



December 7, 2021

Mr. Adel Hagekhalil  
General Manager  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 N. Alameda St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Hagekhalil:

The Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) and the California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) are pleased to provide comments on *Metropolitan's 2021 Progress Report to the State Legislature on Achievements in Conservation, Recycling, and Groundwater Recharge*. AWE is the only North American organization dedicated to water efficiency, which is typically the fastest and least expensive way to save water while also fighting climate change and lowering water bills. CalWEP is a chapter of AWE with a mission to maximize water efficiency and conservation throughout California.

AWE and CalWEP bring together a North American network of more than 530 organizational members with expertise in water efficiency, including water suppliers, businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, associations, and academic institutions.

The Metropolitan Water District ("Metropolitan") and its retail partners are national leaders in water efficiency whose work is crucial to sustaining a clean, reliable water supply. AWE and CalWEP are thankful to have collaborated with Metropolitan in 2021 on a number of initiatives and projects that benefit southern California while also providing important learnings for other water agencies.

For example, with support from Metropolitan, AWE and CalWEP released the first-of-its-kind *Cooling Tower Estimating Model (CTEM) and Guide for Identifying Cooling Towers* in February of 2021. Cooling towers use large amounts of water, and there is potential for significant water savings. The *Model and Guide* help water agencies locate cooling towers. Metropolitan is also supporting additional elements of this project, including:

- Determining the conservation potential for improvements to existing cooling tower systems
- Determining water savings potential of implementing alternative cooling technologies
- Creating a How-To guide for water agencies to operate a cooling tower efficiency program
- Creating a Cooling Tower Audit Assessment form and a return-on-investment calculator

In 2021, AWE and CalWEP collaborated with Metropolitan and Long Beach Water on a *Water Affordability Assessment for Long Beach*. The final report, which is about to be released, identifies the extent to which the cost of water may be an economic hardship for customers, evaluates the impact of rate restructuring on water affordability, and evaluates the role that water conservation can play in lowering water bills. We are exploring a potential pilot program to donate water efficient fixtures and appliances to disadvantaged households in Long Beach.

In addition, AWE and CalWEP collaborated with Metropolitan to release Version 4 of AWE's *Water Conservation Tracking Tool* in 2021. This tool helps water agencies plan, evaluate and track their water conservation programs across metrics like costs, water savings, greenhouse emission reductions, and more. The Tool has been used by more than 400 water agencies in California and elsewhere. Version 4 includes a California-specific version to help communities comply with state requirements. It also updated the library of water conservation strategies to include 50 distinct measures and added a water loss control feature.

We also want to thank Metropolitan for being a founding AWE member and charter sponsor, and providing organizational leadership support. Metropolitan staff serve as Treasurer of the AWE board, co-Chair of AWE's Water Sense/Water Efficient Products Committee, and participate in AWE's Research Committee. Moreover, Metropolitan staff sit on the board of CalWEP, serve as Vice-Chair of CalWEP's Program Committee, and participate in CalWEP's Research and Evaluation Committee. Metropolitan Water district has also been an ongoing sponsor of CalWEP's annual training event, *Peer to Peer*, and has provided critical support to tools and resources that help water agencies throughout the Metropolitan service area maximize urban water efficiency.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Metropolitan for its leadership, support, and collaboration in advancing water efficiency and conservation in southern California and beyond. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ron Burke  
President and CEO  
Alliance for Water Efficiency

Tia Fleming  
Executive Director, External Affairs  
California Water Efficiency Partnership





Mr. Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 N. Alameda St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Comments on the SoCal Water\$mart Rebate Program

Dear Mr. Hagekhalil,

By our Homeowner's Association participation in the MWD Rebate program, we were able to install the UgMO (Underground moisture optimization) system here at Four Seasons HOA in Murrieta, CA. We are serviced by EMWD and do not have access to a Recycled water source.

Our relationship with UgMO has been to control our 10 acres of fully landscaped main common areas known as The Lodge. We have monthly records on all meters here on the property (five) going back to about 2009 as we are very aware of our usage of water and want to do all we can to conserve.

The rebate program allowed UgMO and Four Seasons to install three smart controllers and 96 sensors to measure moisture, temperature, and salinity. We have received the first of two rebates of about \$4,000 and are now expecting a second one after the full two years of service by the system and the actual savings recorded by MWD/EMWD.

As our part in the process, one of the hard parts is the actual measurement of the dollar savings as with the cost of water and weather it is very hard to meet all aspects of control. It is very clearly moving from a pure timer system to UgMO smart controllers and sensors. We have had a major cost avoidance and that is measured in gallons not needed as detected by the sensors.

But I would like to point one major shift we found here in just the measurement and cooperation of the local landscapers and the UgMO team. Pre UgMO, meter readings were taken every day and reported monthly after the bill came in and pointed out we did good or we did badly again, pay the bill, and move on. We now have a very proactive team of a local landscaper who is on-site and the UgMO management team who proactively communicate many times a week or more to look at where we can save water. We adjusted our contract to make it a joint responsibility of the local landscaper and UgMO and they are paying dividends. We have actual data reported live and with the EMWD website have a great view of our usage near real-time.

In conclusion, we have enjoyed using many times over the years the rebate program offered but see this single project with UgMO as the most cost-effective and true results provided to both Four Seasons and true water conservation.

If, you are your staff have any questions about our project, please feel free to contact me at (951) 813-5773 or russ.guidrysr@gmail.com

Russ Guidry Sr. PMP

Past CFO and Past President and Project manager for the UgMO project

K.Hovnanian's Four Seasons Homeowners' Association

ATTACHMENTS: system and pictures to support the project





[www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com)

Orange County/ Major San Diego

Bob Dowson / [bob.dowson@sci-us.com](mailto:bob.dowson@sci-us.com)



Adel Hagekhalil, General Manager  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
700 N. Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Hagekhalil,

On behalf of Westminster Memorial Park and Eternal Hills Memorial Park, I am writing to first thank MWD for supporting our projects and to provide my comments with our experience with the SoCal Water\$mart rebate program.

By participating in the program, Westminster Memorial Park has saved more than 38 million gallons of water per year and received \$57,190 in incentives. Eternal Hills has saved more than 7.7 million gallons of water per year and received \$46,636 in incentives.

Our Westminster location alone used 313.4 acre-feet of water for the assessment period of July 2018-June 2019. After we began our program in April 2019, we used 233 acre-feet of water for the assessment period of July 2019 to June 2020. A reduction of 80 acre-feet of water. And the results since that time have improved even more significantly.

In summary, the SoCal Water\$mart rebate program allows us to save one of California's most precious resources – water – while maintaining the beautiful, manicured, serene environment our clients expect when they visit our memorial parks to pay their respects to a loved one.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Metropolitan Water District and the SoCal Water\$mart Rebate Program for contributing to our successful irrigation conversion.

If you have any questions about our water project, please contact me at 949-842-7965 or

[Robert.dowson@sci-us.com](mailto:Robert.dowson@sci-us.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Dowson".

Robert Dowson  
Vice President  
SCI California Funeral Services, Inc

SCI California Funeral Services, Inc.  
27856 Center Drive  
Mission Viejo CA 92692