

General Manager's Monthly Report



Activities for the Month of November 2023



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Message from the General Manager

Last month, Metropolitan took an important step in the development of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water, outlining a decision-making framework that will guide and support the board's deliberations about critical resource investments for a more reliable and resilient water supply. The Board also chartered a Joint Task Force of board members and member agencies to shape the master plan.

I was energized by the constructive and substantive discussion and also by the innovative structure of the meeting, which was conceived by Board Chair Ortega to include member agency managers. Having agency managers at the table enables their direct contribution to the discussion, provides additional awareness of the operational implications of what's being considered, and increases clarity when everyone is discussing the same information at the same time.

While not every meeting can be structured like a joint task force, Metropolitan takes the perspective of our member agencies seriously. We communicate with agency staff and management frequently and extensively to coordinate and problem solve, whether in our monthly meetings, through issue-centric working groups or individually.

We are discussing daily operational details as well as long-term plans and creative brainstorming. We coordinate repairs and shutdowns, and we forge partnerships to expand customer programs and workforce development and resource investments across the region.

I recently initiated a series of roundtable discussions with all member agency general managers to air high-level priorities, to further develop mutual understanding, and to make space for dialogue about new ideas or lingering challenges.

Together Metropolitan and our member agencies share the responsibility to provide a safe and reliable water supply for the people of Southern California. Only together can we adapt to climate change and succeed in a way that leaves no one behind.

We are one

Adel



“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.”

***- Henry Ford,
American Industrialist***



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 to fulfill Metropolitan's Mission.

Considerable progress has been made to renovate our housing stock; Two thirds of homes in use at our desert facilities are either new (11), refurbished (41), or currently being refurbished (8). Details on this progress and other updates on our housing improvement program will be provided to the Board at the December 5 meeting in Gene.

The State Auditor has now reviewed the final element of Metropolitan's response to the State Audit and has agreed that we have fully implemented all recommendations. The final element reviewed was the recommendation to ensure timely response to EEO complaints, including by updating investigation procedures to include timeframes that match best practices. As reported last month, we are meeting these timeframe targets, with an average case closure rate of 58 business days for Q3 2023.

This month, the EEO Office conducted the last of three trainings scheduled this year on EEO's complaint and investigative process, titled "EEO Investigations 101." This interactive and informative training provided employees with an overview of the EEO Office and its mission and guiding principles; the complaint intake process; and guidelines for conducting EEO investigations. The goal of this training series is to ensure that Metropolitan employees know how to file an EEO complaint, have a better understanding of the complaint process and their rights and responsibilities in the workplace, and are more aware of the support offered by the EEO Office.

The Diversity Council received an update on the DEI Strategic Plan, what has been accomplished, and ways in which we will advance DEI in 2024 and beyond. Further updates will be provided in December, including to employee resource groups and bargaining units. A board update is planned for February.

This month's all-manager briefing with the GM featured two other departments. General Auditor Suzuki shared his vision for audits, how they contribute to a stronger Metropolitan, and collaboration between the Auditor's and GM's offices. Ethics staff presented a primer about gift rules, timely for the holiday season.

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.

More than 800 staff joined the latest in the ongoing series of virtual discussions with the General Manager. Included in the conversation was the introduction of new Human Resources Group Manager, Mark Brower.

Sustain Metropolitan's mission with a strengthened business model

Develop revenue and business model options that support the needs of the member agencies as well as Metropolitan's financial sustainability and climate adaptation needs.

Board action at the November Finance, Audit, Insurance, and Real Property (FAIRP) committee concurred with the assumptions in the Long-Range Finance Plan-Needs Assessment for planning purposes. Staff will bring the item back for questions at the January FAIRP.

The Board's Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee further explored issues of affordability, focusing on regulatory requirements affecting affordability in the third in a series of expert panels in support of the integration of financial and equity strategies into our resource planning. Panelists included representatives from California Municipal Utilities Association and California Urban Water Agencies, State Water Resources Control Board, NRDC, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, and Central Basin Municipal Water District.

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.

The new Centralized Grants Office within SRI supported the submittal of grant applications totaling \$135.15 million:

- USBR WaterSmart Drought Resilience, Inland Feeder/San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Foothill Pump Station Intertie—\$5 million
- EPA Workforce Development, Water Education and Technology Internship—\$4 million
- Water Research Foundation Emerging Opportunities Program, Algaecide Application and Monitoring Protocols— \$150,000
- USBR WaterSmart Large-Scale Water Recycling Program, Pure Water Phase One Planning and Design—\$126 million

Adapt to changing climate and water resources

Provide each member agency access to an equivalent level of water supply reliability through the development of a Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) that integrates water resource, financial and climate adaptation planning.

The CAMP4W Planning Team facilitated the first Joint Task Force meeting with board members and member agency managers and presented a first cut of Proposed Evaluative Criteria to use in evaluating projects and programs to meet Metropolitan's climate adaptation goals. The Task Force provided initial feedback on the criteria and began discussions around how the climate decision-making framework will be used moving forward. The team also provided a live demo of the new Member Agency Dashboard and received feedback for next steps.

Projects under CAMP4W include the drought mitigation actions portfolio developed in collaboration with member agency staff and managers in workshops and monthly meetings. Staff reported to the Pure Water Southern California and Regional Conveyance Subcommittee on the progress of portfolio development.

The Board approved additional resource-potential analyses: the scope of brackish and seawater desalination studies was revised to incorporate external input and to more closely align with state guidance around streamlined permitting for seawater desalination projects.

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.

Staff presented to the Board the updated cost estimate for Pure Water Southern California. In a related significant milestone, staff submitted a proposal for \$135 million to the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for Large-Scale Water Recycling program. This program funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is aimed at creating new water supplies that are less vulnerable to drought and climate change.

Metropolitan submitted comments to the revised draft of state Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) regulations. It is expected that regulations will be finalized by the end of 2023.

Metropolitan was awarded a grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to fund six recommended pilot projects and scientific research studies for Bouldin Island. The primary objective of this grant is to assist in identifying opportunities on Metropolitan's Islands in addressing land subsidence, habitat restoration, carbon sequestration, sustainable agricultural practices, and water quality.

Promoting science-based Delta management, Metropolitan participated in a two-day Delta Science Programs Workshop focused on the foodweb in the Delta and Suisun Bay, and staff joined a panel alongside representatives of CDFW, DWR, USBR, the Delta Conservancy, and the United Auburn Indian Community.

Based on comments from USBR, staff revised our \$420 million proposal for Inflation Reduction Act funding of long-term projects to reduce Colorado River water use, including accelerating the replacement of non-functional turf. More than 40 percent of the requested funds would directly or indirectly assist disadvantaged communities in the service area.

This month, the ZEV Transition Roadmap was presented to board members on the EO&T Committee Field Trip in preparation for a full informational update at the EO&T Committee in January. The overview included impending state regulations, data-tracking needs, infrastructure planning, and a vehicle replacement strategy.

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

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

This month staff enhanced emergency preparedness and response by conducting an emergency preparedness workshop with California Department of Water Resources and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and by meeting with Southern California Edison to discuss Public Safety Power Shutoff Events.

Staff completed onboarding of the Cyber Security Operations Center temporary staffing services. Within the first 30 days, 85 cyber-threat investigations have been opened and closed.

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

A contract award for General Networks Corporation was approved at the November Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee for software and professional services needed to implement a cloud-based Enterprise Content Management (ECM) System to provide anytime, anywhere access to content, from any device, across key business information systems.

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.

CAMP outreach activities continue with planning for an environmental listening session in December.

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

Staff hosted the leadership of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians in a visit to the Delta islands to discuss possible partnership and eco-cultural activities that could be integrated into Metropolitan's management and restoration of the islands. This was an outgrowth of the General Manager's meeting with Delta tribal leaders last year.

Messaging and outreach for underrepresented communities will be supported by the outcome of focus group sessions taking place in early December (in English and Spanish).

California participation in the Equity in Infrastructure Pledge expanded significantly this month with the signatures of the Los Angeles County Departments of Public Works, Economic Opportunity, and Internal Services; Los Angeles World Airports; Los Angeles County Metro; LADWP; AECOM; Lochner; Milhouse Engineering & Construction, and Infrastructure Engineering. As one of the founding signatories in 2022, Metropolitan's General Manager joined in the signing ceremony this month to welcome those who are joining our commitment to increase the number, size, and proportion of contracts awarded to Historically Underutilized Businesses in the infrastructure sector and to promote the creation of generational wealth and high-quality jobs in communities historically left behind.

Business Outreach Program activities for FY 2022-23 were presented to the Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee. We exceeded our goal for contract dollars awarded to small businesses (SBEs), achieving 39 percent or \$80m. Of that, \$840,000 was awarded to Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (DVBs).

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

Sara Seltzer, Archivist, and Jen Becker, Librarian, participated in the 18th Annual “LA as Subject” Archives Bazaar. The bazaar was held at the Doheny Memorial Library at USC. LA as Subject, a research alliance at the University of Southern California's Archival Research Center, is dedicated to preserving and improving access to the archival material of Los Angeles history. LA as Subject’s annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar brings unique collections together into one place. The event allows scholars, researchers, archivists, librarians, students, and history enthusiasts to browse the broad collections of the alliance’s members. This year's theme centered around food. Sara and Jen curated an exhibition of food-related items from the archives to display. Items include the Iron Mountain Tunnel hole cake photograph, water conservation materials with Joan Rivers, a McDonald's placemat, and a WWII ration book. These items, and many more, are cataloged in our archive management system, ArchivEra.

Bay-Delta Initiatives

At the November 17 Joint Reservoir Committee and Sites Authority Board meeting, the Sites Authority Board approved a resolution to certify the Final Environmental Impact Report and approved the Sites Reservoir Project as described in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Findings. The Sites Authority Board also directed the Executive Director of the Sites Authority to file a Notice of Determination and to certify the CEQA record of proceedings.

Chief Financial Officer

In October, informational reports were provided to the Finance, Audit, Insurance, and Real Property Committee on the Draft 2023 Long-Range Finance Plan Needs Assessment and Pure Water Southern California Cost Recovery Alternatives.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

On November 13–14, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended the 7th Annual Veterans in Business Network National Conference in San Diego, CA. The conference is designed to help build connections among Corporations, Government Agencies, and Primes looking to create partnerships with the veteran business community for contracting opportunities.

Engineering Services

Engineering, Operations, and Information Technology staff conducted the annual board inspection trip on November 16 with stops at the F. E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and Lake Mathews. At Metropolitan’s Water Quality Laboratory, the focus was on preparing for future operations and the ongoing preliminary design of seismic and functional upgrades to the Water Quality Lab. Engineering staff highlighted the construction progress on the rehabilitation of Weymouth Basins 5–8 and the La Verne Shops. At Lake Mathews, Engineering staff and the directors discussed Metropolitan’s dam-safety initiatives, the Perris Valley Pipeline project, and the planned rehabilitation of Lake Mathews Forebay. The directors also inspected the recently completed valve storage building.

External Affairs

Metropolitan celebrated the leadership and legacy of U.S. Representative Grace F. Napolitano with the renaming of the Pure Water Southern California demonstration facility in her honor. USBR Commissioner Touton, former Army Corps of Engineers Major General Toy, Chair Ortega, members of Metropolitan’s Board, GM Hagekhalil, Los Angeles County Sanitation District representatives, local and state officials, and staff attended. (November 2)

Human Resources

The Recruitment team successfully filled 19 positions during the month of November and have 35 recruitments in final stages.

Information Technology

IT completed the upgrade of the Fuel Management System (FuelMaster FM Live to version 10.5) with the provider, Syntech. The upgrade introduced new features to the online application and updated the fuel dispenser controllers at the fuel islands. The upgrade will also provide a direct interface with the cloud-based FM Live data.

Safety, Security and Protection

Security Management staff worked collaboratively with Diemer plant personnel to incorporate additional associated electronic security equipment (such as ground-based radar, video intercoms, remote speakers, and additional workstations) into CIP design that would provide additional remote visual verification of operational processes, discharge flows, and other core water treatment functions to make them safer, quicker, and more efficient.

Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation

The SRI office facilitated the Panel on Affordability for the Board Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee, focusing on the financial impacts of new regulations. Panelists from various organizations provided recommendations, emphasizing the need for state and federal funding, consolidation criteria, and scheduling of adopted regulations. The Chief SRI Officer also participated in the Localizing California Waters Conference, exploring resilient, collaborative watershed approaches. Additionally, the initiation of the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) Joint Task Force aims to develop a comprehensive regional plan addressing climate and growth scenarios, time-bound targets, decision-making frameworks, policies, initiatives, partnerships, business models, and funding strategies. SRI played a crucial role in disseminating information on the ZEV transition, issuing memos to employees, and conducting tours for the EO&T Board of Directors. Efforts were made towards the ZEV Transition Roadmap, green procurement policies, sustainability and resilience operating policy, and grant applications totaling \$135.15 million.

Water Resource Management

With a dry start to the new water year, which began October 1, staff is preparing for a wide range of potential outcomes this winter.

Water System Operations

This month, operations crews continued protecting our aging infrastructure through critical maintenance activities. Work included maintaining Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) electrical system components, rehabilitating a pump unit discharge valve at the Iron Mountain pumping plant, replacing fourteen valves on the Santa Monica Feeder, rebuilding a flow control system at the Beverly Hills Pressure Control Structure, maintaining patrol roads for critical facility access, and conducting preventative maintenance on the flocculation system at the Weymouth plant. This work represents just a snapshot of the ongoing efforts taken to ensure the reliability and resilience of Metropolitan's system.



**East County Advanced Water Purification Program
San Diego County Water Agency**



**French Valley Recycled Water Pipeline, Phase II
Eastern Municipal Water District**

“Local supply is an important water resource and I feel so honored to be a part of a program that has been helping with local supply development in our service area for over 40 years.”

***Nadia Hardjadinata, Resource Specialist
Supply Acquisition Team***

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Local Resources Program (LRP) accelerates and incentivizes local supply development within Metropolitan’s service area.

The LRP was initiated in 1981 to promote development of water reclamation projects through fixed, negotiated incentive amounts that help to fund projects’ capital costs. Today, the program has evolved to include recycled water, groundwater recovery, and seawater desalination projects and supports nearly half of the recycled water and groundwater recovery production in the district’s service area.

The LRP provides incentives to local supply projects that have a unit cost that is more expensive than Metropolitan’s water rate. Two sliding scale payment options evaluate the actual project costs compared to Metropolitan’s untreated water rate and provide either \$340/AF for 25 years or \$475/AF for 15 years. The third payment option is a negotiated, fixed incentive rate up to \$305/AF for 25 years. As water rates increase over time, a project’s cost may eventually fall below Metropolitan’s water rate and projects receiving sliding scale incentives no longer are eligible to receive LRP funding. When this happens, the goal of the LRP is reached because projects that were once expensive are now producing water at a lower cost than Metropolitan’s rate.

Projects start a timeline once they are accepted into the LRP. From agreement execution, projects must begin construction within two years. After construction begins, projects must start producing water within another two years. LRP agreements terminate 25 years after projects begin operation.

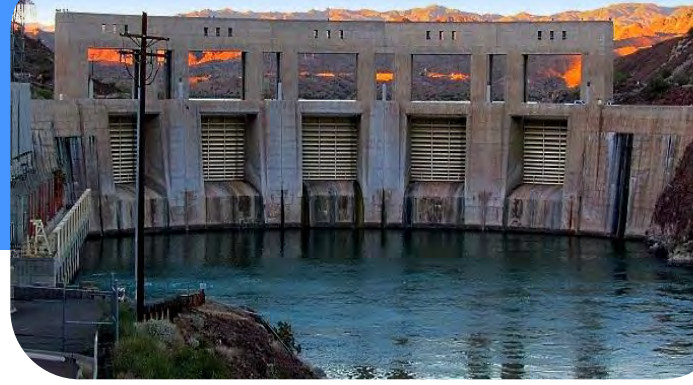
IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

Since inception, Metropolitan has provided \$735 million to 116 projects for a total of 4.3 million acre-feet of water. These local supplies are a cost-effective way for Metropolitan to help alleviate drought conditions by increasing regional water supply reliability and resiliency. The program reduces demands for imported water supplies and decreases the burden on Metropolitan’s infrastructure.

MEMORABLE MOMENT

The latest LRP project to come online is the North Pleasant Valley Desalter Project by the City of Camarillo in Calleguas Municipal Water District’s service area. Due to poor groundwater quality, Camarillo has historically blended imported water with their groundwater supplies to provide to their customers. With LRP funding, Camarillo constructed a reverse osmosis treatment plant to treat their groundwater and offset 3,800 AFY of imported water demands. Since January 2023, the project has produced 1,513 AF and will continue to produce local supplies in years to come.

Water Resources and Engineering



Water Resource Management

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

Staff participated in meetings and workshops with California, Lower Basin, and Upper Basin partners to continue developing a Basin States alternative for operating Lakes Mead and Powell after 2026, once the current operational guidelines (the 2007 Interim Guidelines) expire. Meetings included an online meeting of technical modeling teams from Metropolitan, Southern Nevada Water Authority, and the Central Arizona Project; a two-day meeting of Lower and Upper Basin States principals in Denver, Colorado; and a meeting of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Integrated Technical Education Workgroup in Denver for training on USBR's new online tool for modeling possible post-2026 reservoir operation alternatives. The post-2026 reservoir operation guidelines will significantly influence Metropolitan's future supply of Colorado River water.

Staff submitted additional documentation to Reclamation on Metropolitan's Bucket 2 funding proposal for \$420 million dollars. Additional documentation included separate proposals for each of the six components from our initial portfolio proposal, expanding on the mechanisms to conserve water, and clarification on how the proposed administrative costs had been determined. By submitting this additional information quickly and completely, further discussions on Bucket 2 projects can begin at Reclamation's earliest opportunity.

Implement Regional Conservation Program

Staff held a Water Efficient Landscaper Dual Certification Program class series in Spanish in conjunction with Moulton Nigel Water District in Laguna Hills for 50 people and a Model Water Efficient Ordinance workshop in Costa Mesa for 30 people.

Staff held a special Conservation Program Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting on October 25 with member and retail agency staff to discuss potential ways to adapt the regional rebate program to new digital innovations. Staff has communicated with different vendors to learn ways to initiate a digital marketplace program. Various challenges to implementing a digital marketplace were discussed; staff will hold additional PAC meetings on this subject as options are explored.

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

On November 14–16, Metropolitan staff participated in the One Water Summit in Tuscon, Arizona as part of its role as a founding member of the Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA). WUCA cohosted a learning lab with the U.S Water Alliance entitled Climate Action for All: Uniting Water Equity and Climate Action Strategies. The One Water Summit is the U.S. Water Alliance's signature event, gathering diverse stakeholders and practitioners from across the nation. General Manager Adel Hagekhalil was a speaker at the opening plenary panel discussion on Pathways to a One Water Future for the Colorado River.

Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program

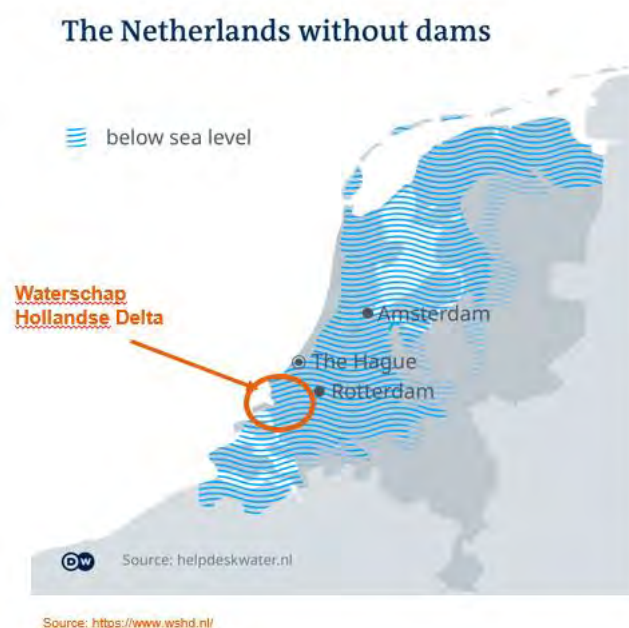
Staff will release an RFP for the next round of FSA Program studies on December 1. This round will fund up to eight studies or up to \$3 million in Metropolitan match funds. Member agencies can submit study proposals up to \$500,000 per study or per agency. Studies with three or more member agencies partnering will receive a 5 percent scoring bonus. Study proposals are due on February 5, 2024. Staff will be holding a pre-proposal webinar on December 13.

Position Metropolitan As A Leader In Open Water Data.

Staff sponsored a California Water Data Consortium (CWDC) webinar on Thursday, November 16. The Data for Lunch webinar featured Assistant GM Deven Upadhyay moderating a panel discussion with Joaquin Esquivel (Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board), Karla Nemeth (Director of California Department of Water Resources), and Laurel Larsen (Lead Scientist for the Delta Stewardship Council). The discussion covered each agency's role in implementing AB-1755—the Open and Transparent Data Act—and the role of data in improving water management in California. Over 200 representatives from across California's water sector participated in the webinar. A recording of the webinar will be posted on the CWDC's website in the near future: [Home—California Water Data Consortium \(cawaterdata.org\)](https://cawaterdata.org). Metropolitan is a founding member of the CWDC and participates on its Board and committees.

Promote Metropolitan's Technical Capabilities and Innovation Efforts To Advance The Understanding Of Water Resources Management.

Staff organized a Peer-2-Peer (P2P) workshop with representatives from Waterschap Hollandse Delta, a Dutch water entity managing levees and related infrastructure near Rotterdam. Staff from the Bay-Delta and Water Resource Management Groups participated in the meeting. The workshop featured breakout sessions on levee management and ecosystem restoration on delta islands with peat soils and agriculture. The workshop was implemented through Metropolitan's P2P innovation agreement with Arcadis. A report-out from the workshop will include a roadmap for implementing new approaches and follow-up meetings.



Water Resources and Engineering

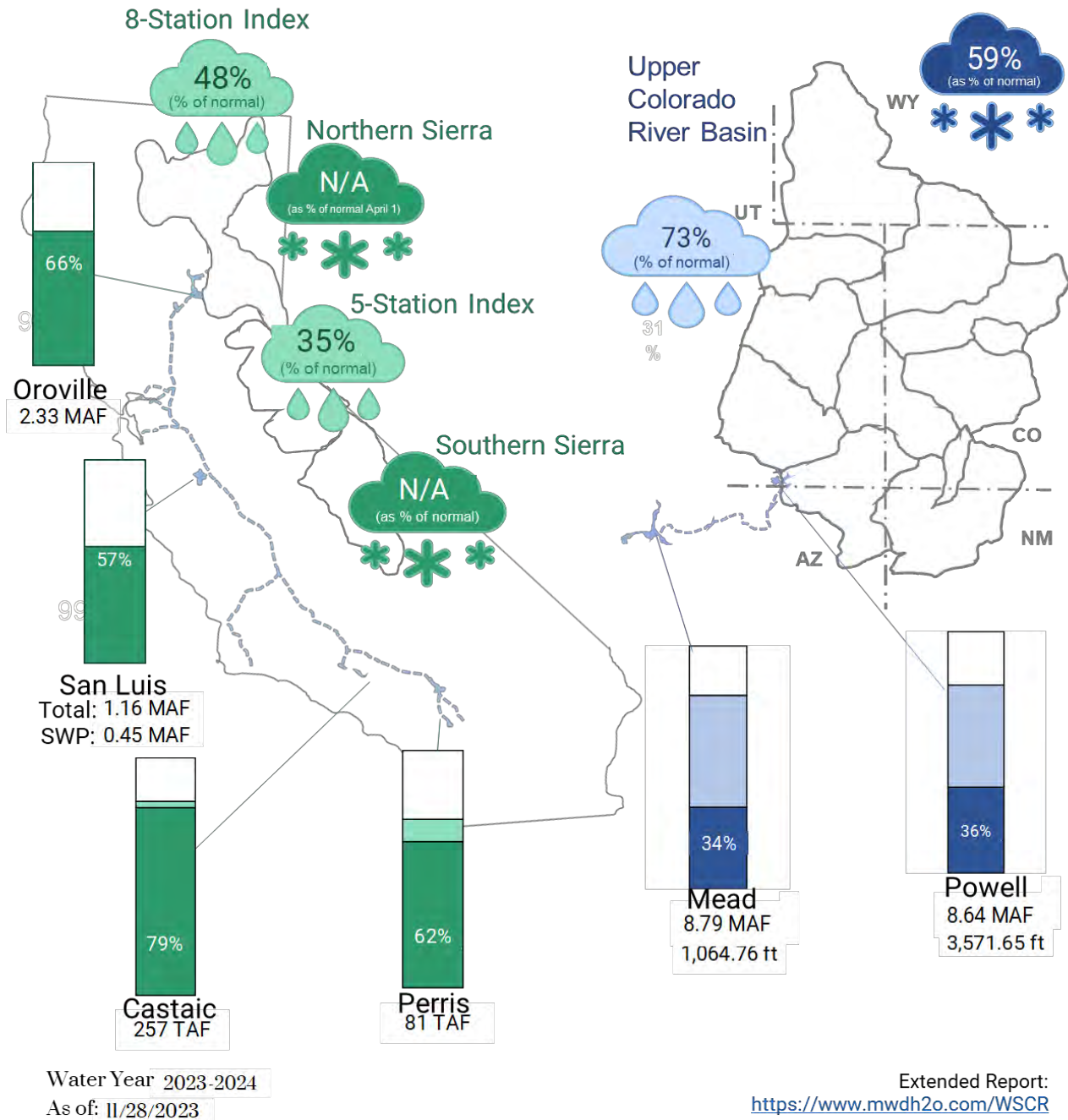
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State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A - 100% - 1,911,500 acre-feet

Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions - 663,000 acre-feet



Bay-Delta Initiatives

Core Functions

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for a public review that ended on December 16, 2022. The Final EIR is expected at the end of 2023. It will include responses to all substantive comments on the Draft EIR and edits to the Draft EIR, as appropriate, to respond to the comments.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act for a public review that ended on March 16, 2023. USACE is in the process of developing responses to the comments received.

Delta Conveyance-related Joint Powers Authorities

At the November 16 regularly scheduled Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) Board meeting, the board approved an amendment to the bylaws authorizing the DCFA Board to adopt a policy that authorizes the disclosure of information disclosed in a DCFA closed session consistent with Government Code requirements. Amending the bylaws to include this policy will allow for the sharing of information with members' legislative bodies and their legal counsel and allow those agencies to take action accordingly.

The DCFA Board retained the services of Richardson & Company to perform an annual audit of financial activities for the past fiscal year. No material weaknesses or recommendations were reported by the external auditor.

Sites Reservoir

At the November 17 Joint Reservoir Committee and Sites Authority Board meeting, the Reservoir Committee recommended to the Sites Authority Board to approve a resolution certifying the Final EIR, adopting the CEQA Findings; adopting the Statement of Overriding Considerations; adopting the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program; approving the Sites Reservoir Project as described in the CEQA Findings; directing the Executive Director to file a Notice of Determination and pay all related fees; and authorizing the Executive Director to certify the CEQA record of proceedings.

Science Activities

Science staff is reviewing the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Draft Staff Report and Substitute Environmental Document released by the California State Water Resources Control Board on September 28, 2023. The deadline for written comments has been extended to January 19, 2024.

Staff participated in the Delta Science Programs Workshop: Exploring Scientific and Management Implications of Upper Trophic Level Foodwebs in the Delta and spoke on the Ecosystem Management in the Delta Panel. Additional panel members included CDFW, DWR, USBR, the Delta Conservancy, and the United Auburn Indian Community. The goal of this workshop was to determine the management needs for decision support tools of foodweb models for managing the Delta and Suisun Bay. The workshop was held over two days with several breakout sessions to work out the scope and needs for these decision support tools.

Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

Delta Island Activities

Metropolitan's Multi-Benefit Landscape Restoration Planning Grant for its Delta Islands (Islands) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is in its final phase of developing conceptual plans and basis of designs for six recommended pilot projects and scientific research studies for Bouldin Island. The primary objective of this grant is to assist in identifying opportunities on Metropolitan's Islands in addressing land subsidence, habitat restoration, carbon sequestration, sustainable agricultural practices, and water quality/reliability. In addition, feedback was received from environmental interests, local stakeholders, Tribal Nation representatives, and other non-governmental organizations. This planning grant effort, with a final outcomes report, is anticipated to be completed by March 2024.

Final edits to the draft grant agreement for the Multi-Benefit Landscape Restoration Project on Webb Tract were completed, and the agreement is going through the Delta Conservancy's administrative review process. Staff executed three consultant agreements for design, environmental planning, and public outreach for the Multi-Benefit Landscape Restoration Project on Webb Tract. The final consultant agreement for scientific studies is expected to be completed in early December 2023. A New Project Authorization package was submitted to Engineering, and a Capital Investment Plan project number is expected to be issued shortly. A reimbursable project number will be issued after the grant agreement has been fully executed.

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:

- **Upgrades at Three Sepulveda Feeder Structures**—This project replaces deteriorated electrical components at three Sepulveda Feeder underground structures and installs two blind flanges after removing a spool on the West Valley Feeder No. 1. The contractor continued replacing deteriorated electrical components in all the vaults. Construction is 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in March 2024.
- **Lake Mathews Wastewater Replacement**—This 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 is currently cleaning and testing the sewer line and is performing abrasive blasting of the manhole interior surfaces in preparation of coating. Construction is approximately 96 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in February 2024.
- **La Verne Shops Building Completion—Stage 4**—This project will complete the La Verne Shops building improvements and install Metropolitan-furnished shop equipment. The contractor completed installation of reinforcing steel for new concrete equipment pads; continued installing electrical conduits for branch circuits and excavating for the new electrical ductbank; and began placing concrete for the equipment pads. Construction is approximately 73 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2024.
- **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 are complete. The pipeline was returned to service in August 2023. The contractor is currently demobilizing from the contractor's yard and performing site restoration in the city of Newport Beach. Construction is approximately 93 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by January 2023.

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 be refurbished under this 20-year program. Recent activities include the following:

- **Sepulveda Feeder CFRP Urgent Relining**—This project rehabilitates three deteriorated Sepulveda Feeder PCCP segments in the Van Nuys, Sherman Oaks, and Brentwood neighborhoods of the City of Los Angeles using carbon fiber reinforced polymer lining. The contractor is currently preparing submittals for Metropolitan staff review. The shutdown and pipeline construction work activities have been moved from the November/December timeframe to the March/April timeframe to accommodate the longer than

expected timeline to acquire traffic control permits and other city approvals. Construction is 5 percent complete, representing the work on the submittals, and is scheduled to be completed in May 2024.

- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 3B**—This project installs steel lining along a 3.7-mile-long portion of the Second Lower Feeder that traverses the cities of Lomita, Los Angeles, and Torrance. The contractor completed a temporary bypass line at the Palos Verdes Reservoir, which is currently undergoing testing. This bypass line will ensure that member agency service connections at the reservoir remain in service during the construction contract. Traffic control activities commenced in preparation for the December 4, 2023, shutdown. Construction is 31 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed in September 2025.
- **Sepulveda Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 1**—This project rehabilitates PCCP segments of the Sepulveda Feeder. Reach 1 of the Sepulveda Feeder spans 4.7 miles through several cities including the cities of Hawthorne, Inglewood, and Los Angeles. Final design is approximately 74 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in February 2024.
- **PCCP Valve Warehouse**—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 related to the PCCP relining program. The contractor has completed the assembly of the building structure, the water line tie-in for the building, and installation of the fire water pipe and building sprinkler system. Construction is complete.
- **Rialto Pipeline Rehabilitation**—This project replaces a 35-foot long, 121.5-inch diameter section of welded steel pipe on the Rialto Pipeline in the city of Upland, where the mortar lining has failed. This project also replaces the failed pipe spool and isolation valve at the CB-11 service connection. Final design is complete and board award of a construction contract is planned for April 2024.
- **Foothill Feeder AFO**—This project will install an acoustic fiber optic (AFO) monitoring system within the Foothill Feeder to provide continuous monitoring of the PCCP portions of the Foothill Feeder. Board award of an agreement for installation of an AFO monitoring system is scheduled for February 2024.



Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation Reach 3B—Installation of a temporary bypass line at Palos Verdes Reservoir needed for an upcoming Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B shutdown

Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

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

- **Conduit Structural Protection**—This project consists of installing new reinforced concrete slab protection crossings over portions of the cut-and-cover conduits on the Colorado River Aqueduct. The contractor is currently performing grading and installation of form work for concrete pads at multiple sites. Construction is 20 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed in May 2024.
- **Copper Basin Discharge Valve Replacement**—This project installs a new 54-inch fixed cone valve and actuator at the base of the dam, refurbishes a slide gate and the existing valve house, and upgrades all associated electrical systems and access ladders at the Copper Basin Reservoir. This project will also include the replacement of the access ladders at the Gene Wash Dam. Final design is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in December 2023. Acquisition of environmental permits is in progress.
- **Hinds Discharge Valve Platform**—This project will replace corroded ladders, platforms, and appurtenant structures that support the operational equipment for the discharge valves at the Hinds pumping plant. Preliminary design is 90 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed in March 2024.
- **Hinds Village Paving**—This project consists of replacing 35,000 square feet of asphalt paving within the village at the Hinds Pumping Plant. A contract was awarded under the General Manager's authority to award contracts under \$250,000 in April 2023. Construction is complete.
- **Overhead Cranes Replacement**—This project consists of replacing five overhead bridge cranes and retrofitting the support structures within the pump bays located at all five of Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. The contractor has completed the installation of the new crane at the Gene and Iron Mountain pumping plants and completed demolition of the existing crane at Eagle Mountain Pumping Plant. In November 2023, Metropolitan's Board approved abatement of lead containing dust that was discovered at the five pumping plants. Lead abatement will precede crane construction at the pumping plants. Construction is 63 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in June. 2024.



Completed Hinds Village Paving

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.

- **Badlands Tunnel Surge Protection**—In conjunction with three other projects, this project enhances water supply reliability in the Rialto Pipeline service area by enabling water to be pumped from the Wadsworth Pumping Plant forebay to Rialto Pipeline by way of the Inland Feeder. This project installs a new open-to-atmosphere surge tank at the south portal of the tunnel, which will protect the Inland Feeder from hydraulic transients when pumping water from DVL to the Rialto Pipeline through the Inland Feeder. The Board awarded a construction contract in November 2023. Construction is scheduled to be complete in March 2025.
- **Inland Feeder-Rialto Pipeline Intertie**—In conjunction with three other projects, this project enhances water supply reliability in the Rialto Pipeline service area by enabling water to be pumped from the Wadsworth Pumping Plant forebay to Rialto Pipeline by way of the Inland Feeder. This project installs an interconnection pipeline and isolation valve structure between the Inland Feeder and Rialto Pipeline. The contractor is currently transmitting submittals for Metropolitan's staff review. Construction is scheduled to be complete in March 2025.
- **Wadsworth Pumping Plant Bypass**—In conjunction with three other projects, this project enhances water supply reliability in the Rialto Pipeline service area by enabling water to be pumped from the Wadsworth Pumping Plant forebay to Rialto Pipeline by way of the Inland Feeder. This project installs a bypass pipeline and an isolation valve to interconnect the Wadsworth Pumping Plant with the Eastside Pipeline. Construction of the valve structure and relocation of utilities in area is underway. Construction is approximately 20 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2024.
- **Sepulveda Feeder Pumping Stations**—This project installs new pump stations at the existing Venice and Sepulveda Canyon pressure control facilities, providing the ability to reverse flow in the Sepulveda Feeder and deliver water from the Central Pool to portions of the Jensen plant-exclusive area. This project uses a progressive design-build (PDB) project delivery method. Design and Operations staff are reviewing initial submittals and collaborating through a series of design workshops, planned through the end of the year, to support upcoming design work. The contractor and Metropolitan are coordinating with both Southern California Edison and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power on upgrades to the incoming power service at both locations. Phase 1, which includes site investigation, design to the 70 percent level, environmental planning, and preparation of long-lead-item procurement documents, is scheduled to be complete in September 2024.



Inspection of 84-inch diameter butterfly valves For the Wadsworth Bypass, Inland Feeder-Rialto Pipeline Intertie and Badlands Tunnel Surge Protection

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 of Basins 5–8 and Filter Building No. 2 at the Weymouth plant, including the flocculation/sedimentation equipment, sludge pumps, baffle boards and walls, launders, inlet gates, and outlet drop gates. Rehabilitation work also includes seismic upgrades of basin walls and inlet channel, hazardous material abatement, and replacement of filter valves and actuators in Filter Building No. 2. The contractor continued planned work under the first quarter-plant outage, including installation of filter valves, piping, and electrical components in Filter Building No. 2; construction of new concrete walls, steel catwalks; and installation of new mechanical piping and electrical conduits in Basins 7 and 8. Construction is 50 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in June 2025.
- **Mills Electrical Upgrades**—This project upgrades the electrical system with dual-power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practice, improve plant reliability, and enhance worker safety. Stage 1 construction is complete, and a construction contract for Stage 2 improvements was awarded in November 2021. Stage 2 improvements will add a second incoming 12 kV service from Riverside Public Utilities, reconfigure the existing 4160-volt switchgear, and replace the standby generator switchgear and the emergency generator programmable logic controller. The contractor began removal and installation of the roofing and HVAC systems at the ORP Switchgear Building. Construction is approximately 40 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in August 2025.

- **Jensen Ozone PSUs Replacement**—This project rehabilitates the ozone generation system at the Jensen plant by replacing four existing ozone power supply units (PSUs) and four sets of generator dielectrics. The project also makes required modifications to the associated electrical, control, and cooling water systems. Metropolitan’s Board awarded a construction contract in June 2022. All PSUs and dielectrics have been manufactured and delivered. Installation of two PSUs is complete and dielectrics for two ozone generators have been replaced. The contractor completed the coordination study for start-up testing of the newly installed PSUs and is finishing cooling water system modifications. Construction is 55 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in April 2024.

System Reliability Program

The System Reliability Program consists of projects to improve or modify facilities located throughout Metropolitan’s service area 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 work is complete and provides security system upgrades inside the building with a focus on the main entry rotunda area, boardroom, executive dining lounge, and security control room. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. Metropolitan’s Board awarded the third and final contract in December 2022. The contractor completed fabrication and receipt of bollard bases and stainless-steel covers and began installation of the ornamental fence within the courtyard. Construction is 50 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in April 2024.
- **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 Metropolitan’s 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 began final testing and sign-off of the fire alarm and smoke control systems by the LAFD and Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety. Construction is 99 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in December 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 replaces the control system at the Mills plant, starting with a pilot effort on one of the plant’s remote terminal units to demonstrate the proposed technology and the consultant’s approach for the plant and the overall project. The consultant continued providing submittals, performing equipment verification, and developing control narratives and a training plan. The pilot phase is approximately 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in March 2024. The system upgrades at the Mills plant are scheduled to be complete in April 2026.
- **Foothill Hydroelectric Plant and Control Building Seismic Upgrade**—This project strengthens the Foothill Hydroelectric Plant and Control Building to withstand a significant earthquake by removing and replacing the roofing system, adding encasements to enlarge and strengthen concrete columns, and reinforcing shallow foundations. The contractor continued performing abatement activities on the building’s roof, demolition of existing exhaust fans, and installation of structural steel roof plates. Construction is approximately 25 percent complete and is scheduled to be completed in December 2024.

Pure Water Southern California

The Pure Water Southern California (PWSC) Program is a large-regional recycled water project that will provide a new source of safe and reliable drinking water for Southern California. The PWSC currently is working in three areas: demonstration testing, environmental planning, and design. The PWSC will produce 150 mgd of purified water from an advanced water treatment plant (AWP) in Carson California to be used for indirect potable reuse (IPR) and direct potable reuse (DPR) with the first deliveries by 2030 and completion by 2035.

- **Demonstration Testing**—Demonstration testing began in 2019 with N-only tertiary membrane bioreactor (tMBR) testing completed in 2021, secondary MBR testing completed in 2023 and a summary report is being prepared. The demo plant will be taken offline in November 2023 to perform maintenance and modifications, with nitrification tMBR optimization testing scheduled to begin in early 2024. Test plans are being prepared to guide the future testing. The name of the demo plant was changed to the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center and dedicated at the site on Thursday, November 2, 2023.
- **Environmental Planning**—The Environmental Planning Phase began in 2020 with the goal of preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for approval in 2025. The draft EIR is currently scheduled for publication in early-2025, with board certification of the document in the third quarter of 2025. Staff continues to finalize the project description, performing additional technical studies, incorporating changes to the program due to inclusion of the LADWP Operation NEXT pipe upsizing, and developing text for the draft EIR.
- **Conveyance Pipeline Design**—The program's backbone conveyance system consists of over 40 miles of pipeline. Metropolitan's Board authorized consulting agreements for preliminary design in March 2023.
 - **Reach 1**—This reach is approximately 6 miles long and runs through the city of Carson. Current work includes potholing and geotechnical work. Preliminary design is 16 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by mid-2024.
 - **Reach 2**—This reach is approximately 8 miles long and runs through the cities of Long Beach and Lakewood. Current work includes scheduling and obtaining permits for potholing and geotechnical work. Preliminary design is 5 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by late-2024.

Protecting the Public and Metropolitan's Assets

Engineering Services continued to develop state-mandated Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) for Metropolitan's state-regulated dams to help ensure long-term public safety. In November, the EAPs for Lake Mathews, Lake Skinner, and Skinner Finished Water Reservoir were officially approved by the Cal OES. The EAPs for Garvey Reservoir and Palos Verdes Reservoir have been completed and will be submitted for review by the Cal OES in December. To date, eight of Metropolitan's 13 state-required EAPs have been fully approved by Cal OES.

Safety, Security and Protection

Security and Emergency Management

Security and Emergency Response

As part of an ongoing security camera replacement capital project, the Security and Emergency Management Unit conducted a comprehensive two-day site assessment visit with outside security design consultants of the Diemer Water Treatment Plant.

The visit validated current electronic badge access readers and existing surveillance cameras at all locations in the facility. Camera fields of view, viewing angles, settings, and detection zones were reviewed, and future prospective locations for additional security and process safety cameras were designated.

The team worked collaboratively with plant personnel to incorporate additional associated equipment (ground-based radar, video intercoms, remote speakers, and additional workstations) into the design. The new equipment would provide plant control room operators with additional remote visual verification of operational processes, discharge flows, and other core water treatment functions making verification safer, quicker, and more efficient.

Additional enhancement recommendations and corrective maintenance needs were also noted for immediate mitigation and future security improvement projects.



Two-day site assessment visit supports Diemer Water Treatment Plant security camera replacement capital project

Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

(continued)

Security and Emergency Response

This was a very busy month for Metropolitan's Emergency Management Program, with multiple responses, training, and major outreach activities.

The Highland Fire, which was located near the border of Riverside and San Diego Counties, burned approximately 2,500 acres around Halloween. Although Metropolitan's operations were not directly affected, an emergency alert notification was sent to all employees asking them to avoid the area. Staff also reached out to employees who live near the fire zone to confirm their status. Metropolitan supported the firefighting operations by hosting the Fire Command Post at Valley Wide Recreation Center and Diamond Valley Lake Marina parking lot. Metropolitan activated its Eastern Region Incident Command Post (ICP) to support communications with Cal Fire.



Staff visited the Highland Fire Unified Command Post to coordinate directly with other agencies responding the fire

Other notable events that occurred this month:

- Thursday, November 2—Staff sent emergency alert notifications to all employees for the reports of smoke at the Skinner Plant from the Canon Fire at Camp Pendleton.
- Tuesday, November 7—Employees were asked to avoid the Tustin area because of heavy smoke from a Hangar Fire that was releasing hazardous materials in the air. Staff continued to monitor the situation and received regular updates from the Orange County EOC.
- Saturday, November 11—Staff sent emergency alerts to all employees and members of the Metropolitan Board of Directors to avoid the I-10 freeway in downtown Los Angeles because of a fire that closed the freeway in both directions and caused heavy traffic congestion in the area.

Finally, it should be noted that staff continued to teach classes for EOC and ICPs responders during this time and attended the annual conference for the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) in Long Beach, where valuable contacts were made.

Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

(continued)

Safety, Regulatory and Training

SRT Apprenticeship

The SRT Apprenticeship Programs prepare apprentices to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, the Class of 2027 finished their first academic period. As part of their curriculum, apprentices completed a comprehensive final exam evaluating their knowledge of plant math, measurements, the physics of simple machines, response motions, machine elements, friction and wear of machines, basic electricity, oil and lubrication, bearings, and fasteners. The practical final exam tasked apprentices with employing micrometers and vernier calipers to measure items and identify various types of fasteners. Successful completion of this first period provides apprentices with a strong foundation for success to progress through their respective programs.



Class of 2027 mechanics and electricians preparing to take final exams

SRT Safety and Technical Training


Over the past month, the Safety and Technical Training team conducted a total of 37 instructor-led classes, covering an extensive range of 28 different topics in safety and environmental training. The training provided benefitted a total of 325 individuals. Additionally, the SRT Site Support staff conducted 142 respirator fit tests and respirator safety training classes. This unwavering commitment to continuous education and development underscores SRT's dedication to uphold the highest safety and regulatory standards throughout Metropolitan's operations.

SRT Health & Safety Programs

SRT issued a Safety Advisory to communicate lessons learned from a near-miss incident that occurred on a 230kV transmission tower with a broken static line support bracket along Rice Road. The immediate hazard was the potential for the powerline to fall across a busy highway. The Safety Advisory identified the need to verify nonroutine switching plans with Metropolitan protection engineers before switching and incorporating transmission system training with Desert SOOM training. Safety Advisories share valuable information and improve safety awareness throughout Metropolitan.

Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

(continued)

**SAFETY ADVISORY**November 2023

NEAR MISS RECOGNITION

Sharing lessons-learned is a good example of how reporting near misses helps improve safety and brings awareness to others.

Event Details


Background: During routine system protection patrols, staff discovered a broken support bracket for a static line on a 230kV transmission tower along Rice Road between Iron Mountain and Eagle Mountain Pumping Plants. The static line was resting on a lower phase wire support crossarm, which was not designed to support the extra weight and did not provide sufficient clearance for the high voltage lines. Failure of the phase wire support crossarm could have resulted in a 230kV short circuit on the transmission system and/or a wire fall across a busy highway.

To perform the repairs safely, the 230kV Iron-Eagle line had to be deenergized. The DOCC worked in coordination with CAISO, SCE, and AEPSCO to write emergency switching orders to isolate the work area. The switching orders called for the opening of Eagle Mountain Circuit Breaker #407 (CB407) and the Iron Mountain air-break disconnect switch 300W. The DOCC contacted the SCE Grid Control Center (GCC) to request a voltage study to confirm capacity and approval to operate before switching. After completing the voltage study, the DOCC was given permission to continue operating Eagle and Hinds at a 5-pump flow after switching. DOCC provided this information to AEPSCO, who completed their review of the switching orders, and the DOCC was permitted to start switching.

The emergency switching plan was executed on March 28 at 1230PST. CB407 at Eagle Mountain Pump Plant was opened without incident. Disconnect switch 300W was opened, which caused CB307 at Iron Mountain to trip, taking the plant offline. The system protection engineers worked with Iron Mountain staff to coordinate the resetting of CB307 and the restart of Iron Mountain. This resulted in an unscheduled shutdown. The cause of CB307 tripping was the operation of disconnect switch 300W.

Event Date: Tuesday, March 28th, 2023

Location: 300W Disconnect Iron Mountain



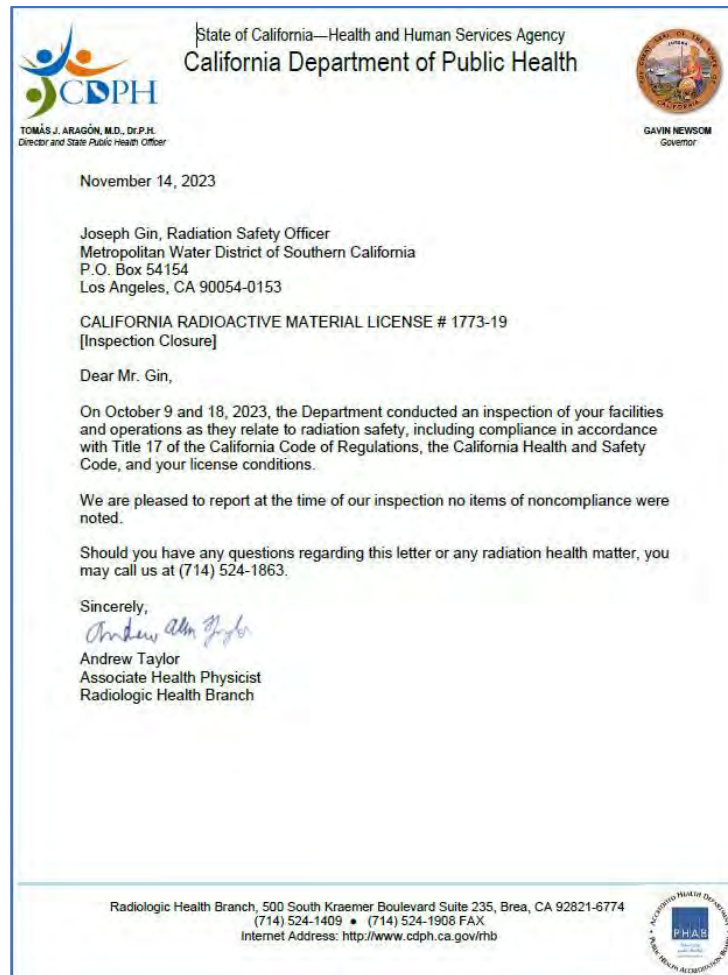
The static line should be attached to the topmost brace on this tower

Safety Advisory – Near Miss Recognition

SRT staff facilitated a California Department of Public Health site visit for a safety inspection of Metropolitan's radioactive material license. Metropolitan successfully passed the inspection with no items of noncompliance noted. The license is required for Engineering's Troxler Nuclear Moisture Density Gauge, which is used to measure the density and moisture content of construction materials, such as soils and asphalt. These measurements enable precise quality control in construction projects by ensuring optimal compaction levels and compliance with industry standards.

Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

(continued)



California Radioactive Material License Inspection Report

SRT Environmental Programs

Metropolitan is a founding and active member of the Joint Utility Vendor Audit Consortium (JUVAC). JUVAC is a consortium of western utilities that conduct joint vendor environmental audits of treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs) and shares audit results with consortium members. These audits provide information for members, including Metropolitan, to evaluate and minimize downstream risks and liabilities with hazardous waste recycling and disposal. This month, SRT staff performed an onsite environmental audit of US Ecology's treatment, storage, and disposal facility in Beatty, Nevada. Metropolitan uses this facility to dispose of hazardous waste throughout the year, and preliminary audit results support its continued use.

Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

(continued)



Metropolitan vendor treatment, storage, and disposal facility in Beatty, Nevada

Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

(continued)

SRT and Fleet coordinated Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) field trial efforts for the Western Region Unit Conveyance & Distribution Valley team and the Weymouth Electrical team. The trial enabled operations staff to test a 24-foot electric stake bed truck, a Workhorse Class 4 electric box truck and step van, two trailer-mounted mobile power charging units, a portable DC fast charger, and Metropolitan's own Lightning truck. The teams provided beneficial operational feedback, including use of the 600 kWh power unit to run a 6-inch pump. Operators' feedback and comments were collected as valuable input for making adaptations for use of this equipment in the future.



Workhorse Class 4 electric box truck and step van



Trailer-mounted mobile charging unit



Water System Operations

Core Business Objectives

Provide Reliable Water Deliveries

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 104,700 acre-feet (AF) for November with an average of 3,500 AF per day, which was about 900 AF per day lower than in October. In addition, Metropolitan delivered 12,300 AF to Cyclic and Conjunctive Use Programs. Treated water deliveries were 4,400 AF lower than in October for a total of 60,900 AF, or 58 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) pumped a total of 57,000 AF in November. Metropolitan maintained a four-pump flow along the CRA for most of the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 4,300 AF per day, totaling about 127,500 AF for the month. The target SWP blend is around 80 percent for the Weymouth Plant, 35 percent for the Diemer Plant, and 50 percent for the Skinner Plant.

Staff continued to repair a protective berm separating the Whitewater River flow from an existing material borrow pit. Deliveries to Coachella Valley Water District have increased over the past three weeks. The previous protective berm was compromised by high water flows through the Whitewater River because of Tropical Storm Hilary. Metropolitan uses the Whitewater River to convey CRA water from the Desert Water-Coachella Valley service connection to Coachella Valley Water District's groundwater replenishment facility.



Staff utilizing an excavator (left) and a dozer (right) to repair the berm

The La Verne Shops received a request to manufacture a new bulkhead for the Auld Valley Pressure Control Structure VO-2 sleeve valve. The existing sleeve valve seized during operation and required removal to troubleshoot the issue. A bulkhead was designed and manufactured to return the facility to service.



Fabrication of middle flange (left) and ring (middle) and fabricated and machined 96-inch-long segment (right)



Machined top flange (left) and application of completed coating on top flange (right)



Machining of lower section (left) and finished machining of lower section in process (right)



Completely coated lower section (left) and 96-inch-long segment (right)

Jensen plant operations supported the annual shutdown of the Los Angeles Aqueduct Filtration Plant operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). During the shutdown, staff provided treated water flows up to 450 cubic feet per second (cfs) to LADWP through a direct connection to the Jensen plant reservoir. The two-week shutdown allowed LADWP to perform maintenance on their water treatment plant.

Manage Water Reserves

The 100 percent State Water Project (SWP) allocation when combined with Colorado River supplies provides the region with more water than demands. Water continues to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles and operational objectives with an emphasis to position SWP supplies to meet future demands in the SWP-dependent area. Metropolitan continues deliveries to Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District. With the higher SWP Allocation and low regional demands, Metropolitan is working to maximize its use of Table A supplies this year. Staff is working with member agencies to manage supplies through the Cyclic and Cyclic Cost Offset Program.

Support the Pure Water Southern California Program

On November 2, the Pure Water Southern California demonstration site was renamed the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center (Napolitano Innovation Center) to honor the Congresswoman's lifetime contributions to water management and support of water reuse.

The demonstration plant was shut down on November 13 to repair critical site infrastructure and prepare the plant for the next phase of testing. Staff and consultants replaced chemical lines throughout the plant, replaced mixers and pumps, and upgraded the plant influent and hydraulic controls. Maintenance and repairs are expected to be completed on December 8.

At the WaterReuse California Annual Conference (November 5–7), staff presented results of low molecular weight organic compound testing at the demonstration facility and recent operations treating primary wastewater effluent. Staff also participated on a panel discussing measures to manage and treat PFAS in reuse applications.

On November 14, Metropolitan and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts staff and program consultants met with the state's Division of Drinking Water and representatives of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards to provide an update on testing at the Napolitano Innovation Center and discuss pathogen removal credits and permitting considerations for the advanced water treatment process.



Participants in PWSC program meeting with state regulators

Staff installed a 32 kW portable generator at the Napolitano Innovation Center while the LACSD staff performed electrical maintenance on site. LACSD's work required the main electrical service to the demonstration facility to be interrupted for 10 hours. Installation of the portable generator ensured a reliable power supply to maintain operations and testing.



Staff verified amperage (left) and performed a lockout/blockout (right) at the Napolitano Innovation Center

Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner

Energy markets in November 2023 remained stable. Natural gas prices in November drifted down from the \$10–12 per Metric Million British Thermal Unit (MMBtu) range seen in October into a seasonally normal \$5–7 per MMBtu range, with electricity prices in the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) market following suit, trending downwards into the \$40–60 per megawatt-hours (MWh) range.

CRA pumping remained relatively low in November, at four or five pumps, driven by high SWP supplies, reduced demand, and nearly full storage levels at Lake Mathews, helping to keep CRA pumping costs trending below budget. CRA pumping costs for November were about \$6 million.

The CRA energy cost budget for the fiscal year 2023/24 is \$82.6 million; the current cost forecast is significantly lower at \$57 million because of reduced pumping and lower forward cost curves. December is forecast to be the highest cost month in fiscal year 2023/24 at about \$11 million because of a forecasted increase to five-pump flow, higher energy prices, and low United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) generation output.

Daily generation output from Metropolitan’s small hydroelectric plants (HEPs) averaged around 26 MW during the month of November, for a total energy output of about 19,000 MWh. Metropolitan’s solar facilities totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity generated approximately 800 MWh in November 2023.

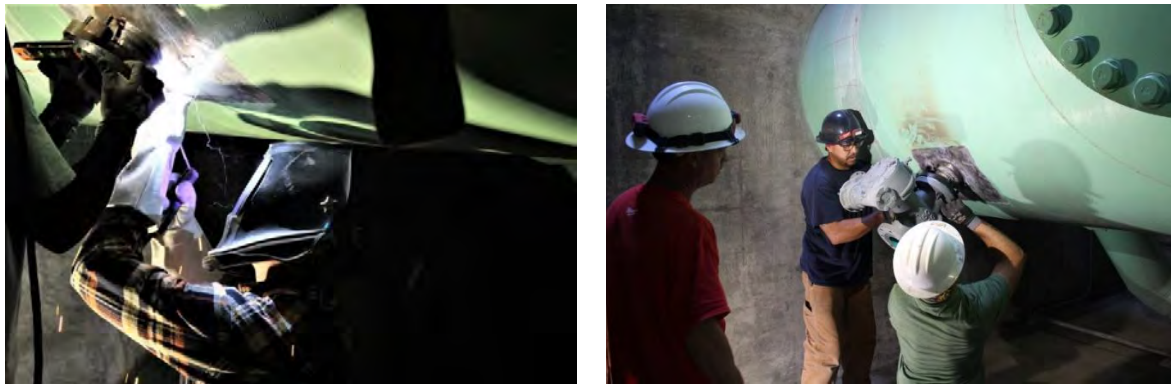
Ensure Water Quality Compliance, Worker Safety, and Environmental Protection

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during October 2023.

The Safety, Regulatory, and Training Section issued a Safety Advisory to communicate lessons learned from a near-miss incident that occurred on a CRA 230kV transmission tower with a broken static line support bracket. The immediate hazard was the potential for the powerline to fall across a busy roadway. The Safety Advisory identified the need to verify non-routine switching plans with Metropolitan protection engineers before switching and

incorporate transmission system training with other training for Desert staff. Safety Advisories share valuable information and improve safety awareness throughout Metropolitan.

The recent shutdown of the Allen McCulloch Pipeline (AMP) allowed staff to install two valves as part of a broader plan to mitigate potential future nitrification. This will allow for the potential connection of chlorination booster stations to disinfect the pipeline, if necessary.



Staff welding a flange connection on the AMP

Optimize Maintenance

To safely complete maintenance on Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) electrical system components, there is often the need to complete high-voltage switching to isolate equipment and work areas. Staff performed high-voltage switching to isolate the Bank 1 230kV/6.9kV transformers for electrical testing. The CRA consists of 45 main pump motors, and each pump motor is removed for annual service to facilitate repairs and preventative maintenance. Isolating hazards is crucial in providing a safe work zone for personnel. Staff physically isolate or “rack out” and lock high-voltage circuit breakers to create an electrically safe working area.



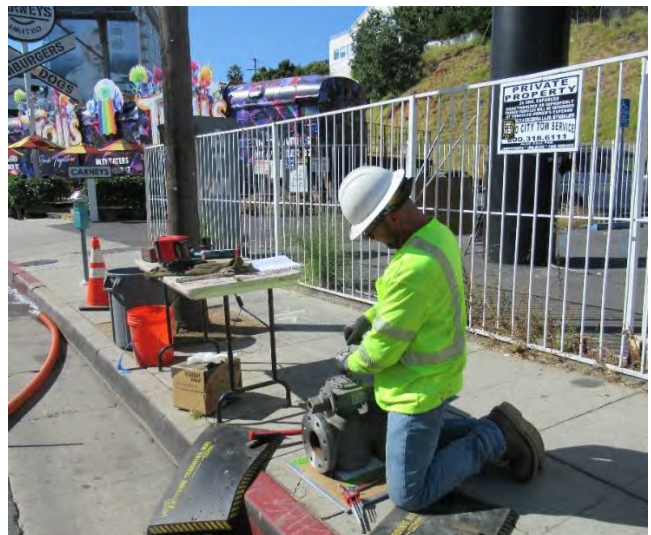
Staff performed high-voltage switching (left) and isolate and lock (right) a 6.9kV circuit breaker

The CRA main pump discharge valves play an essential role in the operation of the pumps. The valves are closed as the pumps come up to speed and then slowly opened to ensure that the motors are not overloaded and that the water hammer in the discharge lines is mitigated. If a main pump trips offline unexpectedly, the discharge valves “fast close” to ensure that the units are not damaged by the excessive rotational forces caused by the returning water. Staff is rehabilitating an Iron Mountain discharge valve with reassembly of the valve body underway in preparation for final assembly later this year.



Staff inspected and installed discharge valve headcover at the CRA

On November 6 through 12, the Santa Monica Feeder shutdown allowed 14 valves to be replaced and 7 obsolete auxiliary valves to be removed. The flow control system at Beverly Hills PCS was rebuilt, and a new security barrier was installed at the structure.



Staff disinfecting (left) and preparing to install (right) a new valve at the Santa Monica Feeder

Metropolitan operates over 300 miles of high-voltage, 230kV transmission lines supporting CRA operations. Properly maintained access roads are essential in facilitating efficient maintenance and inspections of the transmission systems. Staff grades roads and turnouts as needed throughout the year and completes an end-to-end refresh of the patrol roads annually to maintain access to this critical system.



Annual road repair along the 230kV CRA transmission system

At the Live Oak Reservoir, staff made necessary repairs to restore electrical power to multiple nonoperational overhead streetlights. The repair project included excavation, installation of new conduits, and new circuits to complete the electrical repairs.



Staff excavating for new conduit (left) and performing circuit repairs (right)



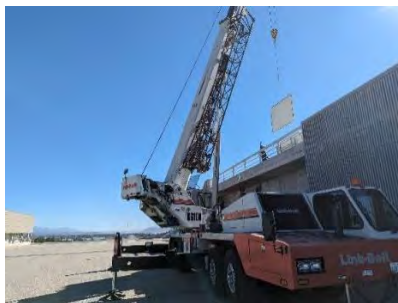
Staff placing electrical encasement

Staff at the Weymouth plant maintains Metropolitan's oldest water treatment plant, which made its first water delivery 82 years ago. Routine maintenance of the plant's equipment is performed daily as preventative maintenance (PM) work orders. PMs ensure the reliability and sustainability of equipment so the plant can meet all flow demands while continuously complying with all water quality standards. This month, staff performed semi-annual maintenance on flocculation paddle drive chains that are used to rotate the flocculator paddles. This is one of many PMs that allows the Weymouth plant to continue reliably treating water.



Staff performing maintenance on flocculator paddle drive chain at Weymouth plant

Staff installed drop gates in an ozone contactor at the Mills plant. This allowed plant staff to drain the contactor and gain entry for an annual inspection of all diffusers and pressure relief valves.



Staff using crane to lower drop gate into an ozone contactor at the Mills plant

Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution

The SWP target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants in November was 80 percent and 35 percent, respectively. The SWP target entering Lake Skinner was 50 percent in November. The Skinner plant and raw water San Diego Pipeline No. 5 were on lake bypass during the shutdown of San Diego Pipeline Nos. 3 and 6 from November 1 to 14. The SWP target blend for the San Diego Canal was 50 percent for the Skinner plant and Pipeline No. 5 while on lake bypass.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from September 2022 through August 2023 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of supplies from the SWP and the Colorado River Aqueduct were 474, 479, and 557 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

The status of nitrification in the distribution system was significantly improved in November with nitrite concentrations below action levels in most samples. Limited flushing is still being conducted at a few sites in the west side of the system.

Staff repaired a leak in the sodium hypochlorite tank at the Diemer plant. The site safety representative worked with a contractor to clean the tank before staff entered the tank for inspection. Staff discovered a small crack on a flange which was subsequently repaired by installing a new PVC ball valve, piping, and additional pipe supports.



Staff repairing a small leak on chemical tank at the Diemer plant

Staff installed gates on the Skinner plant 1 filter module railings to allow easier filter access. The gates significantly improve safety for anyone entering or exiting the filter via a 20-foot ladder. Filter modules commonly need to be entered by plant staff to perform piping and surface wash nozzle maintenance, and to perform digs for filter media testing.



Staff welded new filter access gates into the existing filter perimeter railing at the Skinner plant

Staff installed a secondary water temperature probe at the Skinner Ozone Inluent Control Structure. This redundant probe increases the reliability of the water temperature value used to perform calculations related to the ozone disinfection process.



Staff installed water temperature probe at the ozone building laboratory at the Skinner plant

Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Highland Fire, which was located near the border of Riverside and San Diego Counties, burned approximately 2,500 acres in late October/early November. Although Metropolitan's operations were not directly affected, an emergency alert notification regarding wildfire smoke was sent to all employees asking them to avoid the area. Metropolitan supported the firefighting operations by hosting the Fire Command Post at Valley Wide Recreation Center and Diamond Valley Lake Marina parking lot. Metropolitan activated its Eastern Region Incident Command Post (ICP) to support communications with Cal Fire and other emergency responders.



Staff visited the Highland Fire Unified Command Post to coordinate directly with other emergency response agencies

Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution

The San Diego Pipeline No. 3 shutdown occurred this month to allow the San Diego County Water Authority to perform maintenance on their system. This shutdown also allowed Metropolitan staff to remove a sleeve valve at the Auld Valley Pressure Control Structure, since it had become inoperable. The valve is under repair and refurbishment and will be reinstalled in a few months.



Staff lifting a sleeve valve at the Auld Valley Pressure Control Structure

Manage the Power System

Staff underwent training on the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) cyber and physical security standards. These Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) standards affect Metropolitan's transmission line protection and communication systems associated with the CRA 230kV transmission system. Compliance with CIP standards is a key part of Metropolitan's NERC compliance program.

Metropolitan staff participated in and submitted written comments on the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) path-rating process. The path is a transmission corridor owned and operated by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and Southern California Edison (SCE). IID and SCE propose increasing the path rating from 750 MW to 1200 MW. Although this transmission corridor does not affect Metropolitan directly, it is close to the 230kV CRA transmission system at Eagle Mountain and Hinds pumping plants. A significant increase in power flows could potentially affect Metropolitan's transmission system. Staff reviewed the studies and documentation for the path rating increase and submitted comments to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on Metropolitan's system.

Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation

On November 6, Metropolitan submitted a second joint comment letter with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts on the proposed direct potable reuse (DPR) regulations. While some of Metropolitan's earlier comments (e.g., the need for greater flexibility in achieving pathogen log-removal credits) were incorporated, the November letter reiterated the previous requests to establish a Science Advisory Panel for constituents of emerging concern, standardize on-line monitoring requirements, and to provide enhanced flexibility for the governance structure of DPR projects. Final regulations expected to be adopted by SWRCB by December 31, 2023, with an estimated effective date of April 1, 2024. Staff will continue to track the DPR rulemaking process.

On November 7, CARB released a 45-day rulemaking package for its Zero-Emission Forklift Regulation. The regulation prohibits fleet operators from purchasing new propane or gasoline-fueled Class IV and Class V forklifts with a rated capacity of up to 12,000 pounds starting in 2026. Staff is reviewing the changes for any potential comments by the December 26, 2023, comment deadline. CARB has set the adoption hearing for this regulation on June 27, 2024.

On November 9, EPA released the second of twelve sets of PFAS data collected under the fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5). The monitoring data on 29 PFAS and lithium will help EPA make determinations about future regulatory actions (e.g., MCL setting or CERCLA designations). The remaining data will be released in batches through 2026. Staff is evaluating these data for PFAS occurrence within our service area.

Ensure Accurate Billing Infrastructure

Staff replaced the electromagnetic flow meter, including its accompanying transmitter and power/signal cables, at the EM-04 service connection. The work included replacing the adjoining thimble piece, coupling assembly, gaskets, and studs and bolts. This meter replacement ensures accurate water delivery measurements from the Colorado River Aqueduct siphon to Eastern Municipal Water District's Perris Water Filtration Plant.



Existing meter (left) and staff preparing to replace flow meter (right) at EM-04 service connection

Advance Education and Outreach Initiatives

On November 3, staff provided a tour of the Water Quality Laboratory for Director Lefevre, representing the city of Torrance, and Director Morris, representing the city of San Marino, and their guests. The tour provided an overview of Water Quality's regulatory compliance monitoring program, flavor profile analysis, and invasive quagga mussel impacts and control.

On November 9, staff provided a PFAS update at the National Water Resources Association Annual Conference in San Antonio. The presentation covered national monitoring results, proposed regulations, potential designation of PFAS as hazardous substances under CERCLA, and the multidistrict litigation (MDL) against PFAS manufacturers.

On November 16, Engineering, Operations, and Technology (EOT) Committee members visited the Water Quality Laboratory as part of their Field Inspection Trip. In addition to an overview of Water Quality's regulatory compliance monitoring program and other functions, the tour highlighted the laboratory seismic retrofit and building improvement project. At the La Verne site, the EOT Committee members also visited the Cybersecurity Operations Center, the Weymouth Treatment Plant, the construction site at Weymouth Basins 5 through 8, and the La Verne Shops. The EOT Committee members also visited Lake Mathews and were briefed on the upcoming headworks project; additionally, they inspected the newly constructed valve storage building and received an update on the Perris Valley Pipeline construction project. Overall, the inspection trip provided the EOT Committee members an up-close look at Metropolitan's operations along with current and upcoming capital projects.



Staff and EOT Committee members at the Water Quality Laboratory for the Field Inspection Trip



EOT Committee members with staff during the Field Inspection Trip at the Weymouth Plant

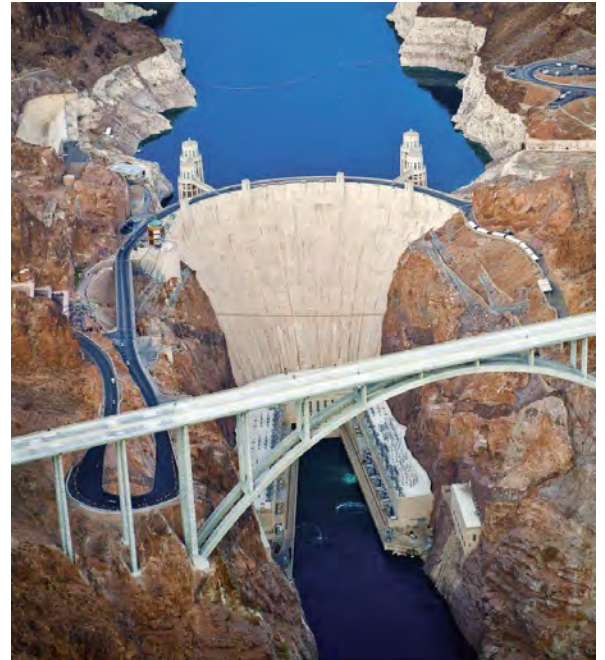
Operations

(continued)

Monthly Update as of:

11/27/2023

| <u>Reservoir</u> | <u>Current Storage</u> | <u>Percent of Capacity</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Colorado River Basin</i> | | |
| Lake Powell | 8,648,000 | 36% |
| Lake Mead | 8,794,000 | 34% |
| <i>DWR</i> | | |
| Lake Oroville | 2,333,594 | 66% |
| Shasta Lake | 3,083,023 | 68% |
| San Luis Total | 1,166,453 | 58% |
| San Luis CDWR | 458,343 | 43% |
| Castaic Lake | 257,964 | 80% |
| Silverwood Lake | 68,865 | 92% |
| Lake Perris | 81,104 | 62% |
| <i>MWD</i> | | |
| DVL | 726,378 | 90% |
| Lake Mathews | 157,887 | 87% |
| Lake Skinner | 37,425 | 85% |



Hoover Dam

Information Technology

Project Highlights

Disaster Recovery Test

To test the reliability of data centers in the event of a major disaster that affects southern California, critical enterprise business applications were switched to the out-of-region data center. All applications were successfully replicated at the out-of-region data center and were used in a production environment. The test was successful.

Data Center Backup Infrastructure Upgrade

The Information Technology group recently selected Rubrik, one of the top-tier data center backup-and-restore systems. This new system will replace existing outdated and slow magnetic tape-based systems. This new advanced technology is capable of high-speed data backup and of restoring media using advanced features that include resilient cyber security, ransom detection, alerts, key performance indicators, and a dashboard for monitoring. The following project milestones have been completed:

- Installed two backup server clusters at the primary and secondary physical data centers
- Connected the two clusters and started the data replication between two sites
- Configured and activated ransomware detection

The project team is in the process of configuring and testing backup with various IT infrastructure components (i.e., servers, databases, storage networks, etc.) before going live in the first quarter of next year.



Photo: Rubrik hardware installed in both data centers

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.

In October, informational reports were provided to the Finance, Audit, Insurance, and Real Property Committee on the Draft 2023 Long-Range Finance Plan Needs Assessment and Pure Water Southern California Cost Recovery Alternatives.

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

From November 1 through November 28, the Risk Management Unit completed 26 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

From November 1 through November 28, Risk Management completed 45 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 working with the District on Business Continuity Plan updates and approvals.
- Continued working with the Fusion software vendor to make updates to the user interface.
- In conjunction with the core planning team, continued working on the district-wide Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Initiated discussion with Human Resources to get a text field added to MyHR that would in turn sync to MetAlert for emergency communications.
- Worked with the MetAlert vendor to resolve a formatting issue occurring with email alerts.

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 for October 2023 (for water delivered in August 2023) totaled 115.1 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 36.2 TAF lower than the budget of 151.3 TAF and translate to \$113.9 million in receipts for October 2023, which was \$39.6 million lower than budget of \$153.5 million.



Finance and Administration

(continued)

- Year-to-date water transactions through October 2023 (for water delivered in May 2023 through August 2023) were 411.7 TAF, which was 145.2 TAF lower than the budget of 556.9 TAF. Year-to-date water receipts through October 2023 were \$422.7 million, which was \$150.9 million lower than the budget of \$573.6 million.
- In October 2023, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,900 vendor invoices for payment.

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

As of October 31, 2023, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.0 billion; the total October earnings were \$3.7 million, and the effective rate of return was 4.28 percent.

Treasury staff managed daily cash flow to cover Metropolitan's operational expenditures and invest excess funds.

In October 2023, Metropolitan's portfolio manager executed four trades. Treasury staff completed the following transactions:

- 29 Dreyfus Cash Management Fund transactions
- 22 CAMP Investment Pool transactions
- \$3.3 million in Metropolitan's bond and SWAP payments
- 1,161 disbursements by check, 23 by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 132 by wire transfer
- 89 receipts by check, 18 by ACH, and 63 by incoming wires and bank transfers
- Four unauthorized ACH transactions prevented

In addition, Treasury staff processed 12 professional services invoice payment requests totaling approximately \$245,000. The Treasury staff also processed for DCA 7 checks and 18 wires totaling approximately \$3.0 million.

Furthermore, 8,937 P-One Card transactions, totaling \$1.5 million and recorded in the October bank statement, were monitored by the P-One Card Administrator.

Administrative Services

Accomplishments

18th Annual “LA as Subject” Archives Bazaar

Sara Seltzer, Archivist, and Jen Becker, Librarian, participated in the 18th Annual “LA as Subject” Archives Bazaar. The bazaar was held at the Doheny Memorial Library at USC. LA as Subject, a research alliance at the University of Southern California’s Archival Research Center, is dedicated to preserving and improving access to the archival material of Los Angeles history. LA as Subject’s annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar brings unique collections together into one place. The event allows scholars, researchers, archivists, librarians, students, and history enthusiasts to browse the broad collections of the alliance’s members. This year’s theme centered around food. Sara and Jen curated an exhibition of food-related items from the archives. Items include the Iron Mountain Tunnel hole cake photograph, water conservation materials with Joan Rivers, a McDonald’s placemat, and a WWII ration book. These items, and many more, are cataloged in our archive management system, ArchivEra.



Human Resources

HR Priorities

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

In November, 866 Metropolitan employees attended virtually facilitated classes including Interviewing Skills, EEO Investigations, Introduction to SharePoint, Cybersecurity Awareness, and Excel Formulas.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online e-learning content platform, was accessed for such topics as Efficient Time Management, Leading Inclusive Teams, Intelligent Automation, and Business Etiquette.

The Organizational Development & Training Unit (OD&T) started working with Lake Matthews management on a succession planning initiative.

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

The Recruitment team successfully filled 19 positions during the month of November and has 35 recruitments in final stages. Recruitment received new staffing requisitions for 18 positions, resulting in 210 positions currently in recruitment.

HR Core Business: Provide Excellent Human Resources Services

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

The Business Support Team planned, organized, and coordinated a "Healthy Celebrations" wellness webinar. The live webcast was held on November 15, 2023, and hosted by Kaiser Permanente. The webinar invited employees to explore ideas and resources related to creating healthy menus, maintaining fitness, and addressing increased stress during the holidays. Employees were also invited to create a realistic action plan by using their personal strengths to thrive during the holidays.

HR Core Business: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations

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.

In November, four new workers' compensation claims were received. Three employees are currently off work because of an industrial injury or illness. This reflects Metropolitan's effort to accommodate injured workers while enabling them to be productive and on the job. Staff continues to address accommodations, coordinate treatment, and work closely with our Workers' Compensation Third-Party Administrator, Tristar Risk Management.

Finance and Administration

(continued)

| HR Metrics | June 2023 | November 2023 | Prior Month October 2023 |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Headcount | | | |
| Regular Employees | 1,779 | 1798 | 1,796 |
| Temporary Employees | 25 | 43 | 38 |
| Interns | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Recurrents | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Annuitants | 24 | 23 | 25 |

| | November 2023 | October 2023 |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions) | 210 | 211 |
| Number of New Staffing Requisitions | 18 | 41 |
| | November 2023 | October 2023 |
| Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress | 17 | 14 |
| Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits | 1 | 2 |
| Number of New Job Audit Requests | 4 | 3 |

| Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month) | | | |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <u>External Hires</u> | <u>FY 22/23 Totals</u> | <u>November 2023</u> | <u>FISCAL YTD</u> |
| Regular Employees | 116 | 8 | 50 |
| Temporary Employees | 36 | 5 | 29 |
| Interns | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Internal Promotions | 72 | 7 | 31 |
| Management Requested Promotions | 149 | 12 | 65 |
| Retirements/Separations (regular employees) | 98 | 5 | 29 |
| Employee-Requested Transfers | 19 | 1 | 9 |

Departures

| Last | First Name | Classification | Eff Date | Reason | Group |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Langdale | Kevin | Construction Inspector IV | 9/20/2023 | Retirement - Service | ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP |
| Iverson | Daffney | O&M Tech III | 3/24/2023 | Retirement - Service | CONVEYANCE & DISTRIBUTION GROUP |
| Escuadro-Dailey | Rossana | Pr Admin Analyst | 10/13/2023 | Retirement - Service | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS |
| Cardoza | Daniel | Environmental Specialist | 10/4/2023 | Resign – Accepted Other Employment | SUSTAINABILTY, RESILIENCE&INNOV |
| Pitman | Diane | Group Manager-Human Resources | 10/14/2023 | Resignation | HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP |

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Tribal Outreach & Engagement

DEI staff conducted a knowledge sharing tour with the Pechanga Nation Water Utility at the R.A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant. The intent of the knowledge sharing program is to create a pipeline where Metropolitan and member agencies' professionals can share knowledge and expertise with tribal water utilities to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and safety of water operations. Pechanga water utility staff also offered valuable insights and perspectives on how they manage resources sustainably. Both Metropolitan and the Pechanga utility agreed to further the program, which can potentially provide a variety of channels for knowledge sharing, including a knowledge repository, a knowledge network, knowledge sharing workshops, mentorship programs, and training programs.



On Friday, November 10, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended and co-sponsored the California River Indian Tribes (CRIT) celebration honoring Native American veterans.

On Friday, November 17, 2023, Metropolitan staff hosted a relationship-building lunch with CRIT representatives and engaged in conversation around outreach for the apprenticeship program, as workforce development challenges and opportunities within the CRIT community.

Workforce Development

The DEI team has scheduled a pre-apprenticeship workshop at the CRIT reservation to be held on December 6. This workshop will help prepare interested individuals applying for the 2024 Metropolitan apprenticeship program, as well as providing resume-writing tools and interviewing resources for entry into the water workforce. This workshop will be offered in other locations with an expansion to include math test preparation for interested applicants.

Finance and Administration

(continued)

Business Outreach & Community Engagement

On November 2, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Supplier Diversity Fair in Los Angeles, CA.



On November 2, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce 6th Annual Women In the C-Suite: Women in Technology in Hollywood, CA.

On November 2, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended the National Association Women in Business Organization—San Diego, BRAVA Award in San Diego, CA.

On November 8, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended the Construction Network Owners' Night in Long Beach, CA.



On November 9, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended the National Association of Minority Contractors of Southern California Leadership Awards in Los Angeles, CA.

Finance and Administration

(continued)

On November 13–14, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended the 7th Annual Veterans in Business Network National Conference in San Diego, CA. The conference is designed to help you build connections between corporations, government agencies, and primes looking to create partnerships with the veteran business community for contracting opportunities.



On November 14, 2023, Ken Ashford, Pr. Public Affairs Representative, presented the Business Outreach Annual Report 2022–2023 to the Equity, Inclusion, and Affordability Committee.



Finance and Administration

(continued)

On November 17, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended the National Association Women in Business Organization—Los Angeles 6th Annual Procurement and Matchmaking event in Long Beach, CA.



On November 17, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended the Filipino Association Chamber of Commerce—Orange County Awards Gala in Irvine, CA.

On November 17, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended the Asian Business Association—Orange County Gala Awards in Anaheim, CA. Honorable Young Kim, U.S. Representative (CA-40), gave the induction address, and Metropolitan received the “Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year” award.



On November 30, 2023, Metropolitan staff attended the Asian Business Association—Inland Empire Awards and Installation Gala in Riverside, CA.

External Affairs



External Affairs

Highlights



Naming ceremony for the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center



Metropolitan celebrated the leadership and legacy of U.S. Representative Grace F. Napolitano with the renaming of the Pure Water Southern California demonstration facility in her honor. USBR Commissioner Touton, former Army Corps of Engineers Major General Toy, Chair Ortega, members of Metropolitan's Board, GM Hagekhalil, Los Angeles County Sanitation District representatives, local and state officials, and staff attended. (November 2)

GM Hagekhalil spoke on a panel at the California WaterReuse Conference

with representatives from LADWP, IEUA, Las Virgenes, and OC Water District. At the event, Community Relations Team Manager Soni was honored as the Recycled Water Advocate of the Year. (November 5–7)

Director McMillan and SRI Chief Crosson attended, and Metropolitan sponsored the Telele Foundation Localizing California Waters Conference. (11/7-10)

GM Hagekhalil and staff attended the Arab American Architects and Engineers Assoc 2023 Fall Awards; WSO's Assistant Team Manager Hattar was honored by the organization. (11/9)



Awardee Rupam Soni and GM Hagekhalil

Metropolitan received the Regional Water Innovation and Leadership Award from the Building Industry Association of Southern California. (November 10)

Chair Ortega, Directors Camacho, Dennstedt, Morris, Ramos and GM Hagekhalil joined DWR Director Nemeth to receive a \$38 million grant from the State Urban Community Drought Relief Program. (November 14)



Left: Metropolitan officials accept \$38 million grant from DWR Director Nemeth; Center: GM Hagekhalil at One Water conference; Right: GM Hagekhalil met with regional leaders at the ENR LA Infrastructure Forum to promote the new California Plan as part of the Equity in Infrastructure program



*QSA 20th Anniversary Event hosted by
San Diego County Water Authority*

GM Hagekhalil was a panelist at the One Water Alliance conference to discuss inclusive, integrative, and sustainable management of the Colorado River. (November 16)

Vice Chairs Camacho and Goldberg, Directors Armstrong, Dennstedt, Garza, Erdman, Smith, and GM Hagekhalil celebrated the Quantification Settlement Agreement. (November 18)

GM Hagekhalil met with regional infrastructure leaders at ENR's LA Infrastructure Forum to discuss investment strategies to better serve and uplift our communities. (November 20)

Legislative Services

Federal

Metropolitan staff participated in stakeholder meetings with staff from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to advocate for including liability protection for water and wastewater agencies in a proposed bipartisan bill to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the environment.

State

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas announced new committee chair appointments for the Assembly. Key changes include:

- a. Water Parks and Wildlife—Asm Diane Papan (was Asm Bauer-Kahan)
- b. Natural Resources—Asm Isaac Bryan (was L. Rivas)
- c. Budget Committee—Asm Jesse Gabriel (was Ting)
- d. Budget Subcommittee on Resources—Asm Bennett (Same)
- e. Appropriations—Asm Buffy Wicks (was Holden)
- f. Majority Leader—Asm Cecilia Aguair-Curry (was Bryan)

Metropolitan's Board of Directors authorized GM Adel Hagekhalil to sponsor legislation in 2024 to remove the sunset on existing law providing Metropolitan with an exemption to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. Staff has met with the CA Department of Conservation (which administers the requirements of the bill) and is planning a meeting with the local counties who will be affected. Next steps will include identifying a legislative vehicle to move this measure forward.

Local

Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Camacho, Directors De Jesus, Dennstedt, Dick, Erdman, Faessel, Luna, Quinn, Seckel, Sutley, and GM Hagekhalil; COS Mohsen Mortada; and AGMs Upadhyay and Zinke and staff attended the Southern California Water Coalition Dinner. (November 2)

GM Hagekhalil spoke at the Los Angeles City Council's Energy and Environment Committee about Metropolitan's efforts to develop regional water supplies and collaboration with LADWP and other agencies. (November 3)

Metropolitan sponsored the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation Eddy Awards, which honored local economic development champions. (November 8)

Metropolitan sponsored the Valley Industry and Commerce Association Local Officeholders Luncheon, which recognized city councilmembers from the San Fernando Valley. (November 9)

In November, Metropolitan staff presented, monitored, and/or participated in 52 webinars, virtual meetings, and events with community organizations, trade associations, and local officials on water-specific topics.

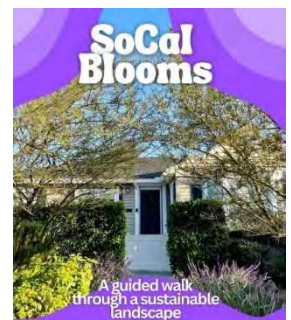
Media and Communications

- Coordinated an interview between Voice of San Diego reporter MacKenzie Elmer and GM Hagekhalil regarding pending Colorado River agreement between Metropolitan, San Diego County Water Authority and Imperial Irrigation District.
- Arranged an on-camera interview for ABC10 Sacramento meteorologist Carley Gomez and External Affairs Team Manager Soni on Pure Water Southern California for a series spotlighting innovative water solutions.
- Set up an interview between CalMatters reporter Rachel Becker and Water Resource Management Group Manager Coffey about Metropolitan's planning efforts and initiatives for 2024 to accommodate additional water supplies.
- Coordinated an interview between Spectrum news reporter Sarah Pilla and External Affairs Team Manager Soni regarding Pure Water Southern California for a special report on climate change solutions.
- Arranged an interview for GM Hagekhalil on Metropolitan's climate mitigation efforts for a climate and water video at the One Water Alliance conference.
- Set up an interview between Wall Street Journal reporter John Keilman and EO/AGM Upadhyay on the district's objections to the 3M and DuPont PFAS settlements; provided similar information to other media outlets cover the story.
- Responded to questions from VOSD's MacKenzie Elmer regarding the quarterly budget report.
- Coordinated an interview with Water Education Foundation writer Nick Cahill on the role of Pure Water Southern California in addressing Colorado River issues.

Social Media



- Wrapped up conservation campaigns on Time to Rethink Water and the three-part SoCal Blooms that highlighted gardens in Southern California featuring California Friendly® and native plants.
- Featured posts celebrating Global Diversity Awareness Month, including community outreach both in-language marketing and meeting with different community groups, and hosting international groups.
- On Veterans Day, featured four Metropolitan veterans who are among the more than 100 veterans who work at the district.



- Celebrated Diwali for the first time on social media channels.
- Promoting new virtual landscape and turf removal training programs in English and Spanish.

Website

- Added metatags on mwdh2o.com to ensure a higher ADA accessibility rating; migrated education microsite and bewaterwise.com to the Amazon cloud servers to comply with cybersecurity requirements.
- Received 35,000 visits to mwdh2o.com with careers, job postings, and Pure Water Southern California being the most visited pages.
- Generated 205,000 views on bewaterwise.com with turf replacement, rebates, and California Friendly/native plants profiles being the most frequented pages.

Creative Design

- Produced six videos on Rialto Feeder, Inland Feeder, and Diamond Valley Lake improvement project for the Engineering, Operations, and Technology Committee inspection trip.
- Prepared a recap video of the High Desert Water Bank event.
- Edited, designed, and produced the Project Labor Agreement annual report and the Long-Term Financial Plan.
- Redesigned the Pure Water Southern California signage, supportive materials, and webpage content for the newly-renamed Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center.
- Designed free-standing signage for emergency responders at all Colorado River Aqueduct pump plants.
- Wrote, edited, and produced a new introductory video for Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water.



Pure Water Southern California

Partnered with Active SGV for a bike ride and presentation on the Pure Water program and groundwater recharge. Director Fellow and other Upper San Gabriel MWD representatives joined. (November 4)

Arranged a media interview and tour with ABC News at the Napolitano Pure Water Innovation Center. (November 8)

Provided a tour of the Napolitano Pure Water Innovation Center for the Council of State Governments (West) conference attendees. (November 14)

Met with Phillips 66 refinery staff to provide updates on the Pure Water program and conveyance system. (November 27)



Metropolitan staff provides an update on Pure Water Southern California on the SGV Bike Ride

Community Partnering and Sponsorship Program

Metropolitan provided the sponsorships to help support the following events and programs in November:

- California WaterReuse Association annual conference
- Telele Foundation Localizing California Waters Annual Conference
- Arab American Architects and Engineers Association Fall Awards
- US Water Alliance One Water Summit
- ACWA Fall Conference and Expo

Community Partnering Program sponsorships were awarded to:

- City of Pomona CA Native Plant voucher program
- Weaving Earth LA Walks of Resilience and Accountability
- Forestry Educators San Bernardino Forestry Challenge
- Pando Populus Camp Pando

Other Outreach Activities



CRA Inspection Trip w/Vice Chair Camacho, Director Miller

- Provided tours of the Weymouth Treatment Plant for the WaterReuse LA Chapter (November 1) and Skinner Treatment Plant for directors and staff of the Rainbow MWD. (November 8)
- Notified residents and businesses of upcoming work for Second Lower Feeder Reach 3b Relining (November 8–15) and Eastern MWD service connection upgrade. (November 13)
- Provided three director inspection trips to Diamond Valley Lake, Colorado River Aqueduct, and State Water Project.

Education and Community Relations

Metropolitan staff interacted with more than 800 teachers, students, and adults through in-person and online meetings and events this month.

- Career Days at McBride High School in Long Beach; Career Days at Bonita High School in Pomona
- Meeting with Los Angeles Trade Technology professors and water industry professionals to discuss and plan workforce development programs
- Meeting to learn about Santiago Canyon Community College's Energy, Construction & Utilities Futures project, which seeks to prepare under-represented students to become qualified, ready-to-work graduates for careers in the energy, construction, and utilities industries
- Held trainings with the 10 schools participating in this year's Water Engineering 4 Good (WE4G) program

Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation



Sustainability, Resilience, Innovation, Environmental Planning, and Land Management

SRI Core Activities

Equity, Inclusion and Affordability Committee Panel on Affordability

The SRI office coordinated with groups across the district to organize this month's Panel on Affordability for the Board Equity, Inclusion and Affordability Committee. This third in a series of four panels was in response to the Board's request for affordability discussions to inform the Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water (CAMP4W) process. These panels are designed to expand on initial CAMP4W thematic statements on affordability for the development of evaluative criteria that will guide a CAMP4W decision-making framework. This month's panel focused on the financial impact of numerous new and/or potentially stricter regulations spanning water quality (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, arsenic, hexavalent chromium, etc.) to energy (zero emission fleets, renewable energy portfolio, etc.). Panelists included representatives from the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), the California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA), the General Manager of Central Basin Municipal Water District, and a board member at State Water Resources Control Board. The panel provided recommendations for balancing Metropolitan's responsibilities to community health, services to member agencies, established legal frameworks (Prop 26 and 218), environmental justice, and California's Human Right to Water. Specific recommendations centered around advocating for state and federal funding to implement regulations, the criteria for consolidation and scheduling of adopted regulation.

Localizing California Waters Conference

The Chief SRI Officer presented Metropolitan's Climate Adaptation Master Planning process at the Localizing California Waters Conference in Yosemite. The conference showcased and provided networking space to connect communities to resilient, collaborative, watershed approaches. Presentations and workshops will focus on expanding scales from parcel level to regional scale, to advance and accelerate place-based equity. Sessions included a focus on the following:

1. Advancing local water and climate strategies through regional resilience workshops and sharing updates on local approaches.
2. Cultivating watershed system responses to climatic swings, including through collaborative data (local to regional scale), access to data, and local opportunities to reach regional resilience.
3. Showcasing case studies and workshops to map on-ground local approaches for safe drinking water, flood, fire, drought, extreme heat, and habitat that add up to healthy resilient watershed communities.

Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water Joint Task Force (CAMP4W)

The Chief SRI Officer, Metropolitan Water District staff, directors, and member agencies all joined for the first CAMP4W Task Force on November 21, 2023. The Task Force discussed a new charter that lays out the components of the Master Plan, Summary of Efforts to Date and Proposed Evaluative Criteria for the Climate Decision-Making Framework.

Employee Memorandums from the General Manager

SRI worked with the General Manager to issue two memos to all employees. The first memo provided an update on the ZEV transition, which explained why Metropolitan is making the transition and how it will affect employees, meet regulatory requirements, and reduce CAP Scope 1 emissions. SRI will provide quarterly updates to keep employees apprised of the transition happenings. In the second memo, SRI partnered with Rideshare Services to issue a memo with a survey which collects data that will be used for expansion of employee EV chargers and to provide an update on CAP Scope 3 emissions.

EO&T Board of Directors Tour

On November 17, 2023, the Chief SRI Officer and the WSO Operations Support Services Section Manager provided an overview of the ZEV transition to EO&T members on a tour of Metropolitan facilities.

Zero Emission Vehicle Transition

SRI worked with GNA to finalize the ZEV Transition Roadmap, which provides recommendations on the next steps needed to continue the transition from fossil-fueled to zero emission vehicles. The report will be distributed to the ZEV Executive Task Force by month-end. SRI also established a new Outlook mailbox, ZevProject@mwdh2o.com for employees to submit ZEV suggestions and questions to the project team.

Green Procurement

SRI finalized an agreement with the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN) to assist with the development of a sustainable procurement policy and updates to the Procurement of Goods and Services Manual.

Sustainability and Resilience Operating Policy

SRI completed the first draft of a sustainability and resilience policy which provides direction on how Metropolitan can operate sustainably while increasing the resiliency and reliability of Southern California’s water supplies.

Centralized Grants Management Office

SRI staff assisted with the submittal of the following applications, for a total of \$135.15 million:

- 1. USBR WaterSmart Drought Resilience, Inland Feeder/San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Foothill Pump Station Intertie—\$5 million
- 2. EPA Workforce Development, Water Education and Technology Internship—\$4 million
- 3. Water Research Foundation Emerging Opportunities Program, Algaecide Application and Monitoring Protocols—\$150,000
- 4. USBR WaterSmart Large-Scale Water Recycling Program, Pure Water Phase One Planning and Design—\$126 million

| Funding Summary | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Applying: | \$150,350,604.00 |
| Submitted: | \$12,381,000.00 |
| Awarded: | \$187,450,000.00 |
| Total: | \$350,181,604.00 |

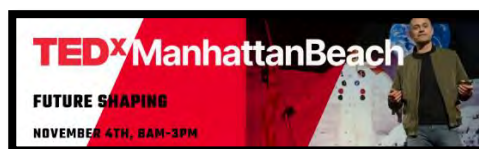
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Innovation

Innovation, Pilots, and Emerging Technologies Updates

SRI's Innovation Team and LADWP's Water Innovation Team (WIT) Participate in TEDx Manhattan Beach



On November 4, the SRI Innovation Team, LADWP WIT Team, and Metropolitan's H2O TECHCONNECT Community participated in TEDx Manhattan Beach. SRI's Innovation team has sponsored, exhibited, and partnered with TEDx Manhattan Beach for over five years. TEDx participated in SRI's Innovation Pavilion at Metropolitan's Sustainability Expo in April, and the SRI Innovation Team will be partnering with Metropolitan's Intrapreneurs on TEDx Speaker Workshops for Employees in January. Featured at the event was Hands On Engineering: No Fear in Not Knowing with students from the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering teaching hands-on electrical engineering skills including their Open Project Space curriculum that teaches electrical engineering fundamentals; Micromouse, an autonomous maze-solving robot; DAV, a computer design, architecture, and verification project and 3D Printing. Featured speakers included Cassie Holmes, Happiness Professor from UCLA, and Michael Agyin, Deaf and Disability Rights Advocate, who spoke to the audience in sign language with voice over.



TEDx Manhattan Beach

Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Foundation's Scholar Recognition Program

SRI's Innovation Team, Engineering, Water Quality, Operations, IT, and HR Teams continued support for Innovation by participating in the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Foundation's Scholar Recognition Program on November 10 in Pasadena. **The Featured Speaker was Robert Kirshner, Thirty Meter Telescope International Observatory.** The ARCS Founding Chapter presented awards to 49 scholars. Metropolitan's team saw scholar presentations explaining new technologies in engineering, science, and medicine. SRI Innovation Team members are on the board of the ARCS Foundation, which is a national nonprofit volunteer women's organization that promotes US competitiveness by providing financial awards to academically outstanding scholars studying to complete degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), and health disciplines at 49 of the nation's leading research universities. The organization has awarded more than \$150 million to more than 10,500 scholars since 1958. ARCS Foundation Scholars have produced thousands of research publications and patents, secured billions in grant funding, started science-related companies, and played a significant role in teaching and mentoring young people in the STEM pipeline. Southern California Chapter Universities include California Institute of Technology; Harvey Mudd College;

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University of California, Los Angeles; Pomona College; University of Southern California Viterbi School of Engineering; Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California; University of California, Irvine; Scripps Institution of Oceanography; University of California, San Diego, and other top research universities in the region.



ARCS Scholar Recognition Program in Pasadena

Environmental Planning Section

Core Business: Environmental Planning and Regulatory Compliance Support

Bay Delta Initiatives

Delta Conveyance Project (DCP)

- Attended site visit of proposed facilities and alignment with DWR, DCP, and regulatory stakeholders in support of regulatory permitting and cultural and tribal cultural resources work.

Webb Tract Multi-Benefit Mosaic Landscape Project

- Reviewed and revised survey reports for early and late summer special status plant surveys and finalized giant garter snake habitat assessment memo.
- Participated in biweekly meetings with Bay Delta Initiatives staff and key working group consultants.

Engineering Services Group

Etiwanda Pipeline Relining Project

- Finalized Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) report for CEQA compliance.

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Rehabilitation Program

- Continued oversight of construction monitoring and mitigation compliance for PCCP Second Lower Feeder Reach 3B.
- Participated in project update meetings for PCCP Sepulveda Feeder North and Calabasas Feeder.

Perris Valley Pipeline

- Conducted ongoing mitigation monitoring of construction activities.

Pure Water Southern California

- Provided environmental analysis and clearance for Reach 1 alignment studies and investigations.
- Continued tribal cultural resource consultation and preparation of technical studies in support of draft environmental impact report (EIR).

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- Reviewed revised data and project modifications, including upsized pipeline, for incorporation into technical studies and draft EIR.
- Provided input on Large-Scale Water Recycling Project grant application.

Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Site Improvements Program

- Prepared final program EIR and responses to public comments after close of public review period.
- Participated in meeting with the City of La Verne staff to discuss design for the Water Treatment Chemical Delivery Railroad Tracks Replacement project.

Construction Monitoring

- Continued construction monitoring for Orange County Feeder Relining Reach 3, Weymouth Basins 5–8 Rehabilitation, La Verne Shops Upgrades, Foothill Hydroelectric Seismic Upgrades, and Lake Mathews Valve Storage Building projects.

External Affairs

Legislative Review

- Provided chaptered bill analysis for approved state legislations for AB 655 Fish and Wildlife: aquatic invasive species; AB 606 California Endangered Species Act: accidental take: farms or ranches; and SB 145 Environmental Mitigation: Department of Transportation.
- Provided analysis of introduced federal legislation for S 3082 Water Quality Certification Improvement Act of 2023.

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Climate Action Plan (CAP) Monitoring and Reporting

- Continued monitoring for Battery Energy Storage System project operation, in compliance with the CAP Program EIR MMRP.
- Continued to assist in Scope 3 emissions data collection in support of the CAP implementation, including developing an electronic system to capture contractors' construction emissions and a data management system to capture utilities data (waste, wastewater, and water use).
- Completed coordination with Rideshare Team to deploy the annual employee commute survey.
- Provided analysis review for Natural Gas Inventory Equipment report.

Water System Operations Group

- Obtained emergency regulatory permits from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Clean Water Act Sections 401 and 404, respectively, for repairs resulting from late August storm damage at CRA Station 9433+50.
- Submitted emergency permit applications under CWA Sections 401 and 404 for repairs resulting from late August storm damage to CRA Whitewater Siphon Protection Structure and Foothill Feeder Station 592+80.
- Prepared emergency regulatory permit applications under CWA Sections 401 and 404 for repairs resulting from late August storm damage to CRA Station 10101+80 to Station 10105+00.
- Provided environmental analysis and clearance for the following: annual vegetation maintenance at Cajalco Creek Dam and Detention Basin, Lake Mathews Sediment Basins 1–4, Lake Mathews Underdrain Effluent,

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and North and South Spillways in accordance with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFW) Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) conditions; annual vegetation maintenance at Bull Creek (Jensen Plant) in accordance with CDFW SAA conditions, and Upper Feeder maintenance.

- Provided support for the shutdown and dewatering of San Diego Pipeline No. 3, including environmental clearance, pre-dewatering biological surveys, and monitoring of dewatering activities.
- Conducted monitoring of dewatering activities in support of the Allen McColloch Pipeline shutdown.

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Compliance

- Completed first annual inspection of regulated borrow sites with State Mining and Geology Board staff.
- Completed approval of the first Financial Assurance Cost Estimate and Financial Assurance Mechanism to fund reclamation activities.

Reserve Management

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Removed invasive vegetation along major roads and riparian areas.
- Ordered native seed to be broadcast in late November and early December to restore habitat.
- Conducted comprehensive security patrols to prevent trespassing, vandalism, poaching, and theft and to ensure the protection of the Reserve's natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Conducted moving and weed whipping for fire and habitat management.
- Continued seed collection and propagation of native plants for future restoration projects.
- The Alamos Schoolhouse Reserve Interpreter hosted lunar eclipse viewing and birding events.
- Conducted comprehensive security patrols to prevent trespassing, vandalism, poaching, and theft and to ensure the protection of natural and cultural resources, facilities, and equipment.
- Conducted biological resources surveys for and monitored the upgrade of USGS seismic monitoring equipment on reserve lands.

External Document Reviews

- Reviewed 12 CEQA notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations, including a letter to the Bureau of Land Management on the Easley Renewable Energy Project.

Real Property Support

- Provided CEQA analysis and determinations in support of three real property agreements.

Land Management

Annexations

Metropolitan's Board approved the 112th Fringe Area annexation to Eastern MWD and Metropolitan on April 11, 2023, and set terms and conditions in resolution 9343. This annexation was completed through the Local Agency Formation Commission of Riverside County and recorded with the county on November 3, 2023, which is the

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completion date of this annexation. This annexation added 31.67 acres to Metropolitan's service area with \$205,612.50 collected in accordance with the terms of annexation

Property Management

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) has been granted a permanent easement comprising 4.1 acres of land near Diamond Valley Lake. The easement will support EMWD's expansion plans to install an additional pipeline for increased production at the Hemet Water Filtration Plant.

Staff helped facilitate the Mills Plant Electrical Upgrade Project by processing the grant of a permanent easement to the City of Riverside Public Utilities. A secondary utility power source is being installed by Riverside Public Utilities at the Mills Plant, and this expanded operational area involving a new 12KV power line required the granting of property rights to the City.

An amendment to extend the occupancy of office space in Washington D.C. through December 31, 2030, has been processed. External Affairs staff will continue its tenancy within the 1,600 square foot office space close to the U.S. Capital Building.



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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