



# The GENERAL MANAGER Monthly Report

**Activities for the Month of  
December 2021**

This report identifies the actions and activities taking place during the month that support the objectives of the General Manager's Fiscal Year 2020/21 Strategic Priorities and the Core Business of the GM's work groups.

JANUARY 11, 2022



Diamond Valley Lake

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

*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

Amid difficult market conditions and supply chain constraints, the Contracting Services, Procurement Team negotiated a contract renewal of \$1.7M for Liquid Oxygen in support of operations at the Jensen Water Treatment Plant.

### BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing to develop an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Delta Conveyance Project. In late November, DWR amended its U.S. Department of the Army permit application pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (Section 404 permit application), which was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to make the application consistent with the Bethany Alternative. The Bethany Alternative will more closely align with the Section 404 directive to propose a project that would avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the United States to the extent practicable, and it will be the proposed project in the Draft EIR that is expected to be released for public review in mid-2022.

### CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Conducted an inaugural meeting of the Business Continuity Steering Committee. Comprising key leadership from across Metropolitan, the purpose of this standing committee is to serve as an advisory and decision-making group to ensure the Business Continuity Program is aligned with Metropolitan's strategic priorities and is making progress towards program goals. In addition, the Business Continuity Steering Committee is responsible for communicating program goals and objectives to Metropolitan's leadership, and reviewing and approving program policies, procedures, metrics, and status reports. Resiliency is about making sure our staff, systems, and infrastructure are strong and can return to service quickly during a business interruption. The Business Continuity Steering Committee provides the framework necessary for effective organizational resilience.

### ENGINEERING SERVICES

In response to the state-wide drought, Engineering Services staff is advancing projects to improve water supply reliability. In December, the Board amended the Capital Investment Plan to include infrastructure improvements that would enhance water delivery capabilities to member agencies that can only receive State Project Water (SPW). The initial focus of these efforts is on projects that can be implemented in the near term to provide an alternate source of water to the Rialto Pipeline area. Staff is also progressing study of several other potential infrastructure improvement options to enhance water reliability for SPW reliant service areas in Metropolitan's Western and Eastern Regions, and design of improvements to the Colorado Aqueduct systems to enhance operational reliability at high flows.

### ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Following public release of the draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report in November, Environmental Planning Section staff organized or participated in several events aimed at public outreach and engagement regarding the CAP, including serving as a presenter and panelist for the Coalition for Clean Air Webinar—Water, Climate Mitigation, Resiliency, and Sustainability; organizing and leading the virtual CAP Stakeholder Engagement Workshop for interested parties; presenting to the Los Angeles Business Council and the Environment Committee on the Draft CAP; participating in the General Manager's Environmental Listening Session for the Draft CAP; and presenting at Metropolitan's Member Agency Managers Meeting.

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Chairwoman Gray, GM Hagekhalil and AGM/CEAO Zinke traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Department of Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Trujillo, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation Touton, Senators Feinstein and Padilla, and Representatives Napolitano and Calvert to discuss efforts to strengthen federal-local partnerships in order to increase contracting opportunities for historically underutilized businesses.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES *continued*

### Human Resources

Three new positions, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Equal Employment Opportunity Officer and Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer, were posted for recruitment in support of the General Manager's reorganization.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology Group successfully completed the migration of 50 servers to the Azure cloud environment as part of on-going efforts to enhance Metropolitan's reliability and resiliency.

### REAL PROPERTY

The 2021 Energy Star certification for the Metropolitan Headquarters building was completed. ENERGY STAR certified buildings save energy, money, and help protect the environment by generating fewer greenhouse gas emissions than typical buildings. To be certified as ENERGY STAR, a building must meet strict energy performance standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The headquarters building earned a rating of 88 out of 100, indicating that it performs better than at least 88 percent of similar buildings nationwide. Certification is given on an annual basis, so a building must maintain its high performance to be certified each year.

### SECURITY MANAGEMENT

Securing chemicals in an evolving threat environment requires cross collaboration between facility owners and operators, industry, law enforcement, community members, and all levels of government. The Security Management Unit keeps up with the latest by attending the Department of Homeland Security's Chemical Security Summits and applies security best practices to protect Metropolitan's assets.

### WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Metropolitan staff are aggressively working to improve water reliability during this historic drought on the Colorado River and State Water Project. Staff developed two agreements with regional partner agencies to improve management and access to State Water Project supplies. Staff also worked to ensure critical supplies for human health and safety would be available from the State Water Project if Department of Water Resources is unable to provide a normal Table A allocation. Staff continues to meet regularly with the member agencies to plan for a potentially dry 2022.

### WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

Metropolitan partnered with the National Safety Council (NSC) to perform an independent review of Metropolitan's safety program. NSC conducted a confidential survey of all employees to assess Metropolitan's safety culture and perceptions, with 70% of employees completing the survey. NSC will use the survey results to prioritize focus areas for the comprehensive safety program assessment to be conducted over the next few months.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**CORE BUSINESS:** Business Processes Advance value-added business process improvements to increase effectiveness and efficiency while striving for innovation, flexibility, and integration with technology.

### Accomplishments

Amid difficult market conditions and supply chain constraints, the Contracting Services Procurement Team negotiated a contract renewal of \$1.7M for Liquid Oxygen in support of operations at the Jensen Water Treatment Plant.

## BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective # 1 Pursue the development of adaptive management decision processes, governance, and funding mechanisms that would provide effective and stable means of meeting State Water Project (SWP) regulatory requirements.

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups called for in the 2019 Biological Opinions for the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project, and in the 2020 Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for Long-Term Operation of the SWP, to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects.

In November and December, staff continued collaboration with state and federal agencies to develop a Juvenile Production Estimate for Spring-run Chinook salmon. Current efforts are focused on developing objectives to be more specific to requirements stated in the ITP.

Staff also continued working with state and federal agencies to develop a monitoring program for steelhead populations within the San Joaquin Basin and/or the San Joaquin River downstream of the confluence with the Stanislaus River. The work group continued development of conceptual models that describe the life history of and required monitoring for steelhead and responded to feedback from state and federal agencies on revisions to the monitoring plan to include more details on each life stage of steelhead and how to better highlight monitoring needs.

Staff also worked with California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) scientists to develop a new entrainment risk model for larval longfin smelt. The entrainment risk model will be designed to help inform risk assessment evaluations and the development of a larval entrainment monitoring program.

Staff continued collaboration with the state and federal agencies to develop alternatives related to a non-physical barrier at Georgiana Slough. The purpose of the barrier is to deter emigrating juvenile salmon moving to the ocean from entering Georgiana Slough and thereafter the interior central and south Delta, where survival is lower relative to remaining in the mainstem Sacramento River.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective # 1 Pursue completion of the planning and permitting process for the single tunnel Delta Conveyance Project (DCP).

#### Delta Conveyance

DWR is continuing to develop an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Delta Conveyance Project.

In late November, DWR amended its U.S. Department of the Army permit application pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (Section 404 permit application), which was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to make the application consistent with the Bethany Alternative. The Bethany

Alternative will be the proposed project in the Draft EIR that is expected to be released for public review in mid-2022. The Bethany Alternative will more closely align with the Section 404 directive to propose a project that would avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the United States to the extent practicable.

## BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES *continued*

### Joint Powers Authorities

During the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Special Board of Director's Meeting on December 16, 2021, the DCA adopted a resolution to continue remote teleconference meetings pursuant to the Brown Act Section 54953(e) for meetings of the DCA.

The final regularly scheduled DCA Stakeholder Engagement Committee Meeting occurred on December 8, 2021, during which it received updates on the review process and presentations on the updated intake conceptual design and ongoing DCA outreach efforts.

During the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) regularly scheduled December 16, 2021, meeting, the DCFA adopted a resolution to continue remote teleconference meetings pursuant to the Brown Act Section 54953(e) for meetings of the DCFA.

Objective # 2 Support environmental restoration project opportunities that meet the goals of the California EcoRestore program.

On December 3, staff participated on a tour organized by the Yolo Basin Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Yolo County, and CDFW to view recently completed infrastructure improvements in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The multi-purpose project increases seasonal wetland acreage, improves drainage and water supply for rice fields and managed wetlands while improving access for farmers, wetland managers, and the public. Metropolitan and the State Water Contractors are project partners and helped fund the modeling and design studies to support development of the project.

Objective # 3 Engage in planning and permitting activities for the Sites Reservoir.

On November 12, 2021, the Sites Project Authority released its Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comment. Staff is reviewing the draft. Comments are due January 11, 2022.

In their joint December 17 meeting, the Sites Project Authority Board (Authority Board) and the Sites Reservoir Committee (Reservoir Committee) authorized the Executive Director to submit the California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit application to CDFW for potential construction of the Sites Reservoir.

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation**

Objective # 1 Provide leadership through advancing scientific knowledge that promotes opportunities for the improvement of SWP supply reliability through the improvement and protection of estuarine processes, native species, and Delta ecosystem health.

Staff participated in a technical workshop on preliminary results of a salmon research project conducted by Anchor QEA consultants and funded by the Delta Science Program and Metropolitan. The objective of the project is to evaluate juvenile salmon behavioral responses to hydrodynamic conditions in the Delta. The workshop allowed stakeholders to review and provide constructive feedback on analyses and interpretation of how hydrodynamics may influence salmon behavior and routing in the South Delta. Anchor QEA will address comments and refine analyses and interpretation of results based on workshop comments and finalize a report by June 2022.

Staff continued collaboration with the non-government environmental organizations on the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program Salmon Recovery Initiative. The group completed the second set of workshops to develop metrics and targets to measure progress toward salmon recovery. The workshops generated productive discussion among environmental organizations, water agencies, and state and federal resource agencies to consider various ideas and approaches to defining salmon recovery in a broad sense, and all participants expressed their gratitude

## BAY-DELTA INITIATIVES *continued*

and enjoyment in participating in the process. The outreach efforts for Phase 2 are currently being planned and will start in January 2022. The objective of Phase 2 of the Salmon Recovery Initiative is to reach out to other Central Valley stakeholders to share and communicate what occurred in Phase 1 to define salmon recovery and assemble information about existing salmon conditions; ongoing and planned salmon-related actions; and related socio-ecological considerations.

### CORE BUSINESS RELIABILITY

Objective # 1 Provide analysis of key regulations and legislation that may influence SWP supply reliability, Bay Delta water quality and environmental health.

In December, the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) began the technical input process for the Climate Adaptation Strategy phase of its Delta Adapts initiative. The Council is seeking expert input to the Adaptation Strategy through four topical focus groups: Water Supply Reliability, Ecosystems, Flood Risk Reduction, and Agriculture. Staff will be actively participating in all four focus groups over the next year.

At its December 16 meeting, the Council elected Virginia Madueño as Vice Chair effective January 1, 2022. The role was most recently held by Randy Fiorini, whose appointment to the Council ended in 2020. Some additional changes in the Council Board membership could occur in the coming months, and staff will report any updates as well as status of activities in the months ahead.



## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

### CFO STRATEGIC PRIORITY: 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.

Objective #1 Establish rates and charges to maintain moderate overall rate increases, minimize variability, and recover costs consistent with Board policy.

On November 8, 2021 a Board of Directors Workshop was held on Demand Management Cost Recovery. On November 23, 2021 at a Special Board Meeting the Board approved the option to direct staff to incorporate the 100 percent Supply Alternative as the demand management cost recovery method used in the proposals for rates and charges.

Objective #2 Manage risk to protect Metropolitan's assets against exposure to loss.

The Risk Management Unit completed 33 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 62 risk assessments on contracts, including professional service agreements, construction contracts, entry permits, special events, and film permits.

### CORE PRIORITY: 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.

Objective #1 Manage the Business Continuity Management Program in accordance with Operating Policy A-06 policy.

- Participated in Metropolitan's Innovation Council. Key activities, including defining key program deliverables and metrics for measuring program effectiveness.
- Participated in a Cybersecurity internal audit along with IT and WSO staff.
- Formed a Business Continuity Steering Committee and conducted the inaugural meeting. Comprising key leadership from across Metropolitan, the purpose of this standing committee is to serve as an advisory and decision-making group for the Business Continuity Program.

### CORE BUSINESS: 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 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.

Objective #1 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 November 2021 totaled 150.0 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 11.4 TAF higher than the budget of 138.6 TAF. This translates to \$132.0 million in revenues for November 2021, which were \$8.8 million higher than budget of \$123.2 million.
- Year-to-date water transactions through November 2021 were 789.6 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 57.8 TAF higher than the budget of 731.8 thousand acre-feet (TAF). Year-to-date water revenues through November 2021 were \$714.1 million, which were \$41.8 million higher than the budget of \$672.3 million.
- In November 2021, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,400 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$5,500 in discounts.

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER *continued*

Objective #4 Update capital financing plans and work with rating agencies and investors to communicate financial needs and capabilities, ensure cost-effective access to capital markets, and maintain long-term bond ratings of AA or better.

On November 22, Metropolitan received 25 responses for its Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select a team of underwriters for bond issuances in calendar year 2022. A final selection will be completed in January 2022. Finance staff is continuing its review of Appendix A, with the objective of enhancing the disclosure document before next year's cycle of bond issuances.

Objective #5 Prudently manage the investment of Metropolitan's funds in accordance with policy guidelines and liquidity considerations.

As of November 30, 2021, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.35 billion; for the month of November 2021, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 35 trades.

During the month of November 2021, Treasury staff processed 1,006 disbursements by check, 19 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 97 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 52 receipts by check, 26 receipts by ACH, and 46 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

## ENGINEERING SERVICES

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Enhance Infrastructure Safety, Security, and Resiliency

Objective #1: Manage and execute Board-authorized projects within the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) to ensure the reliable delivery of water to Metropolitan's member agencies.

#### Distribution System Reliability Program

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

- **Casa Loma Siphon Upgrades**—This project will mitigate leaks associated with long-term ground subsidence and will improve seismic resilience of the siphon as it crosses the Casa Loma Fault. This project replaces approximately 1,200 feet of the Casa Loma Siphon Barrel No. 1 at a fault crossing using earthquake-resistant ductile iron pipe (ERDIP) and welded steel pipe (WSP). The delivery of ERDIP and WSP is complete. Final design for pipe installation is complete. A construction contract was awarded by the Board in December 2021.
- **Etiwanda Pipeline Rehabilitation, Stage 3**—This project replaces delaminated mortar lining in 5.5 miles of pipeline with polyurethane lining. This project was conducted in three stages. Stages 1 and 2, which included polyurethane lining of 3 miles are complete. Stage 3 will reline 2.5 miles of pipeline with polyurethane lining and include installation of 1,300 feet of new internal steel pipe in areas with more extensive corrosion. Procurement of internal steel liner pipe was awarded by the Board in November 2021 with expected deliveries by June 2022. Final design of Stage 3 work, which includes installation of the steel liner, is 98.5 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by February 2022. Advertisement for construction bids will take place in the first quarter of 2022.
- **Lake Mathews Disaster Recovery Facility Upgrades**—This project makes structural upgrades to the building's roof and interior walls to resist seismic events; it also upgrades the fire suppression system and constructs a retaining wall to ensure stability of the nearby slope. The contractor has received approval for the fire suppression system from Riverside County Fire Department and has initiated procurement of the fire suppression system. Construction is approximately 82 percent complete; however, the contractor is currently experiencing COVID-19 related material shortages of materials. The anticipated project completion date is April 2022.
- **Right of Way and Infrastructure Protection improvements, Western San Bernardino County, Stage 1**—The project implements erosion, access, and security measures throughout the West San Bernardino County region. Final Design is complete and a board action for award of a construction contract is planned for March 2022.

### Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Reliability Program

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

- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates the remaining 28 miles of PCCP segments within the Second Lower Feeder and will enhance delivery reliability to member agencies. Long-term rehabilitation of this pipeline is being staged over a period of eight to ten years, with multiple construction and procurement contracts. Final design of Reach 3, the westernmost portion of Second Lower Feeder, spanning approximately 4.8 miles through the cities of Lomita, Torrance, Los Angeles, and Rolling Hills Estates, will be divided into two construction packages, Reach 3A and Reach 3B. Reach 3A is 99 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by January 2022. Board award of the construction contract for Reach 3A is anticipated in May 2022. Reach 3B is 92-percent complete and scheduled to be complete by June 2022. Study efforts continue for Reach 9, an approximately 0.8-mile-long portion of Second Lower Feeder in western Long Beach that crosses the Los Angeles River.
- **Second Lower Feeder Isolation Valve Procurement**—This fabrication contract provides 13 conical plug valves for the Second Lower Feeder PCCP rehabilitation. These valves, which include three 48-inch and ten 54-inch diameter, provide primary isolation for maintenance activities, inspections, and repairs required to maintain reliable water deliveries within Metropolitan's distribution system. Fabrication of these valves is approximately 53 percent complete. All three 48-inch conical plug valves have been delivered. Fabrication of seven 54-inch valves is in progress. The first two 54-inch valves are scheduled to be delivered in March 2022, and the next five will be delivered between September 2022 and July 2023. Fabrication of three remaining 54-inch valves is scheduled to start in 2022 and be completed in late-2023.
- **Sepulveda Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates 35 miles of PCCP segments within the Sepulveda Feeder and will enhance delivery reliability to member agencies. Long-term rehabilitation of the Sepulveda Feeder will be staged over multiple years with multiple construction and procurement contracts. Final design of Reach 1 and Reach 2 are occurring simultaneously, are 10 percent complete, and are scheduled to be complete by February 2023. Preliminary design to rehabilitate the remaining reaches of the feeder continues. Reaches 1, 4, and 5 will be inspected in February 2022 as part of regularly scheduled inspections for this feeder.
- **Lake Mathews PCCP Valve Storage**—This project constructs a pre-engineered metal building for storage of Metropolitan-furnished equipment, such as valves and actuators, that will be used for upcoming prestressed concrete cylinder pipeline rehabilitation projects. Final design is complete and a board action for award of construction contract is planned for February 2022.





Second Lower Feeder Isolation Valve Procurement—Welding on the 54-Inch Diameter Conical Plug Valve

### Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Reliability Program

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

- **CRA Domestic Water Treatment System Replacement**—This project replaces the membrane filtration system and associated water treatment equipment at the five Colorado River Aqueduct pumping plants. Procurement of water treatment equipment is complete with expected deliveries in two shipments, in mid-2022 and early 2024. A construction contract was awarded by the Board in December 2021. Contract work activities will commence upon issuance of the Notice to Proceed to the contractor.
- **Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Structure Rehabilitation**—This project replaces the existing deteriorated discharge valve and refurbishes the valve house and discharge structure at the base of the Gene Wash Reservoir dam. If the reservoir needed to be drained rapidly in the event of an emergency, the valve would be opened to safely release the water. The contractor completed the valve house refurbishment and the sluiceway pipe relining

## ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

and began installation of the discharge valve and actuator. Construction is 80 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2022.

- **CRA Cranes Rehabilitation**—This project replaces the pumphouse overhead bridge cranes, retrofits the support structure of the below grade pump bays, and upgrades the crane electrical system at the CRA's pumping plants. Construction is 5 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by September 2023. The contractor is currently working on submittals for Metropolitan's review.
- **CRA Storage Buildings at Hinds, Eagle Mountain, and Iron Mountain**—This project furnishes and installs two new storage buildings (six total) and constructs associated site improvements at the Hinds, Eagle Mountain, and Iron Mountain pumping plants. Final design is 95 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by January 2022.

### 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 Plant

- **Weymouth Chlorination System Upgrades**—This project expands the existing chlorine building to house additional chlorination feed equipment and instrumentation at the Weymouth plant. The chlorination system at the Weymouth plant is a critical component of the plant's disinfection process. The contractor completed testing of the chlorine system and construction was completed in December 2021.
- **Weymouth Water Quality Instrumentation Improvements**—Metropolitan accepted and approved contractor work completion and issued the notice of completion to the contractor on December 1, 2021.

#### Diemer Plant

- **Diemer Water Sampling System Improvements**—This project upgrades the existing Diemer water sampling system, comprising 13 sample locations, and will improve the accuracy and timeliness of collected data. At each location, the sample pump, piping, and field analyzers will be upgraded by Metropolitan staff. Metropolitan staff continues installation and commissioning activities for the water quality field analyzers. Construction is 99 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by January 2022.

#### Jensen Plant

- **Jensen Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2**—This three-stage project upgrades the electrical system with dual power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practice; it also improves plant reliability and enhances worker safety. Stage 1 work is complete. Stage 2 improvements will upgrade Unit Power Centers 7 and 9 and their associated motor control centers (MCCs) to support critical process equipment. The contractor completed commissioning of the service water and washwater pumps and continues to work on Building 12 and cutover of other MCCs. Construction is 92 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2022.

## ENGINEERING SERVICES *continued*

### System Reliability Program

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

- **Headquarters Building Improvements**—This project provides seismic upgrades and other needed improvements to the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. Construction related to the original contract scope is substantially complete. The contractor continues to work on approved change order scope items such as the electrical work for the power door-assist devices and the UVC air disinfection system. Staff is working with the contractor to complete change order work while the building remains lightly occupied. The anticipated contract completion is in the first quarter of 2022.
- **Board and Committee Room Upgrades**—This project upgrades and enhances the reliability of the audio/visual (A/V) systems in the boardroom, three committee rooms and the rotunda at the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. Engineering Services, IT, and Facilities Management are working collaboratively on this technology replacement project. The contractor has completed A/V equipment installation, commissioning, and user acceptance activities in the committee rooms and the boardroom. Construction is substantially complete, and all systems are fully operational. Installation of a redundant network to enhance system reliability was completed in December 2021.
- **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 enhances security related to perimeter windows and doors. Stage 2 improvements will provide security system upgrades inside the building with a focus on the main entry rotunda area, board room, executive dining lounge, and security control room. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. Construction of Stage 1 improvements is complete. Construction of Stage 2 improvements is 79 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2022. The contractor completed security equipment installation on Floors 3 through 12, began testing and cutover to the new security system, and is continuing the rotunda equipment installation. Design of Stage 3 is complete and board award of a construction contract is planned in the first quarter of 2022.
- **Headquarters Building Fire Alarm and Smoke Control System Upgrades**—This project upgrades the Metropolitan Headquarters Building fire life safety systems, which includes replacement of the fire detection and alarm system and HVAC system improvements for smoke control. The fire alarm and smoke control systems in the Metropolitan Headquarters Building provide detection, notification, and control of building functions so that occupants and visitors can safely exit in the event of a fire. The contractor began the fire alarm system cutover on the first floor and is continuing installation of the electrical closets, Emergency Radio Responder System, carbon monoxide controller, and the distributed antenna system. Construction is 28 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by February 2023.



**Headquarters Building Improvements—Installation of UVC light controls in HVAC system**

# ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

## GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide planning, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and regulatory permitting support for programs and projects that focus on infrastructure reliability and redundancy.

### Regulatory Permitting Support

- Negotiated conditions and received the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) for the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Conduit Structural Protection Project.

### Perris Valley Pipeline

- Completed biological assessment of the pipe staging area at Lake Mathews (see photos).



**Abandoned wood rat nest inside a pipe stored at Lake Mathews**



**Wood rat skull**

Objective #2 Emphasize employee development and recruitment, knowledge capture, cross-training, management/leadership training, and succession planning.

### Webinars attended by staff:

- Envision Sustainability Professional training workshop hosted by LA Metro
- Public Workshop: 2022 Scoping Plan Update—Natural and Working Lands Scenarios Technical Workshop
- Water for Climate Action: Reducing GHG Emissions Webinar
- Water, Climate Mitigation, Resiliency, and Sustainability

## GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #2 Provide planning, CEQA/NEPA, and regulatory permitting support for projects and activities that address the challenges of sustainability, including aging infrastructure, contaminants of concern, and affordability of water supplies.

### Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project

- Reviewed and discussed with stakeholders the Responses to Comments and the draft Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR).



## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING *continued*

### Regional Recycled Water Program

- Presented a CEQA 101 training to External Affairs.

### Weymouth Water Treatment Plant

- Finalized Tree Mitigation Survey Report for the Wheeler Gate Security Improvement Project.
- Finalized the Historic Design Report and participated in Value Engineering Workshop for the Weymouth Administration Building Seismic Upgrade Project.
- Finalized Addendum No. 1 to the 2015 Weymouth EIR in support of Weymouth Basins 5–8 Rehabilitation.

### San Gabriel Tower and Improvements Project

- Finalized the Biological Technical Report.

Objective #3 Continue to actively manage Metropolitan's more than 30,000 acres of conservation lands through cooperative relationships with public agencies and non-governmental conservation organizations to promote sustainability of reserve resources.

### Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Reserve to be included in the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count in cooperation with the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority.
- Collaborated with the Cal-Fire archeologist on the proposed 2022 prescribed burn plan.
- Continued restoration efforts in Tualota Creek, including tamarisk removal and propagating native plant cuttings for future planting in the restoration site.

### Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Completed a grassland restoration project, which included recording pre-project baseline vegetation conditions, preparing seeding areas by scarifying the uppermost layer of soil, sowing native seed on the site, and covering the seeds with existing topsoil by dragging the restoration area (see photo).
- Initiated a coastal sage scrub restoration project by recording baseline vegetation data and seeding the site.



Restoration Seeding at Lake Mathews Reserve

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING *continued*

Objective #4 Develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) and prepare CEQA documentation to be used to offset greenhouse (GHG) emissions from future construction projects. Identify new and continuing conservation efforts for the purpose of reducing future GHG reductions, as well as highlighting Metropolitan's effort to achieve those reductions, and develop a tracking methodology to ensure Metropolitan is meeting its goal.

### Climate Action Plan

- Participated as presenter and panelist for the Coalition for Clean Air Webinar—Water, Climate Mitigation, Resiliency, and Sustainability.
- Organized and conducted CAP Stakeholder Engagement Workshop for interested parties.
- Gave CAP presentation to the Los Angeles Business Council Energy and the Environment Committee.
- Presented and led discussion regarding CAP at the Member Agency Managers meeting.
- Presented at the General Manager's Environmental Listening Session for Draft CAP.
- Participated in the Districtwide Zero and Near Zero Emissions Fleet Infrastructure Study kick-off meeting.
- Developed content for Metropolitan's Addressing Climate Change webpage.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3 Innovation

Objective #1 Pursue programmatic CEQA and regulatory permitting efforts for operations and maintenance activities throughout Metropolitan's service area to streamline clearances for capital projects and O&M activities.

### Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Compliance

- Completed final review of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for Reclamation Plans.
- Scheduled January 2022 site visits with Department of Conservation staff to view reclamation project sites.

### Western San Bernardino Right of Way and Infrastructure Protection Program (RWIPP)

- Completed updated biological surveys in support of regulatory permitting.

Objective #2 Develop and improve internal processes, procedures, systems, and databases to streamline and standardize environmental analysis and project clearance in support of customers.

- Finalized the WSO Coordination EForm analysis template for exempt projects and drafted standard environmental clearance requirements for the WSO Coordination EForm.
- Began preparation of EIR and MND standard templates.

Objective #3 Partner and collaborate with regulatory and resources agencies, as well as other public agencies and external organizations, to build relationships and expedite/streamline environmental authorizations and clearances for Metropolitan projects.

- Coordinated with the Western Science Center for proper curation of Metropolitan-owned cultural and paleontological resources located at the Diamond Valley Lake Visitor's Center.

### CORE BUSINESS: Regulatory Compliance

Objective #1 Provide timely and professional environmental planning services and CEQA and regulatory permitting support to ESG, WSO, WRM, External Affairs, and Real Property groups.

### Engineering Services

- Provided design phase support for the following projects:
  1. Black Metal Mountain 2.4 kV Electrical Rehabilitation
  2. Cabazon Radial Gate Facility Rehabilitation
  3. Cholla Wash Relining Projects

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING *continued*

4. CRA Delivery Line Rehabilitation
  5. CRA 69kV and 230kV Transformers Replacement
  6. CRA Housing, CRA Storage Buildings
  7. CRA Pump Plant 2.3 kV and 480V Rehab
  8. Copper Basin Access Road and Discharge Valve Repair
  9. Etiwanda Pipeline Relining
  10. Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation
  11. Foothill Hydroelectric Plant Seismic Upgrades
  12. La Verne Water Quality Building Improvements
  13. Lower Feeder and West Orange County Blowoff Drain Line Repairs
  14. Western San Bernardino RWIPP Construction Package 1
  15. Weymouth Basins 5-8 Rehabilitation
  16. Weymouth Administration Building Seismic Upgrades
  17. Weymouth Battery Energy Storage
- Provided construction phase support for the following projects:
    1. CRA Mile 12 Flow Monitoring Station Upgrades
    2. CRA Overhead Cranes
    3. Garvey Reservoir Permanent Drainage and Erosion Improvements
    4. Gene Wash Discharge Valve Rehabilitation
    5. Live Oak Reservoir Asphalt Upgrades
    6. Weymouth Water Quality Implementations
  - Conducted sensitive species and nesting bird surveys to ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Codes for the Gene Wash Discharge Valve Rehabilitation Project.

### Water System Operations

- Provided CEQA analysis and environmental planning support for the following O&M activities:
  1. Diemer Erosion Repair Project within the Shell-Metropolitan Habitat Conservation Plan area
  2. SCAQMD Blast Booth Permit
  3. MSU Plasma Arc System Installation
  4. Sepulveda Feeder Shutdown
  5. Jensen Plant Shutdown 2022
  6. CRA Shutdown activities
- Received the draft CDFW SAA for the January 2022 Lake Skinner Outlet Tower Shutdown/Dewatering.
- Submitted SAA notification to CDFW for the March 2022 Lower Feeder Shutdown/Dewatering.
- Applied for and received a major amendment for the Cajalco Creek Dam and Detention Basin—Lake Mathews Long-Term Routine Maintenance SAA to remove phasing requirements for vegetation and sediment removal.
- Submitted the final report to CDFW in accordance with the Foothill Feeder Routine Maintenance at San Francisquito High Rise (Station 287+00) and Santa Clara River (Station 383+90) Blow-Off Structures SAA.
- Submitted a request to extend the Routine Maintenance at the Foothill Feeder San Francisquito High Rise (Station 287+00) and Santa Clara River (Station 383+90) Blow-Off Structures SAA.
- Supported Upper Feeder Santa Ana River Bridge Crossing vegetation maintenance and road grading under the Long-Term Routine Maintenance SAA.
- Conducted numerous Environmental Awareness Trainings for staff and contractors.

### Water Resource Management

- Provided environmental clearance for various drought emergency initiatives.
- Completed Notices of Exemption (NOEs) and filed NOEs with multiple county clerk offices for the Article 56 Carryover Water Agreement.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING *continued*

### **Bay Delta Initiatives**

- Reviewed and commented on the Reclamation District No. 756 Administrative Draft Initial Study/MND for the Bouldin Island Levee Rehabilitation Project.
- Reviewed and commented on the Recirculated Draft EIR/Environmental Impact Statement for the Sites Reservoir Project.
- Participated in the Bay-Delta Policies Update Workshop No.1.

### **External Environmental Document Reviews**

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

### **Real Property Support**

- Provided CEQA analysis and determinations in support of three real property agreements.
- Provided CEQA analysis and determinations in support of two annexations:
  1. CMWD Annexation 104 (Rio Urbana)
  2. CMWD Annexation 106 (Cypress Gardens)



## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PRIORITY: Advance Initiatives to Educate and Inform the Public, Elected Officials and Stakeholders on Water Supply Conditions and Important Water Management Decisions.**

External Affairs will develop and maintain relationships with the public, legislative leaders, government officials, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders, and implement effective and diverse communication and outreach strategies on the value of water, current water supply conditions, innovative strategies to address current and future challenges, and the importance of Metropolitan actions and leadership to promote stewardship, planning and investments to benefit the region.

**Objective #1** Recognizing there is a new normal that is directly impacting California water conditions driven, in part, by more volatile supply conditions due to climate change, and informing key stakeholders, news media, businesses and the public on the need for sustained conservation actions, support for new water supply projects and continued investment in imported water systems to maintain water supply reliability and protect the environment.

GM Hagekhalil participated in and Metropolitan sponsored the Heal the Bay “One Water Day” event at which local leaders discussed systemic water quality issues, the impacts of climate change, and cooperative solutions for Los Angeles. Other participating agencies were LADWP, Las Virgenes MWD, LA County Dept. of Public Works, LA Sanitation and Environment, and the LA County Sanitation Districts. (December 3)

Chairwoman Gray, GM Hagekhalil, and AGM-EA Zinke traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with other public agencies and labor representatives to discuss efforts to strengthen federal-local partnerships in order to increase contracting opportunities for historically underutilized businesses. Meetings were also held with Department of Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Trujillo, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation Touton, Senators Feinstein and Padilla, and Representatives Napolitano and Calvert to brief them on key water issues including drought conditions, the 500+ plan for the Colorado River, tax parity for water conservation rebates, and federal investments in recycled water projects. (December 6–7).



**Chairwoman Gray, GM Hagekhalil, AGM Zinke, and Exec. Legislative Rep. Schneider with Biden Administration officials**



Chairwoman Gray, Directors Blois, Camacho, DeJesus, Erdman, Jung, Kurtz, Morris, G. Peterson, Quinn, Record and Tamaribuchi, GM Hagekhalil, General Counsel Scully, AGMs Upadhyay, Zinke, and staff attended the Colorado River Water Users Association’s Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. (December 14–17). Events included:



**MWD General Counsel Scully, GM Hagekhalil, Quechan President Jordan Joaquin and legal counsel Jay Weiner**

- GM Hagekhalil and EO/AGM Upadhyay participated in panel discussions on Metropolitan’s actions and investments for future supply reliability including Colorado River conservation actions, new local supplies, and the Regional Recycled Water Project.
- Metropolitan, together with Arizona and Nevada, announced plans to invest up to \$200 million for conservation projects to conserve water in the Basin. (500+ Plan)
- Metropolitan signed an agreement with the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation for a two-year seasonal fallowing pilot that will conserve Colorado River water for urban use or to store in Lake Mead.
- US Department of Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Trujillo was the guest of honor at Metropolitan’s reception.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

### **CORE BUSINESS: Legislative, Communications, Community Relations, Public and Business Outreach**

Engage the public, labor, business community, agriculture, government leaders, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in California's water issues, communicating Metropolitan's interests and Board-adopted policies through federal and state legislative strategies, multimedia and multi-cultural communications, and educational and other outreach programs. Inform the public about Metropolitan projects, facilities, operations and initiatives to gather input and support, foster competitive and diverse business opportunities, and facilitate innovation and technology sharing.

Objective #1 LEGISLATIVE SERVICES - Develop and implement local, state and federal legislative and regulatory strategies consistent with Board-adopted policies. Promote interaction between Metropolitan leadership and various stakeholders, including elected officials, to facilitate support for water policy issues.

### **Federal**

Lawmakers passed a continuing resolution to fund the federal government at FY 2021 levels until February 18. Metropolitan staff continues to advocate for increased funding for water programs in FY 2022. (December 3)

Senators Feinstein and Padilla issued a press release on their correspondence asking Interior Secretary Haaland to prioritize funding in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for California projects to address climate-driven droughts including regional priorities that align with Metropolitan's One Water vision. (December 18)

### **State**

Metropolitan staff attended the California Moderate Democratic Caucus and briefed members about drought impacts, water infrastructure and supply challenges, and opportunities for new policies and state investments. (December 14)

With the state projecting a \$31 billion budget surplus, Metropolitan plans to pursue funding to support water infrastructure projects and focus on legislative priorities including advancing SB 230 (Portantino, D-La Cañada Flintridge) to create a Constituents of Emerging Concern Program for Drinking Water at the State Water Board, and new legislation authorizing the use of alternative delivery methods for the design and construction of drought-related projects and the Regional Recycled Water Program.

Metropolitan was awarded \$ 183,675 in COVID-19 relief funding under the \$100 million relief program from the Department of Finance. (December 16)

### **Local**

Chairwoman Gray, GM Hagekhalil, and Director Luna attended a Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) event. GM Hagekhalil spoke on drought impacts to the regions and other challenges facing the water community that may garner legislative attention next year. In attendance were Senators Durazo (D-Los Angeles) and Rubio (D-Baldwin Park), and Assembly Members Rivas (D-Arleta), Carrillo (D-Los Angeles), and Santiago (D-Los Angeles). (December 2)

Metropolitan staff coordinated two presentations to the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Energy, Water, and Environmental Sustainability Council, providing an update on drought and on the draft Climate Adaptation Plan. (December 2)



## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Metropolitan staff participated in webinars and events this month with chambers of commerce, business associations, councils of governments, and public affairs networks throughout the service area including:

- Southern California Edison workshop on Horticulture (December 1)
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Board (December 2)
- Glendale Chamber of Commerce Business Advocacy/Legislative Review Committee (December 2)
- Los Angeles Business Council Energy & Environment Committee (December 2)
- LAX Coastal Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee (December 2)
- South Bay Cities Council of Governments Legislative Committee (December 2)
- Glendora Chamber of Commerce Economic Development and Legislative Action Committee (December 2)
- Water Associations of the County of Orange (December 3)
- Orange County Business Council Government Affairs Committee (December 3)
- Southern California Edison Water Workshop (December 4)
- South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce Board and Government Affairs Committee (December 7)
- Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Policy Committee (December 9)
- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (December 9)
- Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (December 9)
- San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Legislative Roundtable with Assembly Member Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) (December 9)
- US Water Alliance Water Webinar (December 10)
- South Bay Cities Council of Governments Steering Committee (December 13)
- Building Industry Association of Southern California Board of Directors and Housing Summit (December 14)
- Los Angeles County Business Federation Board of Directors (December 14)
- Orange County Business Council Infrastructure Committee (December 14)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition Legislative Meeting (December 15)
- Alhambra Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (December 15)
- Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality Board of Directors and Regulatory Affairs Committee (December 15)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee (December 15)
- Oxnard Leadership Steering Committee (December 16)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Governing Board (December 16)
- Anaheim Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (December 17)

**Objective #2 MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS** - Communicate Metropolitan's policy priorities, actions and initiatives through various means to raise public awareness, enhance Metropolitan's visibility and cultivate support for Metropolitan priorities. Update and develop new communications tools, materials and platforms to ensure Metropolitan information reaches diverse audiences throughout its service area in a cost-effective, timely, relevant manner that reflects current communications trends.

### **Media Activities and Interviews**

Arranged various interviews on State Water Project zero percent initial allocation with KABC-TV Channel 7 reporter Leticia Juarez and GM Hagekhalil, and with KNX-AM 1070's David Singer and EO/AGM Upadhyay and referred reporters to member agencies most affected by low allocation.

Coordinated interviews at Colorado River Water Users Association conference regarding 500+ plan with Associated Press reporter Brittany Peterson, Los Angeles Times' Ian James, Tony Davis of the Arizona Daily Star, KNX-AM 1070's Mike Simpson and Charles Feldman, and NBC national digital news staff.



## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

Arranged interview between WRM's water efficiency expert Guerrero and NBC4 reporter Patrick Healy on stopping outdoor watering during and after rains.

Arranged interview with Estuary News magazine and GM Hagekhalil for profile and podcast.

### Press Releases

Statement from GM Hagekhalil regarding Department of Water Resources initial zero percent SWP allocation for 2022

Joint press release with the San Diego County Water Authority on an agreement to use stored Semitropic Water Bank supplies in Kern County to help meet demands in SWP-dependent areas

Press release on Metropolitan Board of Directors' drought actions for State Water Project-dependent areas

Joint press release and advisory with the Bureau of Reclamation, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Project, and the Southern Nevada Water Authority on 500+ Plan

Joint press release with the Quechan Tribe during the CRWUA conference on new seasonal land following program

Press releases on new San Diego County Water Authority directors Marty Miller and Lois Fong-Sakai

### Website

Logged nearly 127,000 visits to the mwdh2o.com website with the homepage, careers, Board and Our Story among the most popular destinations.

Generated 23,010 views on bewaterwise.com, with the turf replacement and rebates the most visited pages.

### Social Media

Initiated the second phase of conservation advertising campaign on social media, which has so far delivered more than 16,000 visits to bewaterwise.com, reaching more than 1.1 million with 3.4 million impressions. Customized assets were created and posted for SDCWA, Las Virgenes, Calleguas, and other cities.



Garnered significant engagement on Twitter for posts detailing Metropolitan drought actions, including GM Hagekhalil statement in response to DWR's announcement of zero percent allocation for the State Water Project, which received more than 4,000 impressions.



Received strong engagement on both Instagram and Twitter for Metropolitan's participation in Heal the Bay's One Water Day.

Generated high organic impressions and engagement in response to posts about recent visits by state legislators to the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center.



## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*

**Objective #3 PUBLIC OUTREACH AND MEMBER SERVICES** - Conduct public outreach to increase awareness and input on Metropolitan projects and initiatives and ensure impacted communities are aware of Metropolitan construction and maintenance activities. Enhance public awareness of Metropolitan's systems and facilities and the role they play in regional supply reliability while protecting environmental resources. Serve as liaison to Metropolitan's member agencies and facilitate their engagement with Metropolitan.

### **Member Agency Support**

Coordinated a meeting with Member Agency general managers to discuss strategic priorities, water supply conditions and operations, Colorado River updates, key findings for the draft IRP, draft Climate Action Plan, the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and proposed changes to the On-Site Retrofit Program. (December 3)

Met with Member Agency public information officers to discuss drought messaging, advertising, and outreach activities. (December 8)

### **Regional Recycled Water Program**

Metropolitan staff provided tours of the Advanced Purification Center in Carson for Senators Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), Bradford (D-Gardena), and Kamlager (D-Los Angeles), along with Assembly Members Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), and staff from the offices of Assembly Members Friedman (D-Glendale) and Rivas (D-Arleta). (December 7)

Presentations on the Regional Recycled Water Program were provided to the following organizations:

- Pasadena Rotary (December 1)
- Sustainable Claremont (December 13)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (December 15)
- Sanitation Districts' Joint Water Pollution Control Plant Citizens Advisory Committee (December 21)

### **Outreach**

Coordinated a virtual public workshop for the draft Climate Action Plan and Program EIR. (December 1)

Distributed 200 notices to residents and businesses in Granada Hills in preparation for the upcoming Sepulveda Feeder Shutdown. (December 21)

Coordinated a listening session with GM Hagekhalil focused on the draft Climate Action Plan for environmental organizations and other NGOs and member agencies. (December 17)

**Objective #4 EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS** - Facilitate public engagement in and understanding of water resource issues through community relations activities and education projects. Build awareness of and appreciation among Southern California for the value of clean, reliable water supplies and the importance of good water stewardship.

### **Education**

Metropolitan staff interacted with more than 600 teachers, students, and parents through online virtual tours, scouting programs, customized Zoom class presentations, and digital outreach.

Supported community events for the UC Berkeley, National Science Teachers Associations (NSTA), and Equity Diversity Inclusion virtual mini-series. Partnered with IE Works to provide California Labor Secretary Palugyai with a tour of new pre-apprentice, apprentice, and internships programs in the Inland Empire and with the Water Energy Education Alliance (WEEA) to promote water career technical education curriculum.

### **Point of Purchase Marketing in State Water Project Dependent Areas**

Launched program to place marketing materials in big box and other hardware and irrigation supplies stores throughout the Calleguas, Las Virgenes, and IEUA service areas to promote rebate eligible purchases to consumers.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS *continued*



Point of Purchase Marketing for Metropolitan and Member Agency Rebates

### 2022 Water is Life Calendar Event

Staff coordinated the 2022 “Water is Life” Recognition Event to honor the 37 student artists whose art works were selected for the 2022 Water is Life Calendar. More than 200 pieces of student art were submitted by 26 member agencies and retailers, and 15 student artists spoke about water conservation and the value of water. (December 6)



Objective #5 BUSINESS OUTREACH AND INNOVATION - Facilitate opportunities for small businesses to work with Metropolitan. Help position Metropolitan as a leader in water innovation.

Metropolitan supported small businesses and entrepreneurs throughout the region with online participation and, in some cases, sponsorship of the following programs, online conferences, webinars, and events:

- Planet Bids Sustainability and Diversity—Contracting for Social Initiatives webinar (December 6)
- Women’s Business Enterprise Council (WBEC-West) Rise Up Strategic Procurement Conference (December 6–8)
- USGBC-LA’s 2022 Outlook and Policy webinar (December 16)

Chairwoman Gray and AGM/CAO Chapman spoke at the Netherlands Road2LA Charrette. The event engaged some of the region’s water agencies about possible investment and innovative partnerships in areas such as rising sea levels, actionable data, and urban resilience. (December 1)

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: RESILIENCY

Objective #1 Partner with Metropolitan leadership to support learning, development, and adaptive workforce planning initiatives.

The Organizational Development and Training Unit continued its virtual Metropolitan Management University, a ten-session, bi-monthly program for 24 newly promoted managers. The third session included a discussion with HR Group Manager Diane Pitman regarding the important role that front-line managers play in engaging and motivating employees; it also addressed questions about COVID-19 and managing in a hybrid workplace. Other topics covered during the session included dealing with conflict and effectively providing feedback and assertive communication skills.

This month, 356 Metropolitan employees attended other online classes including Excel Pivot Tables, Intermediate, and LOOKUP, as well as Acrobat Fundamentals and Forms, Effective Communication Skills, Effective Time Management, Managing Emotions in the Workplace, Introduction to SharePoint and Teams, and Preventing Workplace Harassment.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online, e-learning content platform, was used for classes including topics on Balancing Work and Life, Avoiding New Manager Mistakes, Delivering Bad News Effectively, Holding your Team Accountable, and Virtual and Hybrid Meeting Essentials.

Objective #2 Seek diverse, high-quality talent, and establish partnerships to discover additional outreach opportunities that aid in staffing positions.

Recruitment successfully filled 17 positions for the month of December. We received 29 new staffing requisitions, resulting in 187 positions currently in recruitment. Recruitment continues virtual interviews using Zoom.

Job postings for the three new positions created by the General Manager (Chief Sustainability, Resiliency, and Innovation Officer; Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer; and Equal Employment Opportunity Officer) were finalized with The Hawkins Company and advertised.

Continuing the Expert Training Series at the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council, Ty Washington, the Executive Assistant General Manager of Workforce Diversity with the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (DWP) shared the specific initiatives, plans, and lessons learned based on DWP's diversity program.

Partnered with WSO to develop additional details on the design and curriculum of a Workforce Development pilot program focused on the trades and apprenticeship program.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: SUSTAINABILITY

Objective #1 Implement employee retention and engagement programs to ensure Metropolitan's investment in employees is supported.

Finalized the set-up of the new MET Rewards program with a new vendor, which will be implemented in February to the entire workforce. It includes an updated MET Store, expanded Service Award Gift options, and a new non-monetary peer-to-peer recognition option.

## HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

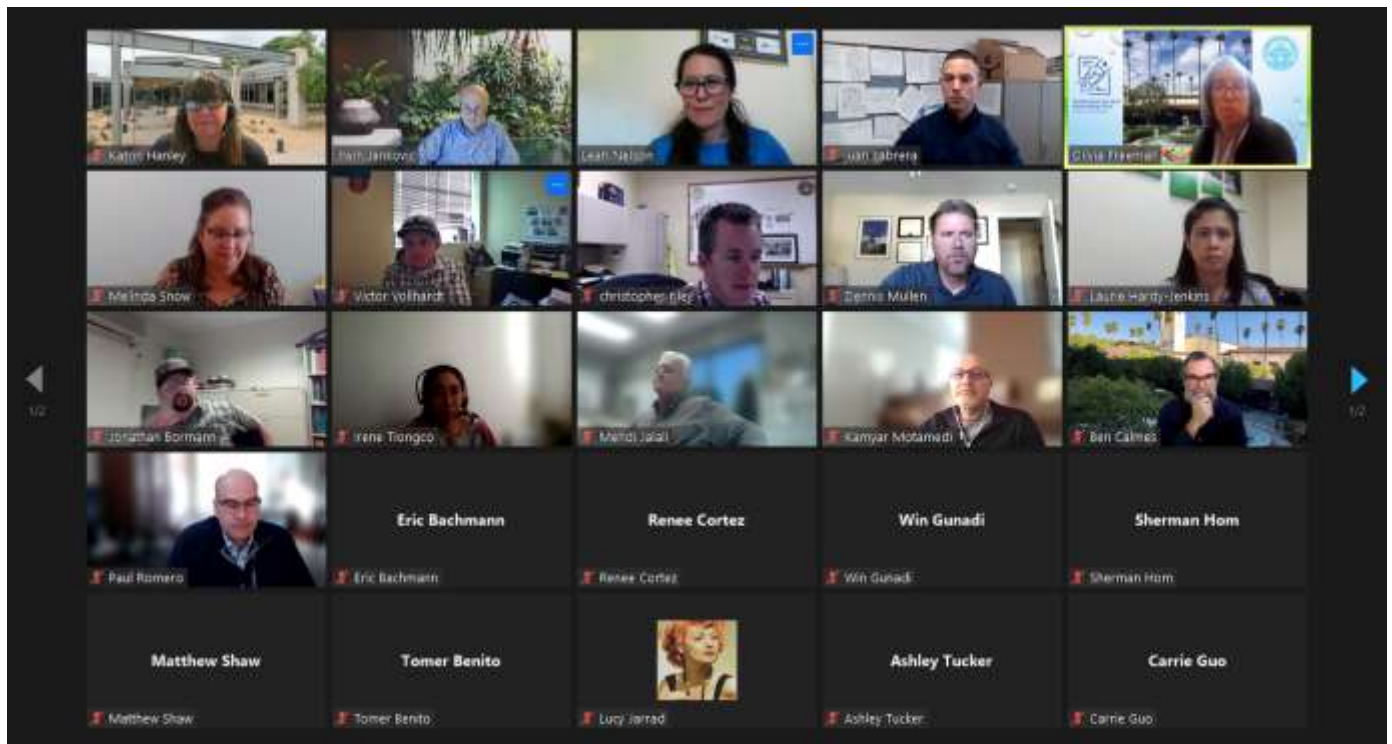
A recent anonymous survey asked employees to voluntarily share their vaccinated status. HR received over 1,000 responses and believe that 44 percent of the workforce is vaccinated with hundreds having already received their booster. This information will be helpful as we continue to monitor the guidelines and mandates being discussed by CalOSHA and the California Department of Public Health.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Human Resources Group Manager has organized a bi-weekly check-in meeting with all Group Managers focused on sharing the latest information on employee illness or potential exposure, issues raised by the bargaining units, and strategies for working through the complexities of COVID protocols, which increasingly include COVID vaccination mandates at the federal, state, and local levels. Staff are also continuing work on “tool kits” for managers and employees to facilitate the eventual return of employees to their regular work locations.

**Objective #2** Ensure Metropolitan managers have foundational knowledge, on-going support to effectively manage employees, and the tools to prepare for a changing workforce.

Ten managers attended the WSO Specialization Program, which focused on Self-Awareness, Influence, and Motivation and included a panel discussion by participants on Conflict Resolution and Motivation, as well as a detailed discussion on Emotional Intelligence for Managers.

Forty-six managers attended a course on Emotional Intelligence for Managers, presented by consultant Leah Nelson, which addressed the impact of emotional intelligence on self-perception, self-expression, interpersonal relationships, decision-making, and on managing stress.



Human Resources staff continued to provide one-on-one coaching and mediation services for managers and employees in the developmental areas of stress management, team dynamics, workload analysis, and delegation.



## HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

### **GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: INNOVATION**

Objective #1 Continue to upgrade HR's technological capabilities and continue to seek out improved technologies to better serve HR's customers.

HR staff showed the bargaining unit representatives the capabilities of the MyHR system to track vaccinated status, to start discussions about tracking employee vaccination status.

### **HR CORE BUSINESS: Provide Excellent Human Resources Services**

Human Resources provides a wide range of services and support from pre-hire to post retirement care. HR policies, procedures, and practices will be reviewed and revised as appropriate. HR will continually improve service and better utilize technologies.

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

HR Benefits distributed automated 2022 Benefits Confirmation Statements, which employees can also access by logging into MyHR. This has eliminated the manual process of separately generating and emailing PDF files to each employee.

On December 8, HR Benefits hosted the fourth quarter Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC) meeting to discuss ROTH options including implementation requirements and finalized approval of the 2022 Investment Policy Statement (IPS). New fund options will be added, and there will be new automated features for plan participants.

In December, Employee Relations staff met with AFSCME Local 1902 with the goal of reaching agreement on a new three-year contract, consistent with parameters approved by the OP&T Committee at its November meeting.

Biweekly discussions regarding COVID impacts also continued with the bargaining units. The parties are currently prioritizing the implementation of vaccinated status tracking, as well as planning for the return of employees to the headquarters building, as well as other administrative offices, on or after March 7, 2022.

### **HR CORE BUSINESS: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations**

Ensure all policies, programs, and practices comply with ever-changing laws and regulations. Compliance with applicable laws and policies requires monitoring and analyzing changing requirements, determining impact on Metropolitan management and staff, and implementing any changes necessary to maintain compliance. In addition, these changes must be clearly communicated to all customers as necessary, with any needed training provided, as appropriate.

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

In December, five new workers' compensation claims were received. Five employees remain 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 remain on the job.

Staff continue collaborating with other Metropolitan stakeholders to implement a new Incident Reporting and Case Management System designed by Ventiv Technology. Staff also continue to work closely with our new Workers Compensation Third-Party Administrator, TRISTAR Risk Management, during the transition.

- Coordinated two random drug tests.
- Arranged five medical evaluations (DMV and medical surveillance).
- Addressed five accommodation issues.

## HUMAN RESOURCES *continued*

HR Metrics	June 2021	December 2021	Prior Month November 2021
<b>Headcount</b>			
Regular Employees	1,806	1,782	1,784
Temporary Employees	30	33	34
Interns	3	3	3
Recurrents	20	20	20
Annuitants	16	14	15

	December 2021	November 2021
<b>Number of Recruitments in Progress</b> (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	187	175
<b>Number of New Staffing Requisitions</b>	29	28
	December 2021	November 2021
<b>Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress</b>	8	8
<b>Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits</b>	0	4
<b>Number of New Job Audit Requests</b>	0	0

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 20/21 Totals</u>	<u>December 2021</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	74	3	29
Temporary Employees	30	2	17
Interns	3	0	4
<b>Internal Promotions</b>	60	6	24
<b>Management Requested Promotions</b>	149	9	62
<b>Retirements/Separations</b> (regular employees)	78	5	53
<b>Employee Requested Transfers</b>	20	2	3

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

**OBJECTIVE #1** Strengthen Metropolitan's cybersecurity capabilities by deploying new and emerging technologies, and implementing enhanced security countermeasures.

Continued to implement cybersecurity projects and initiatives to improve Metropolitan's security posture and to collaborate with stakeholders to further enhance network security capabilities for Metropolitan's computing environments.

- Conducted cybersecurity updates to executive management as part of keeping management apprised of cybersecurity initiatives as well as on-going quarterly security briefings to the OP&T Committee.
- Maintained ongoing operational analysis, assessments, and monitoring of IT network and systems to identify potential vulnerabilities and remediate findings to protect Metropolitan against evolving cyber threats.
- Monitored and maintained IT network and remote connectivity to ensure secure and reliable services for employees' teleworking.

**OBJECTIVE #2** Manage Information Technology Projects within the Capital Investment Plan to ensure reliability of Information Technology (IT) Systems and Infrastructure.

- Continued to execute IT capital projects supporting Metropolitan's strategic priorities by replacing end-of-life infrastructure, upgrading applications, and delivering innovative solutions to ensure the reliability and resilience of IT systems. Selected project activities include:
  - **Windows Server Upgrade**—IT staff continued efforts to upgrade older Windows servers to up-to-date versions in order to better support Metropolitan business and operational applications. This includes moving selected applications to the cloud environment to improve reliability and allowing for the decommissioning of end-of-life hardware and legacy operating systems.
  - **Enterprise Data Analytics**—This project's scope is to develop a data and analytics strategy, create best practices, and engage Metropolitan stakeholders on a technology blueprint to serve the data analytics needs of Metropolitan business groups. In December, the project team conducted workshops with WRM, CFO, RPG, ESG, and Water Operations Planning and Environmental Support Group as part of requirements gathering and building use cases. Additional workshops with the key stakeholders will continue into January 2022 as part the information gathering phase.
  - **WiFi Infrastructure Upgrade**—The scope of this project is to upgrade the WiFi infrastructure at Metropolitan Headquarters and remote facilities to replace the end-of-life system. With the recent completion and issuance of a Notice to Bid (NIB), staff continued to work on frequency surveys at various remote sites and the planning and procurement phase of the project.
  - **Water Information System (WINS)**—The scope of this project is to upgrade the WINS system used for monthly billing to the member agencies. This project will replace the existing Water Billing System (WINS) with a custom-developed cloud system with all core modules (Customer, Water Billing, Meters, Conservation, Planning, and Reporting). The team recently completed project requirements gathering as part of the discovery phase and is currently working with key stakeholders on next steps as part of the design and development phase of the project.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

### OBJECTIVE #4 Improve Metropolitan's IT Disaster Recovery and Response Capability.

- Conducted planning for upcoming IT Disaster Recovery (DR) exercise to ensure the ability to recover critical IT systems during an emergency. DR exercises ensure that the most critical applications and services would be operational and available within the requirements defined by the Business Continuity Plan.

### OBJECTIVE #5 Provide leadership, planning, and solutions in support of Metropolitan's Strategic Priorities.

- Metropolitan's data center modernization project provides enhanced operational uptime of data center processing to meet current and future capacity and reliability needs. The secondary data center site relocation was completed last fiscal year and is strategic to ensuring recovery capabilities before moving the primary site.
  - Primary Site—The project team continues to work on the development phase while refining a comprehensive plan that must address logistical challenges associated with migrating hardware, software, data, communication networks, and ancillary systems. The work is highly complex and must be done while current systems and resources continue to support Metropolitan's day-to-day business operations.
  - During the period, the IT-Network System Team worked on installing and configuring networking equipment to establish connectivity with the new primary data center. This work is critical as the establishment of secure and reliable communication links to the new primary data center provides the foundation needed for the next critical phase of testing and migration activities. Establishing the IT network infrastructure at this out-of-region colocation will enhance Metropolitan's reliability and resiliency once the data center goes into production in late 2022.



Data center Co-location



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

**OBJECTIVE #6** Deploy solutions to improve operations, promote collaboration, and provide business value.

- Ensure reliability of Garvey Reservoir Dam Monitoring System to meet compliance requirements (1993 Legal Settlement between City of Monterey Park and Metropolitan). IT resources continued to partner with ESG on the Garvey Reservoir Dam Monitoring System project. Working in collaboration with Safety of Dams, IT resources continued to complete defined tasks to meet ESG and compliance requirements. The project is currently in the testing phase and is scheduled to continue through December. Once fully implemented, the new system will ensure compliance while delivering enhanced security.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

**OBJECTIVE #1** Provide IT services in support of the Headquarters Improvements Program.

- Collaborated with stakeholders (behind the scenes) on work associated with IT infrastructure required to support physical security improvements which rely on IT network and cybersecurity.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

**OBJECTIVE #1** Strengthen Metropolitan's cyber security capabilities by deploying new and emerging technologies and implementing enhanced security countermeasures.

- Monitored quickly evolving cybersecurity landscape, as security staff continued to prioritize and evaluate innovative options and alternatives, while managing interim solutions during the development phase of Metropolitan's Security Operations Center.
- Elements of the Security Operations Center (SOC) project are underway to implement new countermeasures to protect Metropolitan's computing infrastructure. A new Security Information and Event Monitoring system for the SOC will allow Metropolitan to efficiently detect and respond to attacks using automated tools that collect and correlate events for incident detection and response.

**OBJECTIVE #4** Provide Leadership, planning, and solutions in support of Metropolitan's Strategic Priorities.

- Provided leadership and promoted IT governance through the IT Executive Council to ensure alignment with Metropolitan's strategic priorities.
- Continued Metropolitan's migration to the cloud by partnering with business owners to transition selected virtual servers and applications to Microsoft's Azure Cloud. A key benefit of these migrations (servers and databases) to the cloud has allowed for the ongoing decommissioning of legacy servers and those that have reached end-of-life (and will no longer need to be replaced). Other benefits include reducing Metropolitan's physical server footprint, risk profile, and potential vulnerabilities associated with legacy hardware and operating systems.
  - IT worked to complete the migration of a defined set of applications to the Azure cloud environment, comprising approximately 50 servers. With the successful completion of earlier migration waves, work on the remaining servers was substantially completed on schedule in December.
  - Planning activities are underway to prioritize the next grouping of applications and candidate servers (end-of-life) to transition to the cloud. With the migration of each wave of servers, the overall resiliency of Metropolitan continues to improve.

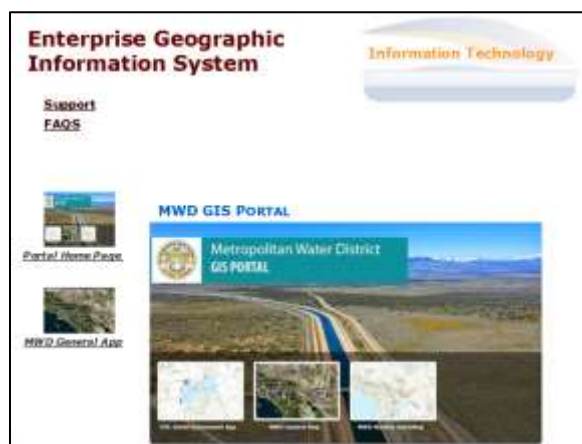
## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY *continued*

**OBJECTIVE #5** Deploy innovative solutions to improve operations, promote collaboration, and provide business value.

- Deploy technologies to support our customers and enhance operations. As a part of the Water Ordering System project, in-house IT staff developed a cloud-based web application and cloud databases for this new system, allowing member agencies to request flow changes easily, as compared with the prior manual method of calling into Eagle Rock operators.
- To date, the Water Ordering System has been rolled out to Long Beach and Foothill Municipal Water District and is currently in production. IT staff continued working in partnership with WSO resources as final preparations are underway to coordinate deployment of this system to the City of Glendale and Burbank in January 2022.

**OBJECTIVE #6** Enhance workforce productivity by simplifying access to business information and deploy technologies to support our customers in business decisions.

- Continued to deploy technologies to support our customers and enhance workforce productivity.
- IT resources are working in collaboration with Administrative Services Section on upgrades to the existing EForm system.
  - QA/QC testing commenced in December followed by additional testing phases including user-acceptance testing before deployment.
  - Conversion of existing forms, validation of workflows, and enhancements is scheduled to complete in March, when the system will be turned over to the Administrative Services Section for day-to-day support and operations.
- Provided business value by delivering Geographic Information System (GIS) services:
  - Configured Pressure Control Structure bookmarks for GIS web-apps. Bookmarks are preset map extents (defines the geographic boundaries for displaying GIS information within a data frame). GIS application widgets (tool that can be included in multiple GIS web applications) provide bookmarks to users. Adding the Pressure Control Structures (PCS) to the list of bookmarks makes it easy for users to change the map extent to a selected PCS just by picking it from a list.
  - Migrate ArcGIS Pro users to concurrent licensing manager. The license manager allows a greater number of staff to use the ArcGIS Pro GIS desktop application, without having to buy additional licenses. The License Manager provides a pool of licenses that can be checked out by the users when using the application (versus a “Named Users” license model).
  - Successfully updated the GIS portal security certificate to comply with the latest cybersecurity requirements.



**Metropolitan's GIS Portal**

## REAL PROPERTY

**Objective #2** Provide valuation, land management, and real property disposition support services for the maximum return or use of Metropolitan-owned land and facilities.

Permanent easements have been granted to the City of Fontana for public road, landscape, and swale purposes. The easements will help facilitate a commercial development project adjacent to the Rialto Pipeline right-of-way.

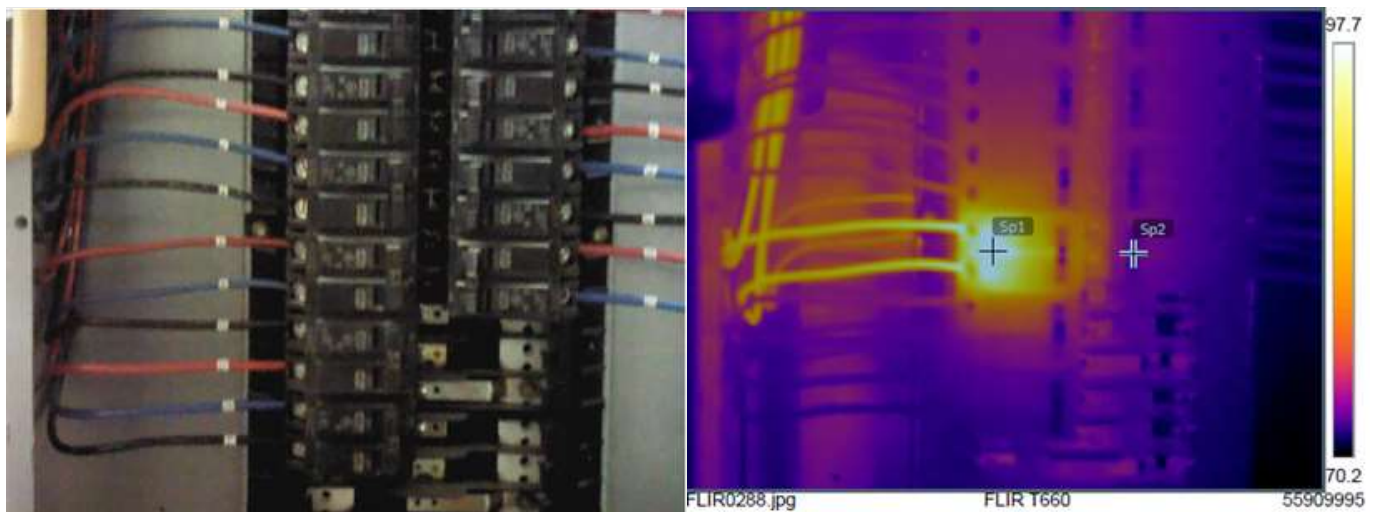
Caltrans has been granted a permanent easement for highway and sight purposes in connection with the Interstate 405 freeway project in West Los Angeles near the Sepulveda Feeder.

An easement has been granted to Southern California Edison (SCE) for an overhead transmission line and power pole traversing the Casa Loma Canal in the San Jacinto area. The easement will allow Eastern Municipal Water District to have solar energy transmitted from its recently commissioned solar facility, across Metropolitan's property, to SCE's substation.

**Objective #3** Efficiently maintain and operate assets not related to the treatment and distribution of water.

The 2021 infrared (IR) electrical system scan of the Metropolitan Headquarters Building was completed. An IR electrical scan is an inspection that will identify hot spots in the electrical system. This process provides Metropolitan with the ability to determine whether there are wiring errors, overloaded systems, loose connections, damaged switchgears, or components that are likely to fail.

Recommendations based on the findings are noted in a report, which allows the scheduling of shutdowns and repairs. In these side-by-side views of an electrical panel, the infrared scan on the right highlights specific breakers that are much hotter than others.



The 2021 Energy Star certification for the Metropolitan Headquarters building was completed. ENERGY STAR certified buildings save energy, money, and help protect the environment by generating fewer greenhouse gas emissions than typical buildings. To be certified as ENERGY STAR, a building must meet strict energy performance standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The headquarters building earned a rating of 88 out of 100, indicating that it performs better than at least 88 percent of similar buildings nationwide. Certification is given on an annual basis; therefore, a building must maintain its high performance to be certified each year.

## REAL PROPERTY *continued*

### Objective #4 District Housing Maintenance and Management.

Metropolitan completed 20 work orders for this reporting period. These work orders were a combination of tenant-requested work, corrective maintenance items, and preventative maintenance items.

Post-occupancy house improvements have been completed on two Metropolitan residences. These two residences have been reserved for new and transferring Metropolitan employees. Work in these two residences consisted of upgrades to flooring and paint, general cleanup activities, and bathroom and kitchen enhancements including the installation of new fixtures and appliances.

The Western Science Center and the Western Center Academy hosted the second annual “Winter Wonderland Holiday Drive Through Experience” on the grounds of the DVL Visitor Center Campus. The parking lot was transformed into a decorative holiday display with decorations all along the route. Visitors were treated to holiday lights and music as they drove through the parking lot.





# SECURITY MANAGEMENT

## GENERAL MANAGER'S STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

### Objective #1 Develop and Refine Security's Strategic Plan

Metropolitan's Security Management staff participated in chemical security training seminars provided through the Department of Homeland Security's Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The training, which runs one day per week for three consecutive weeks, enjoins stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. Topics included:

- An update on the reauthorized Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS)
- A discussion on CFATS personnel surety program
- An invitation to join ChemLock, a new voluntary program that provides facilities that possess dangerous chemicals no-cost services and tools to help them better understand the risks they face and improve their chemical security posture in a way that works for their business model
- Impact and response to the disruptions in the supply of chlorine

Securing chemicals in an evolving threat environment requires cross-collaboration among facility owners and operators, industry, law enforcement, community members, and all levels of government.



### Security staff attended a series of Chemical Security Seminars

### Objective #2 Improve Security and Emergency Response

The Security Management Unit initiated and participated in ongoing planning for a smooth and safe transition of the workforce back to the workplace. Aligning with security best practices, security staff attended and were certified in WAVR-21—Workplace Assessment of Violence Risk.

The program is a 21-item coded instrument for the structured assessment of workplace and campus targeted violence risk. Consisting of both static and dynamic risk factors, the WAVR-21 can be used to reliably identify and assess the risk, frequency, and severity of aggression at work.



### Metropolitan's Security staff is certified in WAVR-21

## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

Objective #6 Ensure access to sufficient water supplies to operate a full Colorado River Aqueduct in times of drought.

Staff executed the Metropolitan/Quechan Tribe Seasonal Fallowing Pilot Program (Pilot) agreement at the annual Colorado River Water Users Association meeting this month. Through the two-year pilot, participating farmers will reduce their water consumption of Colorado River supplies through land fallowing of collectively up to 1,600 acres annually between the months of April and July of each fallowing season. The Pilot will reduce water consumption in the Quechan tribal land and augment Metropolitan's Colorado River supplies.

Objective #8 Implement Local Resources Program

Member agencies have started submitting their annual cost and production data to Metropolitan staff. All data is due by the end of the year in accordance with the terms of the Local Resources Program (LRP) agreements. Metropolitan staff uses this data to complete the annual assessments and reconciliations.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

Objective #1 Complete the 2020 Integrated Water Resource Plan.

Metropolitan continues to make progress on completing the first phase of the 2020 IRP. Metropolitan discussed and received comments on draft findings from the 2020 IRP Phase 1 Needs Assessment at the December 3 Member Agency Managers Meeting. These draft findings reflected feedback received from member agencies and the Board from the IRP Member Agency Technical Workgroup Meeting on November 16 and the Board IRP Committee Meeting on November 23.

On December 13, Metropolitan held its annual public hearing to review its progress in achieving cost-effective conservation, water recycling, and groundwater recharge. The public hearing included a presentation on Metropolitan's draft annual progress report, testimonials from both subject area experts and program participants, and comments from members of the public. Metropolitan will incorporate comments from the public hearing and finalize the report to submit to the California State Legislature on February 1, 2022.

Objective #4 Manage existing and develop new regional water management programs to maintain water supply reliability in the face of increasing water supply volatility.

Metropolitan staff presented proposed modifications to the On-Site Retrofit Program at the December Member Agency Managers meeting. The proposed modifications were well-received and will be brought before Metropolitan's Board in January 2022.

## WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

### Objective #8 Implement Regional Conservation Program.

Staff continued outreach efforts to implement Metropolitan's conservation programs to increased efforts to maximize conservation. Conservation outreach activities in December include the following:

- Held Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program classes in conjunction with City of South Pasadena for 30 participants. Participants learned about efficient irrigation and landscaping practices while receiving credits to achieve both Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) and water manager certifications.
- Represented Metropolitan as committee Vice-Chair and presented on Metropolitan's drought responses at the December California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP) program committee meeting.
- Presented at U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) invitation-only workshop titled "Transforming the Future of Water at Home." The workshop featured experts on home water use management. The workshop is in partnership with the 50-Liter Home Coalition to bring awareness to residential water conservation.
- Hosted two workshops for member and retail agencies on Metropolitan's SoCalWater Smart dashboard. The workshop demonstrated all the features on the website's dashboard showing agencies how to run reports, query data, create charts and graphs and much more;
- Met twice with staff at Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA) on Metropolitan's demand management programs and potential for collaboration in the future.

Continuing efforts to raise awareness on water conservation in the service area, Metropolitan staff went live on NBC News to encourage viewers to turn off outdoor irrigation during the rainstorm. Staff also brought attention to Metropolitan's landscape incentives.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3: Innovation

### Objective #3 Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program.

Staff hosted a Future Supply Actions Funding Program (FSA) webinar covering FSA studies on potable reuse with Eastern Metropolitan and the City of Fullerton/Orange County Water District. The webinar shared the results of Eastern's pilot test of Closed-Circuit Reverse Osmosis for Advanced Water Treatment. Fullerton/OCWD's study evaluated the virus removal effectiveness of wastewater treatment processes and reverse osmosis, with the goal of informing state regulations. The methodology for both studies can be replicated by other water agencies considering potable reuse projects. Over 90 individuals participated in the webinar.

### Objective #4 Promote Metropolitan's technical capabilities and innovation efforts to advance the understanding of water resources management.

Staff met with representatives from the HERA Group—a water and wastewater utility serving the Bologna region of Italy—to discuss approaches for incorporating climate change into long-term water supply planning. HERA is developing a water resource data platform that employs artificial intelligence to help project the impact of climate change on long-term drought. Additional meetings will be planned on this topic with HERA.

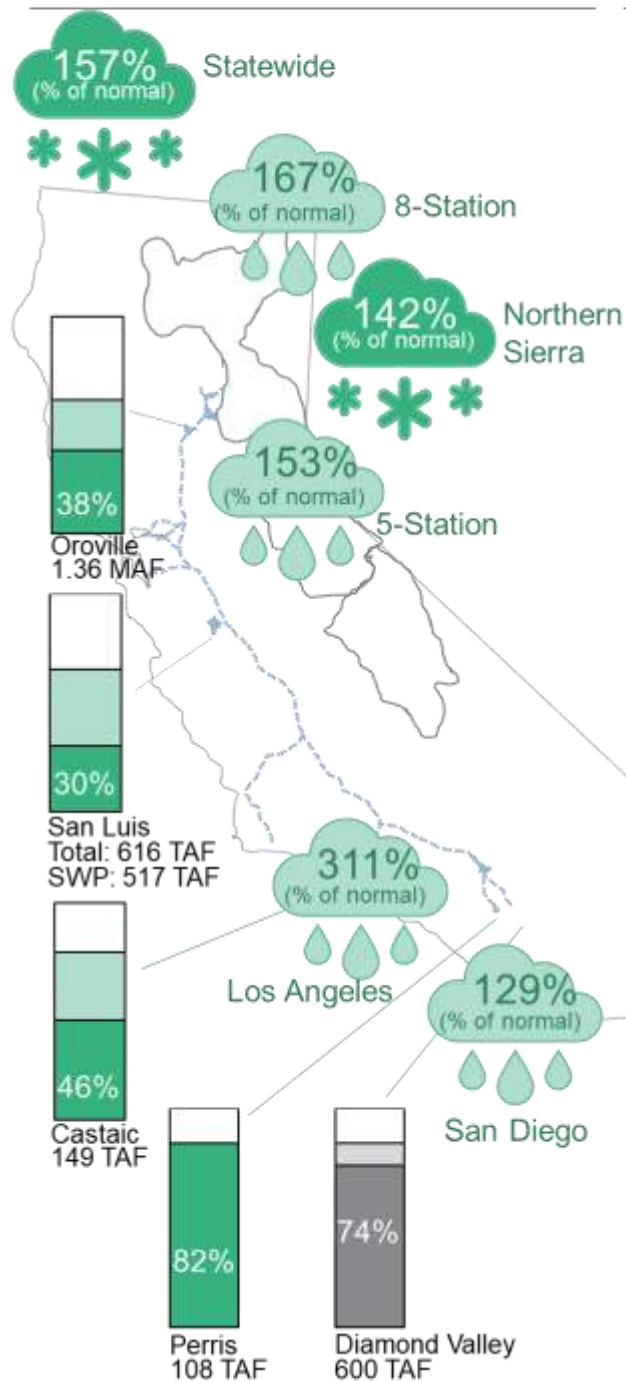
### Objective #5 Position Metropolitan as a leader in Open Water Data.

Staff provided testimony to the Bay Area Water Action Committee (BAWAC) in support of the California Water Data Consortium's (CWDC) fundraising efforts. Metropolitan also provided \$10,000 in co-funding to advance CWDC's pilot project on aligning urban water data reporting to state agencies.

# WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT *continued*

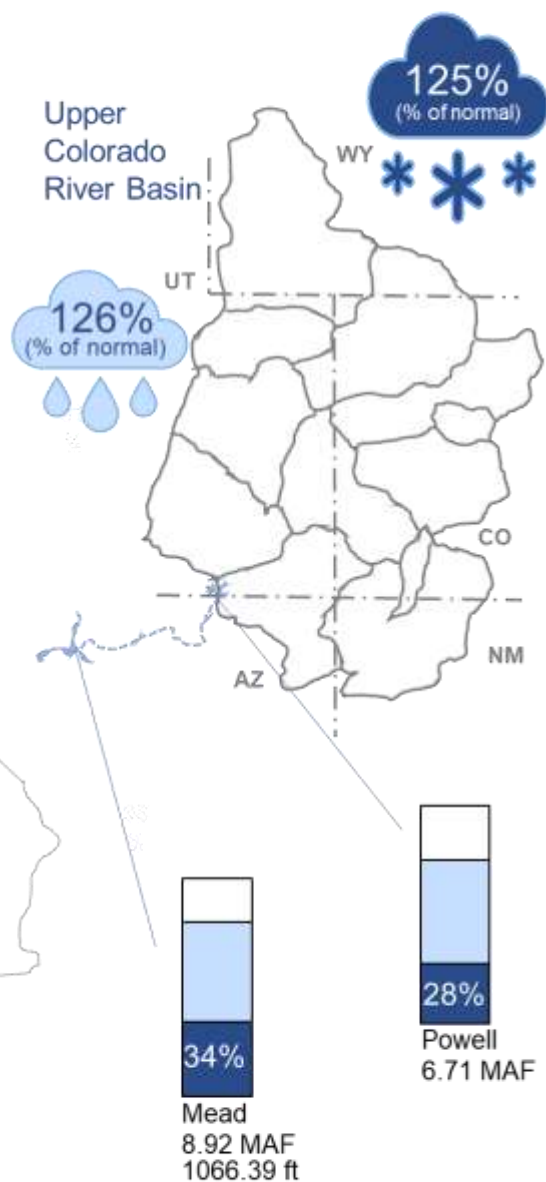
## State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A – 5% - 95,575 AF



## Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions – 1,076,000 AF



Extended Report:  
<http://mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

As of December 31, 2021



# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

## GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1: Resiliency

### Objective #1 Provide Reliable Water Deliveries.

Metropolitan delivered approximately 128,251 acre-feet (AF) of water to member agencies in December. Deliveries averaged approximately 4,137 AF per day, which was 793 AF per day lower than in November. Treated water deliveries decreased by 10,733 AF from November with a total of 58,485 AF, or 46 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) continued at seven-pump flow with a total of 96,769 AF pumped for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,467 AF per day, totaling about 45,465 AF for the month which accounted for about 35 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

### Objective #2 Ensure Water Quality Compliance, Worker Safety, and Environmental Protection.

Metropolitan complied with all water quality regulations and primary drinking water standards during November 2021.

Metropolitan partnered with the National Safety Council (NSC) to conduct an independent review of Metropolitan's safety program. On November 1, the NSC sent a confidential survey to all employees to assess Metropolitan's safety culture and perceptions. The survey closed on December 6 with a 70 percent employee completion rate. The NSC will provide Metropolitan with its Safety Barometer Report in January 2022. The survey results will be benchmarked against 1,400 organizations and used to prioritize focus areas for review. The independent review will continue with a comprehensive safety program assessment and employee interviews planned for Winter/Spring 2022.

Staff hosted a virtual Safety Committee Forum meeting. These forum meetings are held semi-annually and include safety committee members that represent all Metropolitan facilities to share information on key safety topics. The forum focused on new safety suggestions:

- Labor/Management Safety Committee
- Substructure Access Lids
- Interagency Clearance Guidelines
- NSC Barometer Survey & Assessment
- 3M DBI Sala Self Retracting Lifeline Recall
- Slip, Trips and Falls
- Shutdown COVID-19 Prevention Plan Status.

Staff developed a new safety banner for posting at facilities that encourages employees to speak up for safety and briefly describes the many methods available to report safety concerns, including a confidential safety hotline.



“Speak Up for Safety” banner posted at Metropolitan facilities

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

### Objective #3 Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution.

Staff completed trench excavation, electrical conduit installation, conduit encasement, and trench backfill for approximately 300 feet of electrical duct bank to support the upcoming Battery Energy Storage System capital project at the Skinner plant. This energy storage system will provide additional functionality for the one megawatt solar facility and optimize renewable energy use, while advancing energy sustainability efforts at the plant.



Electrical duct bank encased in red concrete at the Skinner plant



Excavator with compaction wheel backfilling trench at the Skinner plant

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Desert staff enlarged an opening for a new steel security door as part of the Eagle Mountain Physical Security Upgrade capital project. Staff also cleaned and repainted the control room in connection with this work.



**Staff enlarging the door frame for a new security door (left) and repainting the control room (right) at Eagle Mountain pumping plant**

As part of the Colorado River Aqueduct Main Pump Rehabilitation Program, a pump unit at Gene pumping plant was disassembled for inspection and testing. Staff completed the inspection and has begun reassembling the pump and motor for operation.



**Staff installing the rotor on a pump unit at Gene pumping plant**



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff installed new dedicated electrical circuits to the fuel island at the Mills plant to prepare for a capital project that will install new card readers. This work will provide the contractor with a new power source, helping to expedite the project.



**Staff pulling wire for dedicated circuits for new card readers at the Mills plant fuel island**

Diemer plant staff assisted the Engineering Services Group with the continuing inspection and assessment of all Orange County distribution structures. Staff identified needed improvements for future capital project upgrades.



**Operations and Engineering staff inspect service connections OC-66 (left) and OC-67 (right)**



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

### Objective #4 Optimize Maintenance.

Desert staff continued efforts to maintain the aqueduct patrol roads and the 230kV electrical transmission system access roads. The 230kV transmission system begins at Hoover Dam and runs through many miles of rough terrain as it delivers power to all five CRA facilities.



**Staff maintaining the 230kV transmission system access roads in the Desert**

Staff completed annual maintenance along the CRA patrol roads in San Jacinto. This work included the placement of Class II base rock around the access pump well structures for planned dewatering of the pipeline and installation of ventilation to prepare for inspection of the conduit during the scheduled CRA shutdown in February 2022.



**Motor grader placing material around structure along CRA patrol roads in San Jacinto**

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff replaced a corroded access platform with new corrosion-resistant beams and grating at the Lower Feeder blow-off structure. This maintenance work results in safer structure access with a longer service life.



**Corroded grating (left) and new fiber-reinforced polymer grating (right) at the Lower Feeder blow-off structure**

Staff refurbished two hydraulic rams at the La Verne Shops for a 72-inch secondary inlet sleeve valve at Diamond Valley Lake. The hydraulic rams are used to open and close the valve. The work included replacement of internal seals and counterbalance valves, pressure and functional testing, and corrosion-resistant coatings after assembly.



**Disassembly of hydraulic rams at the La Verne Shops**



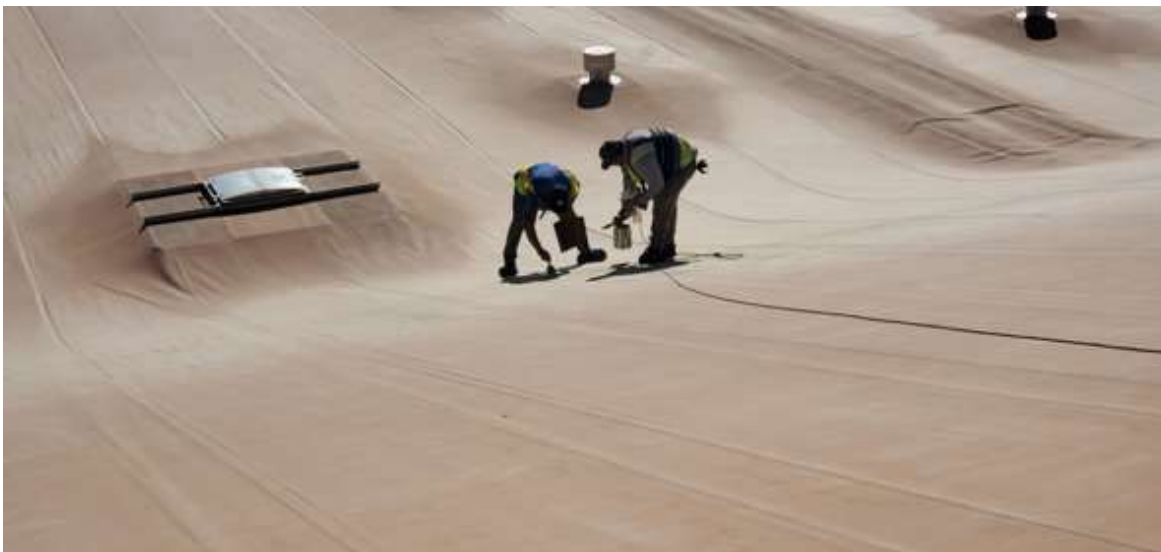
## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff is modifying the electrical cable reels on the traveling bridges of Module 7 at the Skinner plant. This work will change the existing wide reels to narrow reels. The traveling bridges traverse the sedimentation basins to vacuum up the solids that have settled out of the water during the treatment process. The reels allow the bridges to travel while extending out and reeling up the electrical power to the motor. The narrow reels do not allow the cable to overlap when being reeled in. Cable overlap is common with the existing design, which has led to premature failure of the cables through pinching, rubbing, and overstress.



**Staff welding a new pedestal for Module 7 traveling bridge electrical cable reel at the Skinner plant**

Staff consulted with the manufacturer of the finished water reservoir floating cover at the Skinner plant to evaluate repairing increased pin holes developing on the seams of the cover. The manufacturer's technicians collected samples of the cover for analysis. Sample areas were patched to ensure the cover's integrity. After the samples are analyzed, a corrective action will be determined, and the manufacturer will make permanent repairs to the cover that is currently under warranty.



**Sampling the Skinner plant's finished water reservoir cover for analysis**

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff rebuilt the relief valves at the Cohasset Pressure Relief Structure (PRS) on the East Valley Feeder. The Cohasset PRS relieves pressure on the East Valley Feeder in the event of a spike in hydraulic grade. These spikes can occur if the Greg Avenue pumps trip off-line unexpectedly or during distribution system operational changes. Hydraulically operated globe valves on the pressure relief lines open as pressure on the pipeline increases to above-normal operating parameters, protecting the pipeline in the event of excessive pressure. All pressure relief stations are fundamental in protecting Metropolitan's infrastructure and ensuring reliable water deliveries.



Staff installing internal globe valve components (left) and cover flange (right) at the Cohasset PRS on the East Valley Feeder



Installed globe valve body with refurbished internal coatings at the Cohasset PRS on the East Valley Feeder



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

On December 5–14, staff completed hydrophilic injection repairs to the liner in the Rainbow Tunnel during a scheduled shutdown of the San Diego Pipelines 1 and 2. The shutdown was requested by the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). The SDCWA conducted inspections at the Lilac, Red Mountain, and Oat Hills tunnels within its jurisdiction. Metropolitan staff used this opportunity to perform internal inspections of the Rainbow Tunnel and perform repairs as needed. Staff completed the work on schedule with no reported safety incidents.



Staff preparing for hydrophilic injection repairs of the Rainbow Tunnel during shutdown of San Diego Pipelines 1 and 2



Staff preparing for hydrophilic injection repairs of the Rainbow Tunnel

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff continued the system-wide coatings program aimed at preventing corrosion and extending the life of pipelines and other infrastructure. Staff recently completed coating maintenance of the structure for service connections OC-68 and OC-69 on the Allen McCulloch Pipeline.



**Service connections OC-68 and OC-69 structure before coating maintenance**



**Service connections OC-68 and OC-69 structure after coating maintenance**

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff recently completed annual testing of the Weymouth/La Verne Emergency Power System (EPS). The work involved three separate outages of the incoming electrical utility service to the facility. The test is part of Metropolitan's comprehensive maintenance program to ensure safe and reliable operation of the facilities and performance of processes during any type of electrical utility disturbance or failure.



Staff reviewing equipment location (left) and operating high-voltage equipment (right) at the Weymouth plant

### Objective #5 Manage the Power System.

Staff reviewed the Resource Adequacy (RA) requirements for CRA pumping operations for February 2022. Because of the reduction in pumping in preparation for the CRA shutdown scheduled for February 2022, no additional RA purchase is necessary. Staff also reviewed and submitted the annual RA plan for 2022, assuming a CRA flow of eight pumps beginning in March in response to the current drought conditions and low SWP allocation.

Staff participated in multiple California Independent System Operator (CAISO) interconnection study results meetings. These studies examine the impact of proposed generation and energy storage projects interconnecting to the CAISO system in close electrical proximity to Metropolitan's 230 kV transmission system along the CRA. Staff continues to monitor the proposed interconnections to determine whether any projects could adversely affect Metropolitan's system.

In November, Metropolitan's Board approved membership with the North American Transmission Forum (NATF), an industry group representing owners and operators of bulk transmission focused on North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) compliance and reliability. Participation with the NATF supports Metropolitan's NERC compliance program and allows staff to exchange best practices and collaborate with electrical utilities across North America. Metropolitan's membership was formally accepted by the NATF at its quarterly members' meeting on December 8.



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

### Objective #6 Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response.

On November 18, Metropolitan's Emergency Management Program conducted a virtual emergency exercise for lead staff from Metropolitan's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), as well as staff from participating member agencies and the County of Los Angeles' Office of Emergency Management. *Operation One Voice* was a tabletop exercise focused on how the agencies would communicate during a cybersecurity incident and maintain critical operations. Representatives from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Long Beach Water, Torrance Water, and Calleguas and West Basin Municipal Water Districts participated in this two-hour discussion-based exercise. This exercise was part of Metropolitan's Five-Year Exercise Plan and capped off a year of exercises focused on emergency communications and cybersecurity-related scenarios.

### Objective #7 Optimize Water Treatment and Distribution.

The State Project water (SPW) target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants and Lake Skinner was zero percent in December 2021.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from October 2020 through September 2021 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of SPW and CRA water were 571, 570, and 579 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff modernized instrumentation and controls at the Santiago Control Tower structure. This structure serves as a flow control and diversion facility along the Lower Feeder. Improvements include the addition of turbidity and dissolved oxygen monitoring systems, replacement of the nearly 50-year-old water level monitoring system with new high-precision equipment, and upgrades to the slide gate controls, indicators, and position transmitters. This updated equipment improves measurement reliability and accuracy to ensure safe and reliable water deliveries.



Original monitoring equipment for Santiago Control Tower that has been replaced



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



Santiago Control Tower monitoring instrumentation before (left) and after (right) replacement

In response to supply chain challenges with obtaining reagents for the ammonia analyzers at all plants, staff have commissioned a new on-line ammonia analyzer at the Diemer plant. This instrument is critical to monitoring treated water quality. Staff will assess the instrument's performance and correlation with lab sample results over the next 90 days to determine its suitability for long-term use.



New on-line ammonia analyzer for use at the Diemer plant

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff performed annual maintenance on the Solids Handling Facility at the Weymouth plant. The sludge presses and associated equipment are shut down every year during the winter season, when solids production is lower because of lower plant flow. During this time, staff deep cleans the sludge press belts, greases the belt roller bearings, and lubricates the distribution gates. This annual maintenance minimizes downtime during the summer when increased plant flow results in increased solids production.



Staff performing lockout/blockout of a pump for maintenance (left) and staff performing a pump oil change at the Weymouth plant

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Staff installed a particle counter to monitor the influent water to the Weymouth plant. It was installed in the ozone facility's water quality lab on a wall adjacent to the other plant influent monitoring instruments. A sample line and drain were connected to the instrument. The remote signal was wired to a nearby RTU, and a new point will be added to the SCADA database and operator screen.



Staff installing sample and drain lines for a particle counter at the Weymouth plant



Particle counter mounted on the wall near the SCADA system signal tie-in at the Weymouth plant

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



**Staff testing loop integrity at the RTU for the particle counter at the Weymouth plant**

### Objective #8 Manage Water Reserves.

Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles, operational objectives, and the current 5-percent SWP allocation. Deliveries to the Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District began this month to complete the remaining roughly 10,500 AF of the annual minimum contractual obligation of 15,000 AF. Deliveries of SWP supply were minimized to preserve SWP Carryover and Flexible Storage. Releases from Diamond Valley Lake (DVL) through PC-1 to connections on the Lakeview Pipeline, as well as the DVL to Mills plant operation, continued in December to conserve SWP use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in December. Staff continued Greg Avenue pump operations to minimize SWP usage by about 3,300 AF per month. In addition, staff continued coordination with member agencies, shifting their deliveries from SWP connections to Colorado River water connections, when possible. Along with these actions being taken to respond to drought conditions, Metropolitan's record-high storage levels at the end of 2020 provide significant water supply reliability in 2021. Staff continue to develop additional drought mitigation actions to prepare for the potential of a dry 2022 that will begin with an initial zero percent SWP allocation. This is the lowest initial allocation in the state's history as a result of the ongoing drought.

### Objective #10 Manage Vacancies.

WSO filled eight vacant positions in November 2021.



## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

### Objective #11 Prepare Employees for New Opportunities.

The Apprentice and Technical Training Programs develop and train personnel to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, Class of 2021 electrical apprentices successfully completed Demonstrated Proficiency Assessments (DPA). The DPA is a series of hand-on exams apprentices take as the final step in academic training before attaining journey status. Class of 2021 mechanical apprentices completed their final period of instruction and are scheduled to take the DPA in January. The Class of 2023 mechanical apprentices attended training at a local large valve manufacturer. Training included a tour of the facility, a detailed review of hydraulic valves, and an overview of how to regulate flow and maintain pressure. A thorough understanding of these concepts is key to their future as journey mechanics at Metropolitan.

### GM STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2: Sustainability

#### Objective #1 Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

On December 4, Cal/OSHA released a draft of its latest and final update to the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS). If re-adopted on December 16, 2021, the effective date for the COVID-19 ETS will be January 14, 2022 through April 14, 2022, after which a new permanent COVID-19 standard will go into effect. The draft ETS revises the definitions for face covering, COVID-19 test, and fully vaccinated; and updates return-to-work criteria for those employees who came into close contact with an infected person. Staff will continue to monitor for updates to COVID-19 standards.

On December 7, 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers published the first of two rules that will redefine the term "waters of the United States" or WOTUS. The proposed rule reverts to the "1986 regulations" with amendments to reflect subsequent Supreme Court decisions, including *Rapanos v. United States*. Key proposed updates include adding adjacent wetlands and the relatively permanent and significant nexus standards to the WOTUS rule—all of which staff have supported in the past. Staff are reviewing the proposed rule for potential comments by the February 7, 2022, comment deadline.

On December 21, staff submitted comments on the State Water Resources Control Board's proposed methods and monitoring plan for microplastics in drinking water. Metropolitan supports the state's efforts on advancing the science and understanding of microplastics in drinking water and urged the state to incorporate a flexible monitoring schedule to allow water systems and laboratories sufficient time and resources to establish and validate sample collection procedures and analytical methods. Staff also worked closely with the Association of California Water Agencies and the California/Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association to develop a regional water industry response to the state's microplastics monitoring plan.

#### Objective #3 Support the Regional Recycled Water Program

Staff completed the first full shutdown of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center (RRWAPC) demonstration plant to perform critical maintenance and transition the facility to the next phase of testing. Both biological basins were fully drained, cleaned, and the aeration systems repaired. The influent line to the plant, which had been building up with calcium carbonate scale since startup, was replaced, and the caustic injection location relocated. The return activated sludge pumps were removed, repaired, and reinforced. Onboarding of the new plant operations consultant continued in December.

## WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*



**Staff inspecting the reverse osmosis feed tank at the demonstration facility**



**Staff replacing a damaged diffuser membrane in the aerobic biological tank at the demonstration facility**

Objective #5 Manage Power Resources and Energy Use in a Sustainable Manner.

Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of about 10.7 megawatts, or over 7,700 megawatt-hours and \$426,560 in revenue, for November 2021. Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated just under 615 megawatt-hours in November 2021.

# WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS *continued*

Monthly Update as of:

12/31/2021

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
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## *Colorado River Basin*

Lake Powell	7,270,000	30%
Lake Mead	9,015,000	35%

## *DWR*

Lake Oroville	1,349,000	38%
Shasta Lake	1,325,000	29%
San Luis Total	609,000	30%
San Luis CDWR	509,000	48%
Castaic Lake	149,448	46%
Silverwood Lake	68,595	91%
Lake Perris	107,151	82%

## *MWD*

DVL	600,086	74%
Lake Mathews	139,343	77%
Lake Skinner	38,643	88%



Hoover Dam



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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