given the recent domestic electrical grid attacks in four other states over the last three months, the importance of a comprehensive project that incorporates security technologies to mitigate future potential threats and risks was emphasized.



Value engineering generated hundreds of valuable security ideas for decision-makers

Employee Readiness for All Hazards and Emergencies

A multi-agency, full-scale emergency response exercise was held at the Diemer Water Treatment Plant. The exercise provided invaluable experience to Orange County's Joint Hazard Assessment Teams (JHAT) in dealing with a simultaneous chemical leak and dynamic security scenario involving Metropolitan role players.

Staff from Metropolitan Security, Water System Operations, External Affairs, Emergency Management, Business Continuity, and Diemer Plant activated the ICC. The exercise also incorporated dozens of participants from:

- Orange County Fire Authority
- Anaheim City Fire Hazardous Materials
- Orange County Public Health Department
- Yorba Linda City Operations Center
- United States Army
- Regional SWAT teams

The beneficial exercise created future mutual learning opportunities; participants gained valuable lessons learned and increased their professional contacts with regional first responders.



Orange County's JHAT deals with a dynamic security scenario

Finance and Administration



Finance

Maintain Strong Financial Position

Provide timely and discerning financial analyses, planning, and management to ensure that forecasted revenues are sufficient to meet planned expenses and provide a prudent level of reserves consistent with board policy.

Manage risk to protect Metropolitan's assets against exposure to loss.

The Risk Management Unit completed 25 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 53 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events, and film permits.

Business Continuity

Facilitate district-wide planning and training to prepare employees and managers to effectively carry out critical roles and recover mission essential functions thus ensuring continuity of operations and resiliency in the event of a disaster.

Manage the Business Continuity Management Program in accordance with Operating Policy A-06.

- Continued facilitating tabletop exercises and Business Continuity plan updates, with a special focus on cyberattack planning.
- Participated in planning meetings to develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with FEMA requirements that would enable Metropolitan to seek grant funding for projects.
- Completed the draft updates to Operating Policy A-06 Emergency Management and Business Continuity and initiated the review of updates with key stakeholders.

Financial Management

Manage Metropolitan's finances in an ethical and transparent manner and provide consistent, clear, and timely financial reporting. Update Metropolitan's capital financing plans and work with rating agencies and investors to communicate Metropolitan's financial needs, strategies, and capabilities, thus ensuring that Metropolitan has cost effective access to capital markets and the ability to finance ongoing future needs. In addition, actively manage Metropolitan's short-term investment portfolio to meet ongoing liquidity needs and changing economic environments.

Record and report the financial activities of Metropolitan in a timely, accurate, and transparent manner to the Board, executive management, member agencies, and the financial community.

- Water Transactions in November 2022 (for water delivered in September 2022) totaled 135.0 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 11.4 TAF lower than the budget of 146.4 TAF and translate to \$126.6 million in receipts for November 2022, which were \$11.8 million lower than budget of \$138.4 million.
- Year-to-date water transactions through November 2022 (for water delivered in May 2022 through September 2022) were 736.6 TAF, which was 18.2 TAF higher than the budget of 718.4 TAF. Year-to-date water receipts through November 2022 were \$688.4 million, which was \$8.8 million lower than the budget of \$697.2 million.

- In November 2022, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,300 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$3,300 in discounts.

Prudently manage the investment of Metropolitan's funds in accordance with policy guidelines and liquidity considerations.

As of November 30, 2022, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.3 billion; in November 2022, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 16 trades.

In November 2022, Treasury staff processed 974 disbursements by check, 19 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 118 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 49 receipts by check, 26 receipts by ACH, and 49 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

In addition, there were 8,873 P-Card transactions, totaling \$1.2M, recorded by in the November bank statement.

Administrative Services

Accomplishments

During the month of December, the Professional Services Contracting Team (PSCT) completed the following transactions that are crucial acquisitions in support of Metropolitan's water saving and drought initiatives:

Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1330—Pure Water Southern California Program—Program Management Support Services. Metropolitan and the Los Angeles County Sanitation District are exploring the potential of a large-scale recycled water infrastructure system called the Pure Water Southern California Program (Program or PWSC) to beneficially reuse water currently discharged to the Pacific Ocean. The solicitation will make available consultant services to support Metropolitan's Pure Water Southern California efforts in the management, administration, control, engineering, and construction management of the Program.

Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 1328—Mills and Jensen Water Treatment Plants Finished Water Reservoirs Rehabilitation Preliminary Design Services. Metropolitan initiated this project to rehabilitate three finished water reservoirs (FWR) with floating covers at the Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant (Mills Plant) and the Joseph Jensen Water Treatment Plant (Jensen Plant). These reservoirs provide operational storage capacity within the distribution system to regulate deliveries to Metropolitan's member agencies. The purpose of the solicitation was to seek services of an experienced and qualified consultant to perform the preliminary design for the rehabilitation work at Mills Finished Reservoir Nos. 1 and 2 and Jensen Finished Reservoir No. 2.

Human Resources

HR Priorities

Partner with Metropolitan leadership to support learning, development, and adaptive workforce planning initiatives.

In December, 250 Metropolitan employees attended virtually facilitated classes, including Advanced Excel, Personal Security Awareness, Success Signals Communication Skills, and Agreement Administration.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online e-learning content platform, was accessed for such topics as Mistakes Leaders Should Avoid, Construction Management, Foundations of Geographic Info Systems, Managing in a Matrixed Organization, Root Cause Analysis, and Managing Emotions at Work.

The Organizational Development & Training Unit facilitated a training on Emotional Intelligence for the Safety & Regulatory Services management team.

Seek diverse, high-quality talent, and establish partnerships to discover additional outreach opportunities that aid in staffing positions.

Recruitment successfully filled 27 positions for December. Recruitment received 31 new staffing requisitions resulting in 219 positions currently in recruitment.

The HR Group Manager continued to work with the board in the recruitment process for the General Auditor position. Final interviews were conducted and a selection was made with an anticipated start date in early February.

HR Core Business: Provide Excellent Human Resources Services

Objective #1: Administer all HR services with efficiency and a focus on customer service excellence, consistency, and flexibility.

Constructive negotiations continue with the Supervisors' Association on a successor MOU. Staff will continue to brief the Organization, Personnel, and Technology (OP&T) Committee on the status of those talks.

Re-opener contract discussions occurred with the AFSCME bargaining unit focused on Teleworking, Recruitment, and other items.

The Business Support Team planned, organized, and coordinated a "Healthy Celebrations" wellness webinar. The live webcast, held on December 15, 2022, was hosted by Kaiser Permanente. The webinar explored ideas and resources related to creating healthy menus, maintaining fitness, and addressing increased stress during the holidays. Employees were invited to create a realistic action plan by using their personal strengths to thrive during the holidays.

Human Resources finalized the Department Head evaluation process by collecting feedback and ratings from 83 percent of the Board of Directors for three of the department heads: General Manager, General Counsel, and Ethics Officer. Results were shared with Board of Directors and individual employees. Compensation increases were also approved by the Board for the three department heads.

The Benefits Unit coordinated the fourth quarter Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC) meeting on December 7, 2022. The DCAC received Fiduciary Duty Training from Empower Retirement legal advisor. In addition, the committee decided to create by-laws to further define who is a fiduciary for the plan.

Finance and Administration

(continued)

HR Core Business: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations

Objective #1: Effectively administer all Human Resources policies, programs, and practices in compliance with applicable federal and state laws and Metropolitan’s Administrative Code, Operating Policies, and Memorandum of Understanding.

The Benefits Unit is currently administering 2022 COVID-19 Leaves through December 31, 2022. As of mid-December, 510 leaves of absence have been approved for COVID-related reasons.

In addition, staff is collaborating with other Metropolitan stakeholders to implement a new Incident Reporting and Case Management System designed by Ventiv Technology. Staff continues to work closely with our Workers’ Compensation third-party administrator, TRISTAR Risk Management.

HR Metrics	June 2022	December 2022	Prior Month November 2022
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,762	1,791	1,786
Temporary Employees	37	22	22
Interns	2	1	1
Recurrents	18	18	18
Annuitants	19	20	19

	December 2022	November 2022
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	219	215
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	31	30
	December 2022	November 2022
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	6	7
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	2	0
Number of New Job Audit Requests	1	1

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
External Hires	FY 21/22 Totals	December 2022	FISCAL YTD
Regular Employees	82	6	56
Temporary Employees	36	2	7
Interns	4	0	0
Internal Promotions	70	4	27
Management Requested Promotions	152	6	53
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	127	1	27
Employee-Requested Transfers	15	1	8

Departures

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
Aquino	Illuminada	Accounting Tech I	10/26/2022	Separated	FINANCE GROUP

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Business Outreach & Community Engagement

Staff attended the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Orange County (FACCOC) business awards. FACCOC is a non-profit organization for Filipino-American entrepreneurs, professionals, and students committed to promoting its members' domestic and international business interests by providing a host of wide-ranging benefits, services, programs, workshops, and training. FACCOC presented Metropolitan with the "Advocate of the Year" award. (December 1)

Members of the Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation team joined the staff from DEI group and attended the United States Green Building Council-LA 18th Annual Green GALA and Sustainable Innovation and Community Awards. This event recognizes and celebrates Community Leaders and Sustainable projects throughout the greater LA region. (December 8)

Staff participated as a panelist at the Women Business Enterprise Council-West virtual Conference. More than 200 Women-Owned Enterprises attended. (December 6–8)

Staff attended the National Association of Minorities in Construction Southern California (NAMCSC) awards gala on December 8, 2022. NAMCSC is a dedicated labor organization fighting for the rights of the local minority construction community, forming successful partnerships and negotiating better employment and procurement opportunities in all areas of this industry. Metropolitan was given the "Special Award" in recognition of our outstanding service, guidance, and outstanding leadership to the So Cal Chapter of NAMCSC. (December 8)

Tribal Outreach & Engagement

Tribal Relations and Workforce Development (TRWD) staff and members of the Metropolitan Native American Alaska Native Advocates (NAANEA) met with the Chairman and department management staff of the Chemehuevi Tribe of the Colorado River. The meeting was held at the Chemehuevi planning office. Following introductions, the Metropolitan delegation discussed workforce development programs for tribal members. During this discussion the Chairman brought up the issue with the Salt Cedar trees along the Colorado River shoreline and all over the reservation. According to the tribal officers, the invasive species draws approximately over 400 gallons a day of water, which comes from the Colorado River. Overall, the shoreline trees have been drawing over a million gallons of water a year, not to mention the total water draw from over 800 trees around the reservation. Although the eradication of the invasive species presents a workforce development opportunity by training for environmental careers, everyone agreed that the issue of Colorado river water loss by the draw from these trees is an urgent matter. Metropolitan staff advised that the matter will be brought to the General Manager's office, which will keep them apprised of any proposed actions.

Following the meeting, the tribes Vice Chairman toured the Metropolitan delegation around the reservation and introduced them to the managers of the different tribal offices, including the reservations' water district.



External Affairs

Highlights

Chairwoman Gray joined with Assemblymember Friedman (D-Glendale) to address California’s delegation to the COP15 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity about actions that Metropolitan and member agencies are taking to support work that protects ecosystems and diverse landscapes. (December 1)

Metropolitan hosted Heal the Bay’s One Water Day event at which GM Hagekhalil, Director/Heal the Bay Executive Director Quinn, and other water agency and environmental community leaders discussed the need for continued partnerships and progress in water infrastructure, conservation, and sustainability projects. (December 2)



Left: Assemblymember Friedman, Chairwoman Gray and musician Michael Fitzpatrick address California’s delegation to the United National Convention on Biological Diversity. Right: GM Hagekhalil and Director Quinn join with other leaders at Heal the Bay’s One Water Day.



Director Record, GM Hagekhalil and IEUA GM Mouawad were among the speakers at the UC Riverside School of Public Policy program on Water Supply Resiliency

Director Record, GM Hagekhalil and IEUA GM Mouawad spoke at the University of Riverside School of Public Policy Water Series on “Creating a Resilient and Reliable Water Future in the Face of Climate Change.” GM Hagekhalil presented on the drought, current water supplies, and how Metropolitan’s One Water planning and advocacy efforts support the region’s water resiliency. (December 6)

Metropolitan sponsored and GM Hagekhalil and staff attended the Arab American Association of Engineers and Architects annual dinner. (December 9)

Chairwoman Gray, Directors DeJesus, Lefevre, Miller, G. Peterson, Quinn, Record and Smith, and GM Hagekhalil, General Counsel Scully, AGMs Upadhyay and Zinke and staff attended the Colorado River Water Users Association conference. Exhibits and events recognized many Colorado River partnership activities including conservation, land fallowing, and the Pure Water Southern California program. (December 13–16)

Chairwoman Gray and GM Hagekhalil joined with Southern California labor organizations and leaders for a signing ceremony for the Project Labor Agreement. (December 20)



Legislative Services

Federal

The Water Resources and Development Act of 2022 was signed into law. The bill authorizes locally driven Army Corps of Engineers projects and was included in the fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. The NDAA also provides funding for a study on the human health impacts of PFAS in drinking water being conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As negotiations continue for fiscal year 2023 federal appropriations, staff is closely tracking funding for programs that are important to Metropolitan and its member agencies, including drought response funding.

State

The FY 2023-24 legislative session began on December 5 including a special session to consider new taxes on oil companies. Staff is preparing for the release of the Governor's proposed FY 2023/24 budget in January that will provide a spending plan reflecting a projected deficit of \$24 billion attributable to lower revenue estimates.

Local

Metropolitan staff hosted the Inland Empire Economic Partnership Regional Academy for a tour of the Mills Treatment Plant and provided an overview of treatment efforts, the delivery system, and operational flexibility. (December 9)



Mills Plant Tour for the Inland Empire Economic Partnership Regional Academy

Metropolitan staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 40 webinars, virtual meetings, and events with community organizations, trade associations, and local officials on water-specific topics.

Media and Communications

The following media interviews were arranged:

- Gizmodo climate reporter Angely Mercado and SRI Officer Crosson regarding the MOU among urban water agencies to reduce demands on the Colorado River



Posts announcing initial State Water Project allocation and Metropolitan's response and call for conservation

- OC Mag editor Astgik Khatchatryam and GM Hagekhalil on ways Metropolitan is responding to water supply challenges for a story on water use in Orange County.
- Author Peter Annin and COO/AGM Upadhyay and External Affairs Team Manager Soni regarding recycled water and a tour of the Pure Water Southern California demonstration plant.
- LA Times reporter Hayley Smith, KNX producer James Tuck, Spectrum News reporter Sara Pillar, and KABC and KCAL reporters regarding DWR's initial allocation for the State Water Project.

- Arizona Daily Star reporter Tony Davis and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp regarding Reclamation’s SEIS process for revision of operating guidelines for Colorado River facilities.
- KUNC radio reporter Alex Hager and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp regarding Colorado River negotiations at CRWUA conference.
- LA Times, New York Times, Associated Press, Southern California News Group, KNX, KTLA, and CBS with GM Hagekhalil and WRM Group Manager Coffey regarding declaration of a regional drought emergency.

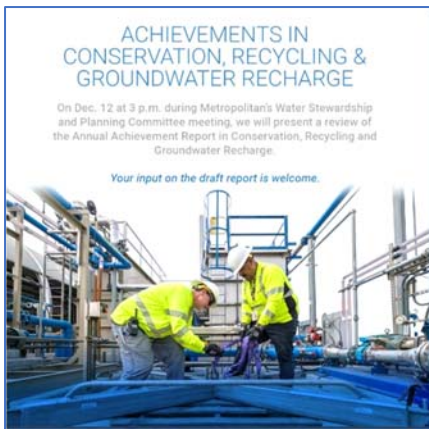
GM Hagekhalil was interviewed for a Water Values podcast on water supply challenges in Southern California.

GM Hagekhalil participated in the filming of a documentary for “VIEWPOINT with Dennis Quaid,” a documentary that will be aired on public television and focused on the region’s water supply challenges and investments IEUA is making to build sustainable local water supplies.

Press Releases

- Statement from GM Hagekhalil on the announcement of initial SWP allocation
- New online dashboard to track progress on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- Board approval of resolution declaring regional drought emergency for all of Southern California

Creative Design



Seeking public input for Metropolitan's Annual Achievement Report

Completed the Annual Achievement Report for public review and arranged speakers for the public hearing. EA and WRM staff also met with Conner Everts (Southern CA Watershed Alliance) and Charming Evelyn (Sierra Club) to discuss ways to better engage the conservation and environmental community in the report development process in the future.

Website

Water conservation advertising campaign received more than 18 million impressions and more than 97,000 clicks to bewaterwise.com generated from social media.

New rainy day messaging was launched and more than two dozen Southern California meteorologists were tagged, several of whom

engaged with Metropolitan, either reposting or calling on viewers to turn off their sprinklers during and after rain.

Social Media

High-performing social media followed the Colorado River Compact’s 100th anniversary with a post featuring a quote from GM Hagekhalil on the importance of the compact and several tweets highlighting activities at the Colorado River Water Users Association conference.



One of several new rainy day messages for Metropolitan's social media platforms

The winter ‘bridge’ advertising campaign includes co-branding with Save Our Water campaign on Southern California digital billboards and replaying the Water is Y/Our Life series, which focuses on Metropolitan’s infrastructure and shows the connection with everyday life.

Public Outreach and Member Services

Conducted outreach work for Pure Water Southern California including a booth at Heal the Bay's ONE Water Day and CRWUA conference; tours for ASCE Metro LA Branch, California Special Districts Association, and a Metropolitan employee group; and a staff meeting with the city of Long Beach to discuss conveyance system.

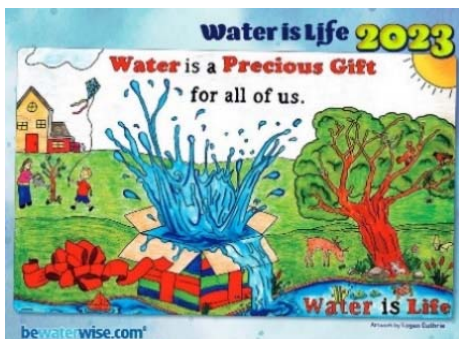
Met with the member agency managers to discuss water supply conditions, operations, the proposed board resolution on the regional drought emergency, Colorado River issues, the Water Supply Allocation Plan, legislative priorities and principles for 2023, and EMWD's approach to non-functional turf.

Conducted one director inspection trip for the Colorado River Aqueduct (December 2–3)

Distributed more than 2,000 notices to the community of Rolling Hills Estates regarding upcoming work on the Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation; notified residents in Newport Beach regarding upcoming construction activities on the Orange County Feeder and Extension Relining; and delivered notices to communities in Buena Park and Fullerton regarding upcoming work on the West Orange County and Lower Feeder Blow-off Drain Line Rehabilitation.

Education and Community Relations

Metropolitan staff virtually interacted with 150 teachers, students, and parents through community festivals and online virtual tours, scouting programs, and customized ZOOM class presentations.



Thirty-seven student artists who are featured in the 2023 Water Is Life calendar were recognized in an online event. Chairwoman Gray praised the young people for their artistic talents and water conservation messages. (December 7)

A teacher workshop was held for the new Water Engineering 4 Good program, an online STEAM program in which middle and high school students will be challenged to create a conservation device out of recycled/upcycled materials, animate their device with a CAD program, and create a social media campaign. (December 17)

Community Partnering and Sponsorship Program

Metropolitan collaborated with L.A. Trust, LAUSD, WeTap, and Golden State Water and provided refillable water canteens to celebrate the installation of new water refill stations led by the Washington Preparatory High School Student Advisory Board's student water advocates. (December 7)

Metropolitan provided sponsorship and support for the following events this month:

LA Cleantech Citizen Awards; California Water Efficiency Partnership Catalyst workshop; Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE) City of Justice Awards; American Society of Civil Engineers, L.A. Section Water Resources Engineers Project; Venice Chamber Community Foundation; Water Court Native Plant Education Garden; and the Tarzana Native Plant Fair



WeTap and Metropolitan staff attended Washington Preparatory High School event (Los Angeles) to unveil three new water stations

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation



Sustainability, Resiliency, Innovation and Environmental Planning

SRI Core Activities

The Chief SRI Officer (CSRIO) participated on the Innovative Climate Action Planning panel at Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) in Indian Wells. The Chief SRI Officer also participated in WaterStart's Channels for Innovation Summit in Las Vegas. The summit focused on panel discussions, including the *Intersection of Innovation and Sustainability*. The summit highlighted technology behind zero-carbon data centers and explored newly launched products and solutions at the Innovation Hub.

For the first time, the CSRIO presented to the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee on updates related to the Climate Action Plan. The presentation focused on SRI's mission and vision statements, key sustainability initiatives, strategic priorities, greenhouse gas reduction measures, green power purchase agreements, and next steps.

The CSRIO helped facilitate the launch of CAPDash, a public-facing dashboard, to track progress on reducing Metropolitan's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). CAPDash can be accessed from Metropolitan's external website. The dashboard features interactive charts and graphs that display Metropolitan's GHG emissions data and current status of each GHG reduction measure. The GHG inventory will be updated on CAPDash annually and recent accomplishments will be updated periodically throughout the year to highlight progress on achieving our goals.

CSRIO staff are working closely with Engineering and Construction Management to develop a contractor construction emissions tracking protocol to improve reporting of Metropolitan's overall GHG emissions and are working closely with WSO to identify natural gas-consuming equipment at its facilities for eventual replacement. In addition, staff are preparing grant applications to fund the development of carbon sequestration projects on two of the four Delta islands.

The Executive Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Task Force met on December 6 to discuss the Task Force roles and responsibilities needed for Metropolitan's transition to zero emission vehicles. The SRI Office co-chairs the Task Force with WSO and will be meeting monthly to coordinate the district-wide next steps to comply with upcoming regulations that require new vehicle purchases be non-internal combustion.

SRI coordinated with the City of Los Angeles General Services Department (GSD) Fleet Services staff to tour its fleet maintenance facility in East Los Angeles on December 15. SRI, WSO, and ESG staff were able to discuss GSD's implementation, use, and maintenance of its zero electric vehicles, chargers, and telematics software. Metropolitan staff also gained valuable information on how GSD plans to expand its electric fleet.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)



Metropolitan staff meeting with City of Los Angeles' GSD Fleet Services



Metropolitan and GSD Fleet Services staff learning about EV charger software and maintenance (left) and GSD Fleet Services staff discussing overhead EV chargers and telematics software (right)

The SRI Office, Administrative Services Section, Engineering Services Group, and Risk Management continued to discuss policy options for district-wide sustainable procurement. Administrative Services will work with SRI to revise the current Operating Policy G-05, Procurement of Goods and Services, and participate in the development of a district-wide green procurement policy. Metropolitan continues to work with Empower Procurement, a consultant that is fully funded by the California Energy Commission, until January 2023.

Innovation

On December 13, Metropolitan connected with WaterStart Innovation Members ([CFISummit2022 Program.pdf - Google Drive](#)) from around the globe gathered for a hybrid meeting at the Southern Nevada Valley Water Authority. The day started with a panel discussion on the *Intersection of Innovation & Sustainability featuring* Metropolitan's Liz Crosson; Kristen Averyt, Senior Climate Advisor Office of the Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak; Sr. VP Truckee Water Authority; GM of Arizona Water in Scottsdale. Nate Allen of WaterStart, moderated the panel. Metropolitan's Michael Thomas and Ana Sofijanic, AM Team Belgium, won the Pilot Pitch Competition with their presentation of *An Evaluation of Finished Water Reservoir Mixing Conditions*. Metropolitan's new joint version of our H2O TECHCONNECT Community Platform in partnership with WaterStart was re-introduced to the Water Community at the Conference. WaterStart has helped Metropolitan implement pilots, and they have co-funded pilots and created shared pilot opportunities with other members. WaterStart also sent out RFPs with Metropolitan's water priorities

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

(continued)

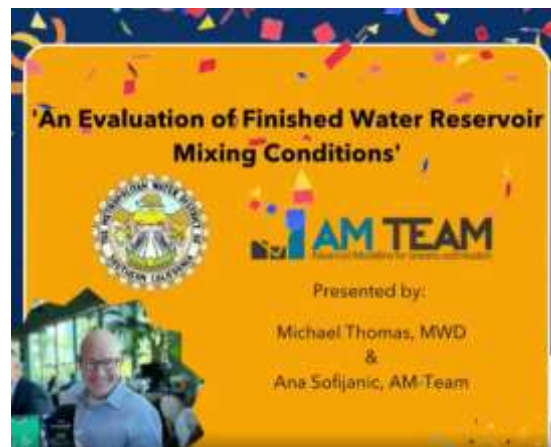
and discovered new technologies in Israel, Australia, Germany, and the UK. –Currently, InVizion, AM Team, Riventa, Sensoil, Optolution, Klir, and Narrative Wave have pilots with Metropolitan, and many more pilots are in development.



CFI Summit Featuring Liz Crosson



WaterStart hosted a private tour of the Hoover Dam, led by Mark Cook, manager of the most iconic hydro power facility in the world



Pilot Pitch Winner Michael Thomas and Ana Sofijani, AM Team

Environmental Planning Section

Core Business: Environmental Planning and Regulatory Compliance Support

Bay Delta Initiatives

- Attended weekly coordination meetings with Public Water Agency representatives and attended coordination meetings with DWR and regulatory permitting agencies to support development of permit applications for the Delta Conveyance Project.
- Reviewed administrative draft Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Delta Smelt and Native Species Preservation Project.

Engineering Services Group

Pure Water Southern California

- Completed draft Hazardous Materials, Paleontological Resources, Biological Resources and Jurisdictional Delineation, and Hydrology and Water Quality technical reports in support of the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report.

Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program EIR

- Initiated 45-day public review for the IS and Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (NOP) for the F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program.
- In coordination with External Affairs, distributed public notices to adjacent property owners regarding the NOP and public review process.
- Initiated tribal cultural resources consultation with Native American tribes in the project vicinity in compliance with Assembly Bill (AB 52).

Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement and Access Road Improvements Project

- Distributed IS and MND for public review and initiated public review period.

Construction Monitoring

- Continued construction monitoring efforts for Orange County Feeder Relining Reach 3, Weymouth Basins 5–8 Rehabilitation, La Verne Shops Upgrades, Weymouth Battery Energy Storage Systems, and Live Oak Reservoir Cathodic System Replacement.
- Initiated construction monitoring for Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe Second Lower Feeder Reach 3A.

External Affairs

- Provided review and analysis of a draft legislative proposal from ACWA.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Office

- Supported development and finalization of the CAP Dash webpage for the Climate Action Plan.
- Continued preparation of document templates and guidelines for subsequent CEQA review for projects covered under the Climate Action Plan and for CEQA greenhouse gas analysis for future projects/activities.
- Continued to research and gather updated Scope 3 Emissions (Employee Commute/Transit—Scoping Measures EC-1 to EC-4) and Utilities Data (Waste and Wastewater)

Reserve Management

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Installed fencing in the southeast corner of the Reserve boundary to prevent trespassing.
- Coordinated with Southern California Edison to ensure protection of natural resources during overhead power line maintenance activities.
- Completed weed abatement on approximately 10 acres of stinknet and various mustard species that have germinated since recent rains.
- Coordinated with California Department of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement regarding trespassing.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Conducted tamarisk removal in Tucalota Creek.
- Conducted roadside weed abatement and road repairs caused by rain damage.
- Alamos Schoolhouse interpretive center had 117 visitors and continued with “Birding at the Schoolhouse” event on Saturdays, including a pinecone bird feeder workshop.
- Repaired damage to boundary fencing and installed no trespassing signage.



Burrowing owl at an artificial burrow installed on the Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

External Document Reviews

- Reviewed 10 CEQA notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.



Metropolitan's Mission is to provide its service area with adequate and reliable supplies of high-quality water to meet present and future needs in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

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