



General Manager's Monthly Report



January 2022



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Message from the General Manager

We are living in a time of change. Today Metropolitan is facing head on the changes that demand we become more flexible, resilient and inclusive, and I am so proud of our staff, who view these challenges as I do: with enthusiasm and optimism about the opportunities they offer.

This month, the Lunar New Year begins the Year of the Tiger, which is an appropriate symbol for a year that will be filled with changes. The tiger embodies courage and bravery—just what we will need to remain committed to our goals when we feel the discomfort of change or the lure of complacency.

Nothing less than courage and bravery will do as our employees come together with a singular focus: reliability. The “shutdown” is a perfect example. Imagine taking offline the Colorado River Aqueduct for an entire month! That is indeed what we are doing in February, to make necessary repairs and ensure proper operations throughout the year. I am excited to be a part of the shutdown this year, and so grateful to the staff who work tirelessly to plan and execute this enormous and time-sensitive task.

The Colorado River is the focus on other fronts as well. All parties involved understand that conditions in the Colorado River Basin have changed. Now, our past agreements must change with the times, in order to protect water supplies for all its users, and there will be many months of effort ahead of us to secure the future of this foundational source of water for Southern California.

Closer to home, at the groundbreaking for the City of Santa Monica’s Arcadia Water Treatment Plant, I saw the kind of change that Metropolitan is helping our Member Agencies accomplish. In Santa Monica, it means recycling water and cleaning up an aquifer to diversify our water supplies.

I visited with Eastern Municipal Water District to discuss the challenges of COVID that our staffs continue to deal with and to witness the achievements they have made to desalinate groundwater and make it drinkable.

February is also Black History Month, a time to celebrate and recommit ourselves to diversity. It is a reminder that the road to justice has a beginning but has no end, and it is a reminder that each of us can and must make change along that road, every day. The words of Rosa Parks offer us inspiration this month: “Each person must live their life as a model for others.” It is a simple thought but one that, as she so powerfully demonstrated, demands courage and creates change. I look forward to continuing this journey of change together with you.

We are one,

Adel



“Let us be a model for others, across our workplaces, across our region and across our industry.”



Executive Summary

Bay-Delta Initiatives

Staff continued work on the Delta smelt and Native Species Preservation Project, which will utilize Delta island properties currently owned by Metropolitan. Monitoring studies initiated in October 2021 are underway to characterize water quality and biological factors in the existing impoundments on the Delta islands properties. Additional funding to continue spring and summer 2022 monitoring studies was secured from the SWC in December. Staff continue to meet with state and federal agencies, non-government organizations, and university researchers to develop partnerships and scope out the next phases of the project.

Chief Financial Officer

Water Transactions for December 2021 totaled 130.5 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 7.6 TAF higher than the budget of 122.9 TAF. This translate to \$111.8 million in revenues for December 2021, which were \$5.0 million higher than budget of \$106.8 million. Year-to-date water transactions through December 2021 were 920.1 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 65.4 TAF higher than the budget of 854.7 thousand acre-feet (TAF). Year-to-date water revenues through December 2021 were \$825.9 million, which were \$46.8 million higher than the budget of \$779.1 million.

Colorado River

As dry conditions returned to the Colorado River Basin, staff worked to implement the 500+ Plan (Plan) that was executed in December 2021. The goal of the Plan is to add 500,000 acre-feet per year to Lake Mead through 2023. Staff is working with the funding parties to develop an agreement with terms and conditions for how the parties will fund and verify the new conservation programs, working with Palo Verde Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, and Imperial Irrigation District to explore additional conservation activities that could be implemented in the next one to two years to be part of the Plan and help protect Lake Mead.

Engineering Services

Engineering and Operations staff collaboratively completed several key shutdown activities in support of Metropolitan's Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) rehabilitation program. Staff and specialized consultants conducted electromagnetic and visual inspection of 6.1 miles of the Sepulveda Feeder. The team also completed an electromagnetic inspection of 3.5 miles of the Second Lower Feeder using an innovative free-swimming inspection tool that minimizes pipeline dewatering. The results from these inspections will assist staff in prioritizing the rehabilitation schedules for these two feeders. During the Second Lower Feeder shutdown, staff also removed two bulkheads that were previously installed to facilitate construction as part of the Reach 2 PCCP rehabilitation work. In addition, as part of the construction contract to upgrade the electrical systems at the Jensen plant, electrical connections to new motor control centers were completed as planned during the full plant shutdown.

Environmental Planning

The public review period for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) closed and Environmental Planning Section staff began preparation of the Final PEIR and revisions to the draft CAP in anticipation of a March board action to certify the PEIR and adopt the CAP. Thirteen comments letters were received during the public comment period.

External Affairs

Launched a point-of-purchase and digital marketing campaign to promote water conservation and rebates in SWP-dependent agencies of Calleguas, Las Virgenes and IEUA service areas, underscoring the need for action in response to drought conditions.

Human Resources

Human Resources staff focused on COVID protocols based on changing guidance from the California Department of Public Health and for planning the implementation of a hybrid work environment for those employees who are currently teleworking to ensure health and safety of employees.

Information Technology

IT Group continued to provide innovative solutions to assist business units with leveraging technology to provide modernization and workplace efficiency. Based on prior successful deployment of the IT Service Management (ITSM) tool, the Board Support Team has adopted this system to support their business needs to improve the tracking and reporting of board related activities. The ITSM system provides real-time dashboard reporting for the Board Support Team to access, create views, update, report and track their tickets and activities.

Real Property

Local law enforcement, Water System Operations and the Security Unit discovered four encampments inside various Metropolitan vaults, located near the Weymouth Treatment Plant boundary. Agency partnering achieved the removal of the trespassing encampments and clean up. Additionally, new signage has been installed and a Trespass Arrest Authorization form has been executed with the City of La Verne Police Department (LVPD). The form authorizes the LVPD to arrest trespassers under Penal Code Section 602, and the authorization to arrest is valid for a period of 12 months.

Water Resource Management

Improving water supply conditions on the State Water Project allowed DWR to announce a 15 percent Table A Allocation on January 20, 2022. With this allocation, the potential need for Human Health and Safety supplies from DWR has been eliminated under normal demand conditions. Staff continues to bolster supplies and demand management actions to improve supply reliability.

Water System Operations

A high wind event on January 22 caused intermittent power interruptions and other impacts at facilities including affecting the control system connection at the Jensen plant, ozone system at the Weymouth plant, and fallen trees at multiple locations. Staff responded quickly and effectively during this weekend event with no impacts to employee or public safety, water quality, or water deliveries.

Upcoming Board Items

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

Month	Key Board Items
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget Workshop• Authorize Project Labor Agreements at Metropolitan• Adopt IRP Assessment findings• Approve the Climate Action Plan• Approve General Manager’s Strategic Priorities• Authorize entering into a three-year contract for advertising and community outreach services related to water conservation• Review and discuss Bay Delta Policies (Workshop #1)• Review and discuss Sites Reservoir planning process and needs
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve budget and rates• Review and discuss Bay Delta Policies (Workshop #2)• Appropriate funding for Sites Reservoir planning• Report on actions that improve SWP reliant area reliability for long-term• Award a contract for Battery Energy Storage system at Weymouth• Authorize securing one-year water transfers from North-of-Delta water districts
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) High Desert Groundwater Storage Program• Report on Bond Financing CY 2022
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve Bay-Delta Policies• Authorize payment for support of the Colorado River Board and Six-Agency Committee for FY 2022/23



“Despite the pandemic-related challenges we faced during the shutdown in 2021, we made adjustments by providing to-go meals and ensuring safe, clean accommodations for employees. We did what we needed to do to get the job done”

***Veronica Villareal,
Guest Services Team Manager***

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Every year, typically in February, Metropolitan shuts down the 242-mile long Colorado River Aqueduct for major maintenance, repairs, and upgrades. This monumental effort requires complex and precise planning, coordination, and execution between all 12 Desert Section teams, Safety and Regulatory Services, Security, Survey, Engineering, Ops Planning, Eastern Conveyance and Distribution, member agencies, and many others. This year’s shutdown will be the second to take place under COVID-19 restrictions, which will require the hundreds of employees involved to operate with additional PPE, while facing the limitations of kitchen and lodging availability, and smaller, more socially distant teams. As always, safety is our number one priority as we perform this job that is so critical to the reliability of our system.

IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

With longer, more severe cycles of drought impacting California and the Southwest, planning and management of our Colorado River resources and the maintenance of its critical infrastructure is more important than ever. One of Metropolitan’s major tools to promote the reliability of the CRA is the annual deployment of the Tunnel Cleaning Machine, which was designed and built in-house by Metropolitan employees. This year, staff will remove 335 days’ worth of sand, biological growth, and mineral deposits from the aqueduct. Operating under a 27-day timeline, they will complete the 166-mile round trip of underground tunnel cleaning.

MEMORABLE MOMENT

Behind all great efforts, are talented, dedicated people. COVID-19 has impacted all Metropolitan employees, but few more so than Guest Services, which manages the majority of lodging and meals provided to visiting desert teams supporting the shutdown. They’ve adapted their operations to meet and navigate many layers of COVID safety protocols.



Water Resources and Engineering



Water Resource Management

GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

Objective #5 Ensure reliable State Water Project (SWP).

WRM staff collaborated with staff from the Bay Delta Group to review the draft Delivery Capability Report (DCR) and provide comments to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The draft DCR uses CalSim 3, a new and improved water resources planning model, jointly developed by DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) that incorporates historical hydrology up to 2015 to simulate operations of the SWP. The DCR aims to provide an estimate of how much water the State Water Project can provide on a range of hydrologic scenarios. Careful review of the DCR helps staff understand supply reliability from the SWP and allows for advanced planning to ensure that Metropolitan's SWP supply is reliable.

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

With representatives from water agencies throughout the Colorado River Basin, WRM staff attended weekly States Modeling Technical Working Group meetings. USBR convened the meetings and made presentations on modeling of the recently approved "500+ Plan" to implement measures to slow or halt the decline of Lake Mead elevations during ongoing dry conditions in the basin. USBR also made presentations on their progress in revising the primary basin modeling tool, Colorado River Simulation System (CRSS), to better simulate inflow to Lake Powell.

WRM staff attended a quarterly coordination meeting with staff of the Colorado River Board of California. Topics of discussion included implementation of the "500+ Plan" and Drought Response Operations plan framework documents drafted by water agencies in the Upper Colorado Basin as a first step toward maintaining Lake Powell above critical elevations. The implementation of the "500+ Plan" helps Metropolitan ensure sufficient future Colorado River supplies, especially during the ongoing dry conditions in the basin.

GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

Objective #1 Complete the 2020 Integrated Water Resource Plan.

Staff presented and received feedback on a draft of the 2020 IRP Phase 1 Needs Assessment Report and its findings at the Member Agency Managers Meeting on January 28. Staff will incorporate member agency feedback before submitting the draft to the Board IRP Special Committee for review in February.

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

The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District submitted an application for a potential project under Metropolitan's Stormwater for Direct Use Pilot Program in late-December 2021. The proposed project will install two new underground cisterns inside the City of South Pasadena police station parking lot, improve drainage to redirect stormwater runoff to the cisterns, and alter landscaping and irrigation to use stored stormwater. If

Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

eligible, the proposed project will be brought before the Board for final approval. The application period for projects closed on January 1, 2022.

Objective #8 Implement Regional Conservation Program.

Metropolitan's staff continued outreach efforts to implement Metropolitan's conservation programs to increase efforts to maximize conservation. Outreach activities in January include the following:

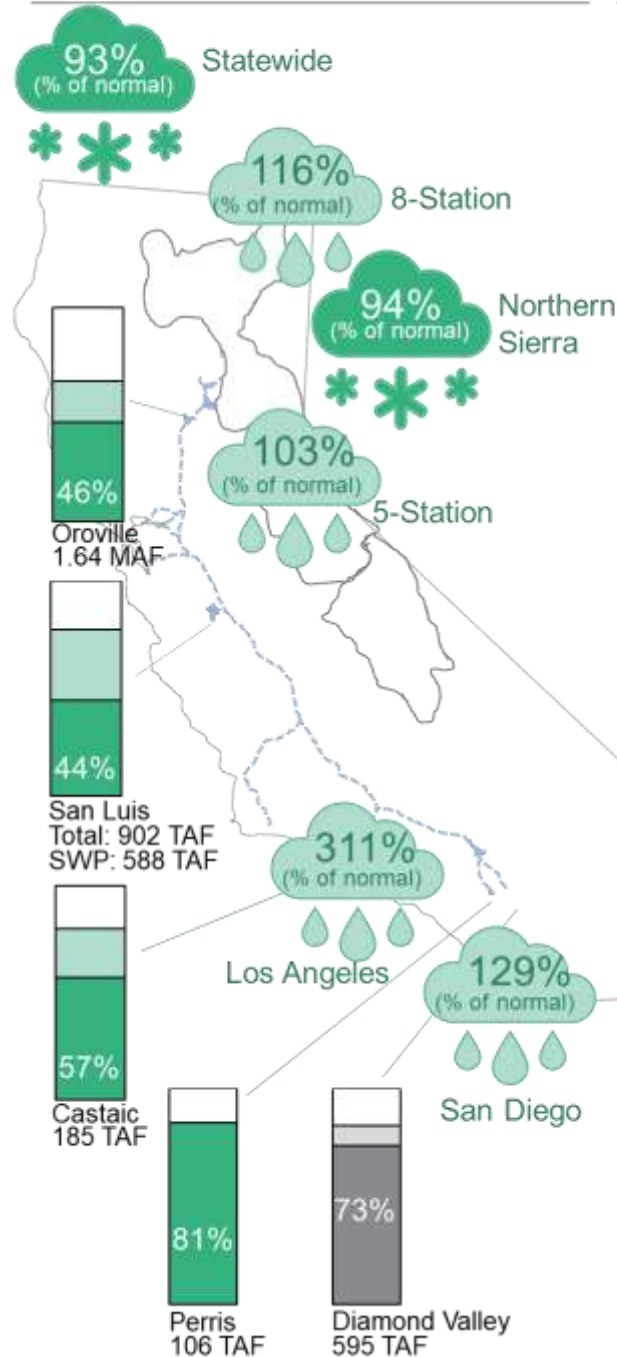
- At the Utah Green Conference, staff presented on the benefits of turf replacement programs for landscape contractors. Approximately 181 participants attended the presentation.
- Staff held a virtual Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance workshop series in conjunction with the California Landscape Contractors Association for 60 participants. The purpose of water efficient landscape ordinances is to not only increase water efficiency but to improve environmental conditions in the built environment.
- Staff spoke at an Upland Kiwanis Club meeting on Metropolitan's water efficiency programs and current water supply conditions. The meeting was in person and virtual with officials from Upland and the surrounding area.

Water Resources and Engineering

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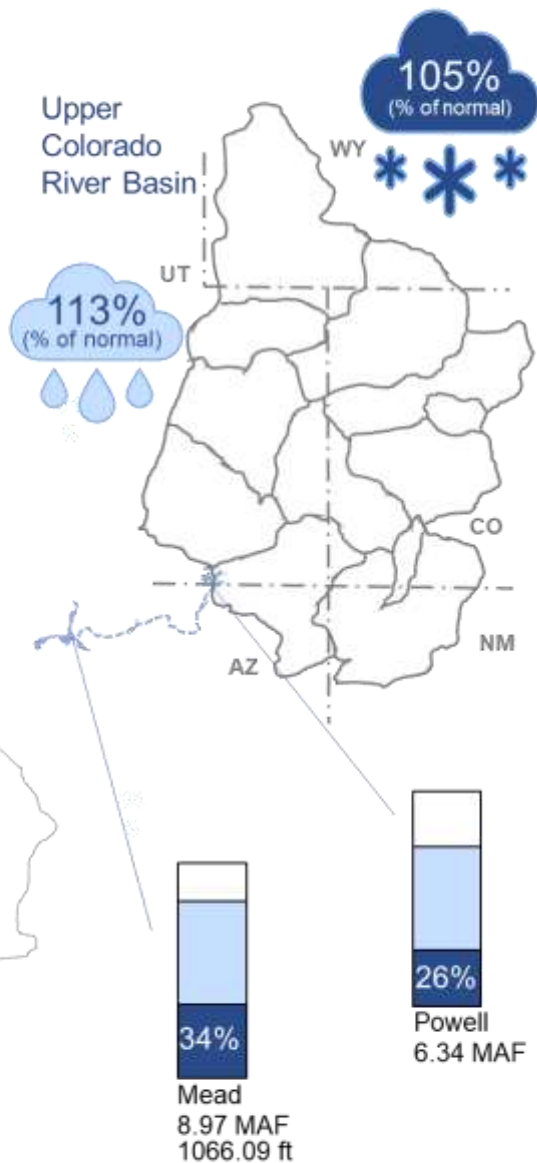
State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A – 15% - 286,725 AF



Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions – 1,155,000 AF



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

As of January 31, 2022

Bay-Delta Initiatives

Resiliency

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects 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. The technical workgroup charged with developing a Juvenile Production Estimate (JPE) for Spring-run Chinook salmon, a requirement of the ITP, is currently focused on developing performance metrics to evaluate objectives related to development of a JPE. Work also continued on the development of a monitoring program for steelhead populations in the San Joaquin River basin, a requirement of the Biological Opinion. The technical workgroup submitted a draft outline of the monitoring plan to state and federal agencies for review.

Sustainability

Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing to develop an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, has started preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. DWR and USACE are planning to release draft environmental documents for public review in mid-2022.

Field activities under the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Soil Investigations in the Delta (including cone penetration tests, soil borings, and geophysical surveys) are proceeding but have been temporarily paused for the winter. DWR and the Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) are continuing work to obtain temporary entry for additional soil surveys on private lands and permits for soil survey sites that fall under the jurisdiction of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Investigations at any given site will not occur until property owners have been notified and required permits and approvals for that site have been obtained.

As part of DWR's efforts to work with the community to develop a Community Benefits Program, DWR conducted a case study workshop on November 17, 2021. The workshop provided an opportunity to learn about other programs. Three panelists spoke about the insights and lessons learned from implementing other programs and answered questions from the public. The meeting materials and videos (in English and Spanish) are available on DWR's website ([Community Benefits Program \[ca.gov\]](https://www.water.ca.gov/communitybenefitsprogram)).

Joint Powers Authorities

During the DCA Special Board of Director's Meeting on January 14, the DCA extended a resolution authorizing virtual board and committee meetings pursuant to AB 361.

At its regularly scheduled January 20 DCA Board of Directors meeting, the Board of Directors approved a resolution to sunset the Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SEC). This direction recognized that the SEC was formed to solicit and incorporate stakeholder feedback for the DCA's conceptual design work, and this work has now been largely provided to the DWR environmental team. The DCA held a final SEC meeting in December to review its general work to date, its input in the conceptual design, and future outreach efforts by the DCA and DWR. In addition to this

action, DCA staff recognized the SEC's valuable participation in representing their communities as part of the DCA's commitment to community outreach.

The DCA Board also approved an increase of the adopted fiscal year 2021/2022 budget from \$23.5M to \$24.48M. The budget reflects rolling over the final portion of the underspend from the fiscal year 2020/2021 budget in the amount of \$978,396.

During the Delta Conveyance Finance Authority (DCFA) regularly scheduled January 20 meeting, the DCFA adopted a resolution to continue remote teleconference meetings pursuant to the Brown Act Section 54953(e) for meetings of the DCFA.

Sites Reservoir

The public comment period for the Sites Reservoir Project Revised Draft EIR/Supplemental Draft EIS was extended to January 28.

In their January meetings, the Sites Project Authority Board and the Sites Reservoir Committee approved several administrative amendments to the standard consulting contracts with the Executive Director and Authority Agents related to indemnification and limitation of liability.

Innovation

Science Activities

Staff continued participating in the Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP), including participation on the Collaborative Adaptive Management Team (CAMT). In January, activity focused on the two projects addressing improvement of Delta smelt and salmon. The technical working group for the Delta Smelt Structured Decision-Making Project is currently developing draft portfolios of management actions to benefit Delta smelt. The CSAMP Policy Group and CAMT were briefed on the portfolios and provided input. The portfolios of management actions will be evaluated using a combination of quantitative life-cycle models and expert judgement to characterize predicted Delta smelt outcomes. The costs and benefits of management approaches will be evaluated as well once the management approaches are refined.

Staff also continued collaboration with NGO non-government environmental organizations and public water agencies on the CSAMP Salmon Recovery Initiative. CAMT and the CSAMP Policy Group received briefings in January from the science team leading the project. The briefings addressed the objectives and metrics developed in Phase 1 to help define salmon recovery in quantitative terms and the progress for scheduling outreach to stakeholders throughout the Central Valley watershed, including tribes, to make them aware of this effort and to ask for their participation in Phase 2 of the process. Phase 2 is focused on engaging with these stakeholders to solicit actions planned for salmon recovery, and in Phase 3 those actions will be analyzed to help determine which actions may best achieve salmon recovery while meeting other objectives (e.g. cost, water supply, ag production, etc.).

Staff continued work on the Delta smelt and Native Species Preservation Project, which will use Delta island properties currently owned by Metropolitan to support Delta smelt supplementation efforts. Monitoring studies initiated in October 2021 are underway to characterize water quality and biological factors in the existing impoundments on the Delta islands properties. In December, additional funding to continue the monitoring studies

in spring and summer 2022 was secured from the SWC. Staff is continuing to meet with state and federal agencies, non-government organizations, and university researchers to develop partnerships and scope out the next phases of the project.

Delta Levee Stability and Monitoring Efforts

The Delta Levee Stability and Monitoring efforts support the Delta Islands Instrumentation and Monitoring Assessment and Bouldin Island Pilot Project to ensure the integrity of freshwater conveyance and Delta Island levees and to support real time levees monitoring of Delta Islands and broader Delta regional levees. Metropolitan's consultant installed remote erosion sensors on Bouldin Island's westside levee. Additional reception antenna extenders were also installed on previously installed levee sensor probes that measure changes in soil moisture and pressures in zones above high-water tides. Real time monitoring is collecting data that will be analyzed as a part of the evaluation process. The overall progress for the draft levee stability assessment report will be available in the summer of 2022.

Colorado River

500+ Plan Update

The 500+ Plan is an agreement among the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Colorado River Commission of Nevada, Arizona Department of Water Resources, Central Arizona Water Conservation District, and Metropolitan to add or retain 500,000 acre-feet or more of water to Lake Mead each year in 2022 and 2023 to reduce the risk of Lake Mead declining below critical reservoir elevations. Since signing the 500+ Plan MOU in December, the parties began developing the implementation and funding agreement and have continued to work on identifying and in some instances started contracting for sources of system water to meet the goals of the 500+ Plan. In California, the parties continue to fund the additional fallowing in Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) for system water, and Metropolitan reduced its diversions at the end of 2021, both of which have raised Lake Mead's levels. Metropolitan staff is in discussions with PVID, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), and Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to explore opportunities for additional conservation activities in California. Any new programs that are developed would be brought to Metropolitan's Board for consideration and approval. The parties in Arizona are close to finalizing some fallowing agreements in Arizona which would be funded by the parties. Staff will keep the Board updated as the 500+ Plan is implemented.

Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plan Implementation Update

The Upper Colorado River Commission and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado River Basin Region hosted a webinar to provide public information regarding implementation of the Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA). The DROA is part of the 2019 Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan in the Upper Basin that allows changes in the timing of monthly releases at Lake Powell and increased releases from upstream Colorado River Storage Project Initial Unit reservoirs within their existing operational ranges. One key objective of the releases is to reduce the risk of Lake Powell falling below minimum power pool, which could happen later this year or next year with very dry conditions. Any water released from the upstream Initial Units will be later recovered in those Units when conditions allow First Year of Shortage Highlights Beneficial Partnerships.

Engineering

GM Strategic Priority #1: 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:

- **Etiwanda Pipeline Rehabilitation, Stage 3**—This project replaces delaminated mortar lining with polyurethane lining in 5.5 miles of pipeline. 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 99 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by February 2022. Staff anticipates a June 2022 board action to award the construction contract.
- **Lake Mathews Disaster Recovery Facility Upgrades**—This project makes structural upgrades to the building's roof and interior walls to resist seismic events, upgrades fire suppression system, and constructs a retaining wall to ensure stability of the nearby slope. The contractor completed installation of the hand railing for the new retaining wall and begun installation of the fire suppression system. Construction is approximately 83 percent complete; however, the contractor is currently experiencing COVID-19-related shortages of materials and vendor delays. The anticipated construction completion date is April 2022.
- **Right of Way and Infrastructure Protection improvements, Western San Bernardino County, Stage 1**—The project consists of construction of erosion-control features to protect critical infrastructure that includes concrete culverts, grading to divert stormwater away from pipeline structures, and roadway improvements to facilitate access and protect existing infrastructure. Final design is complete, and a board action for award of a construction contract is planned for March 2022.
- **Orange County Feeder Lining Repairs**—This project replaces the deteriorated internal lining along an 11-mile portion of the Orange County Feeder within the cities of Santa Ana, Costa Mesa, and Newport Beach. Rehabilitation is proceeding along three reaches. Construction of Reaches 1 and 2 are complete. Final design for the remaining third reach is complete and a board action for award of a construction contract is planned for April 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 western-most portion of the 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. Final design of Reach 3A is complete and a board action for award of a construction contract is planned in May 2022. Reach 3B is 93-percent complete and scheduled to be complete by June 2022. Study efforts continue for Reach 9, an approximately 0.8-mile-long portion of the 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 55 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. Final design of Reach 1 is 15 percent complete and Reach 2 is 25 percent complete. Both 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 by February 2022 as part of regularly scheduled inspections for this feeder.

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, and the Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor in January 2022.
- **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 needs 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 and began installation of the discharge valve and actuator. Construction is 87 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by April 2022.

- **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 96 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by June 2022.



Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Structure Rehabilitation
Transporting the fixed cone valve to the base of the dam for installation

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 Basins 5-8 and Filter Building No.2 Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates major mechanical and structural components including the flocculation/sedimentation equipment, sludge pumps, baffle boards and walls, launders, inlet gates, and effluent drop gates. Seismic upgrades include structural modifications and concrete reinforcement of the basin walls and basin inlet channel. This project replaces 127 high-performance and rubber-lined butterfly valves and their actuators with Metropolitan-furnished equipment (piping, mechanical, electrical/control equipment, access hatches, handrails, and lights) and includes hazardous material abatement. Final design is complete, and a board action for award the construction contract is planned for the May 2022.
- **Diemer Water Sampling System Improvements**—This project upgrades the existing Diemer water sampling system, which comprises 13 sample locations, 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. Construction was completed in January 2022. Metropolitan staff continues commissioning water quality field analyzers.

- **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. Building 12 and other MCCs that were shut down for cutover work were successfully completed. Electrical connections to the existing system were completed as planned during the Jensen plant shutdown. Construction is 93 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2022.

System Reliability Program

System Reliability Program activities for this month 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 installation of the UVC air disinfection system while the building remains lightly occupied. The anticipated contract completion is in the second 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 Metropolitan’s 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. Construction is complete with all systems fully operational.
- **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. Construction of Stage 1 improvements is complete. 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. Construction of Stage 2 improvements is 85 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. Stage 3 improvements will provide security system upgrades around the perimeter of the building. Design of Stage 3 improvements is complete and board award of a construction contract is planned in mid-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 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 31 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by February 2023.



Headquarters Building Improvements
Installation of new fire alarm cables in P1 storage room



Water System Operations

GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide Reliable Water Deliveries

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 85,752 acre-feet (AF) for January with an average daily delivery of 2,766 AF per day, which was 1,371 AF per day lower than December. Treated water deliveries decreased by 14,190 AF from December for a total of 44,295 AF, or 52 percent of total deliveries for the month. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) continued at seven-pump flow with a total of 93,657 AF pumped for the month. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 562 AF per day, totaling about 17,425 AF for the month which accounted for about 20 percent of Metropolitan's deliveries. The target SWP blend remained at zero percent for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants.

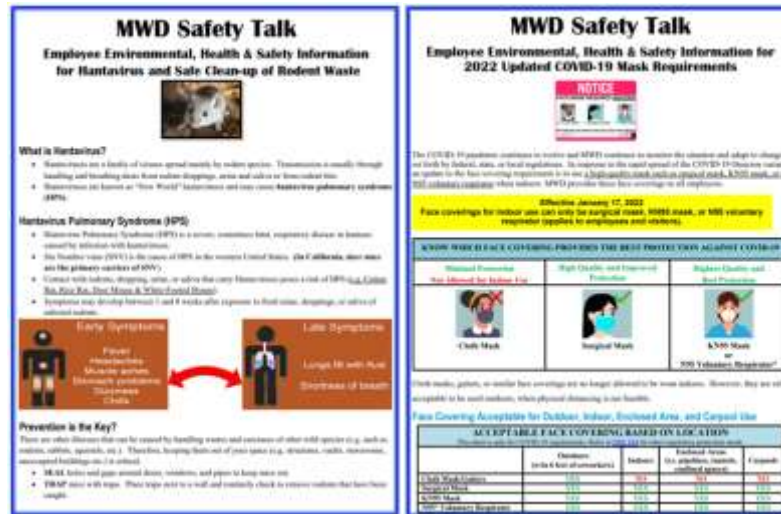
Objective #2 Ensure Water Quality Compliance, Worker Safety, and Environmental Protection.

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

Metropolitan hosted a regularly scheduled, quarterly meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water on January 19. Key discussion topics included a regulatory update, an update on Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP), microplastics, treatment plant operator certification renewal and record-keeping, a review of disinfection byproducts throughout Metropolitan's distribution system, and a status update on water quality and system operations.

This month, staff published and posted a variety of Safety Talks on the IntraMet to inform and promote employee safety during on-the-job activities. The Safety Talks included Talk Safety First, Industrial and Heavy Equipment Clearances, Aerial Lifts/Devices, Hantavirus and Safe Cleanup-up of Rodent Waste, Forklift Safety, and Updated COVID-19 Mask Requirements.



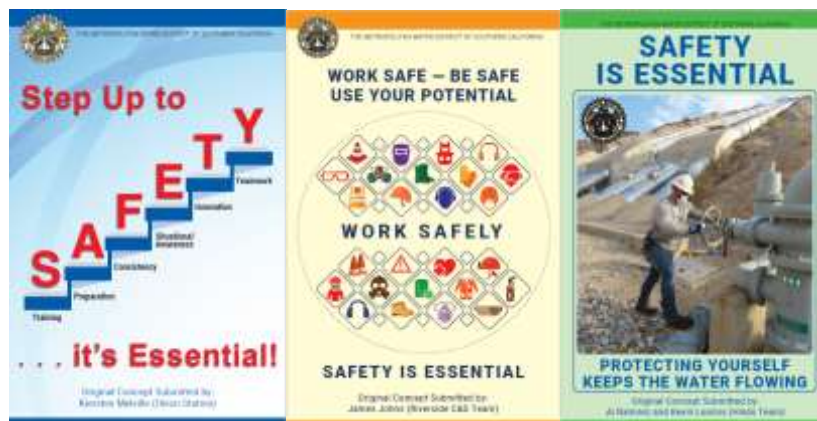


Safety Talks published and posted to the IntraMet

Staff published a variety of safety posters on the IntraMet to promote employee safety at Metropolitan facilities and to inform employees about updated face mask requirements. Safety posters included a new “Face Mask Required Indoors” poster that will be placed at Metropolitan facility entrances, and three safety awareness posters designed by Metropolitan employees as part of the June 2021 National Safety Month celebration using the “Safety is Essential” theme.



New COVID-19 safety sign for indoor face mask use



New employee-developed “Safety is Essential” signs

Staff began an in-depth review of chlorine operating and maintenance procedures at the Mills plant. This regulatory-required review, called a process hazard analysis (PHA), is performed every five years to identify any potential deficiencies and evaluate their consequences. The study is conducted by a cross-functional team with the necessary knowledge and expertise to anticipate process problems, ensure that adequate controls are in place, and make recommendations to “fix” hazards before a process disruption or injury/release occurs. This review helps identify a range of risks from equipment failures to human error, improving safety of staff and plant operations. It also helps staff increase and reinforce their knowledge of piping and instrumentation diagrams, and the physical location of plant equipment. Overall, this process reinforces Metropolitan’s commitment to the health and safety of its employees and the public.

Objective #3 Actively Engage in Capital Project Planning and Execution

Staff successfully performed a shutdown of the Jensen plant to allow a contractor to complete tie-in work for Phase 2 of the Jensen Electrical Upgrades capital project. The planned 10-day shutdown was completed a day ahead of schedule. During the shutdown, operations staff repaired a plant flowmeter and cleaned chemical injection lances, while engineering staff performed inspections and a 3-D survey of the reservoir bypass gates to aid in design of a future capital project.



Drop gate installation at filter effluent conduit during the Jensen plant shutdown



Staff removing faulty sensor in an influent channel during the Jensen plant shutdown

Objective #4 Optimize Maintenance.

This month, staff successfully coordinated shutdowns of the Sepulveda Feeder and the Second Lower Feeder pipelines. The objectives of these shutdowns were to complete the removal of the bulkhead at the Sepulveda Feeder and Second Lower Feeder interconnection in the city of Torrance; perform an electromagnetic inspection using an innovative PipeDiver technology from the interconnection to the Oak Street Pressure Control Structure in the city of Lomita; remove a bulkhead at the Second Lower Feeder and Victoria Cross Feeder interconnection in the city of Carson; and disinfect and flush the newly reinforced (steel-lined) portion of the Second Lower Feeder to meet water quality requirements for returning the pipeline to service.



Dewatering at the Sepulveda Feeder and Victoria Cross Feeder interconnection



Staff removing mortar from a welded joint near the Sepulveda Feeder and Second Lower Feeder interconnection

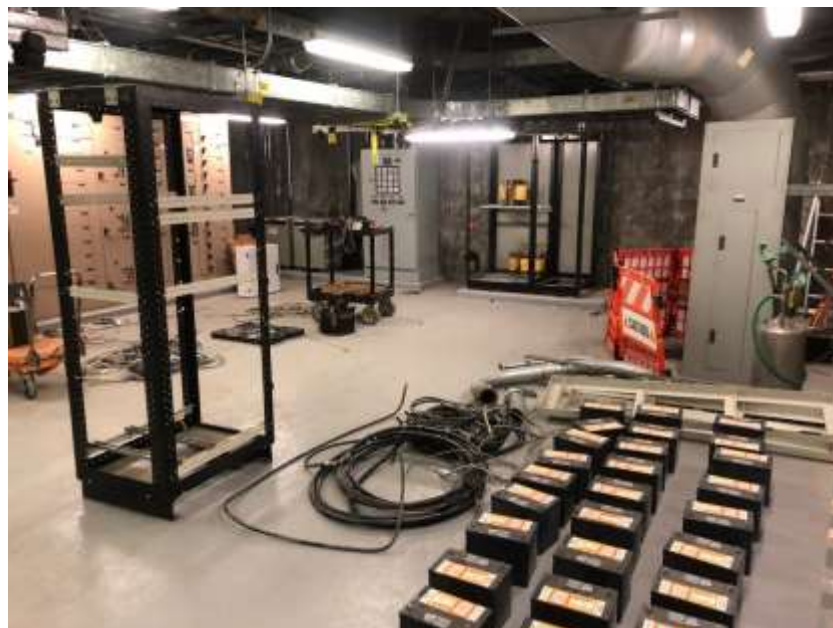


Staff removing the bulkhead assembly (left) and installing the original spool assembly (right) at the Second Lower Feeder and Sepulveda Feeder interconnection



Insertion of Pipe Diver device into the Second Lower Feeder

Staff replaced the large uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for the Diamond Valley Lake Outlet Tower. The original UPS was installed during construction of the tower and was at the end of its service life. The UPS, along with a back-up generator, ensures that electrical power for critical valve operations, ventilation, and lighting is maintained during planned and unplanned utility power outages.



Demolition of old UPS at the DVL Outlet Tower



Installation of new UPS at the DVL Outlet Tower



Completed installation of UPS at the DVL Outlet Tower

Staff regularly inspects, troubleshoots, repairs, and tests high-voltage equipment throughout the Desert. The inert gas used in the 230kV transmission system circuit breakers is sampled and sent to a laboratory for condition assessment. The assessment ensures that in-service circuit breakers are in operating condition and that spare breakers are ready for service, if needed.



Staff performing gas sampling on a spare 230kV circuit breaker at a Desert facility

The pumping plants in the Desert use synchronous motors to drive the pumps. In addition to annual preventative maintenance, the excitation components are periodically disassembled for inspection, thorough cleaning, and testing. This month, the excitation system at Hinds pumping plant was removed and transported to a vendor for cleaning, testing, and application of a new electrical insulation coating.



Staff disassembling a unit's excitation equipment at Hinds pumping plant

The Desert pumping plants use a direct current (DC) power system for emergency lighting and to power critical equipment. The DC power is supplied by a battery bank which is at the end of its expected life. As part of a project to replace these banks, staff installed redundant battery chargers and associated electrical equipment.



Electrical apprentice installing a disconnect switch at a Desert pumping plant

Staff completed annual patrol road maintenance along the CRA patrol roads in Desert Hot Springs. This work included routine grading to support CRA tunnel cleaning access in preparation for the February 2022 CRA shutdown, and erosion repairs due to recent rainstorms.



Staff using a motor grader to perform grading along CRA patrol roads

The La Verne Shops completed fabrication of two stainless steel stems, couplings, and a trash rack for a replacement gate leaf at the Lake Mathews Forebay.



Machining of gate stem for the Lake Mathews Forebay at the La Verne Shops



Fabrication of a new trash rack for the Lake Mathews Forebay at the La Verne Shops

Staff set up a temporary mobile shop at the Diemer plant to perform routine maintenance and repairs to the Yorba Linda Hydroelectric Plant. This on-site shop allows for more efficient maintenance to ensure reliable operation of the power plant.



Staff installing electrical connections to support a temporary mobile shop at the Diemer plant

Staff replaced the 120-volt DC battery system that powers the emergency generator switchgear at the Skinner plant. The switchgear is essential to ensuring power from the emergency generators can be sent where it is needed, and the batteries are critical to this operation. The existing battery system was near the end of its service life and due for replacement. Additionally, the new gel cell batteries do not require a safety shower near the generator system's high-voltage switchgear as was required with the previous flooded type batteries. Therefore, safety has been improved by eliminating the possibility of water intrusion at the switchgear.



Staff installing new switchgear batteries for the emergency generator system at the Skinner plant



New battery and charger system installed at the Skinner plant

Objective #5 Manage the Power System.

Metropolitan staff reviewed the Resource Adequacy (RA) requirements for CRA pumping operations for March 2022. An RA deficit of 2 MW was identified, because of an expected seven-pump flow and declining Hoover generation. However, the Hoover forecast for March, released in January 2022, increased by 9 MW from the previous month; therefore, no RA purchase was required.

The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), which is the Regional Entity responsible for enforcing North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) mandatory electric reliability standards, issued a memo indicating that the deadline for annual self-certification for the 2021 compliance year will be April 15, 2022. Self-certification is the process where entities that own Bulk Electric System (BES) assets provide an annual attestation of full compliance or that they have otherwise identified potential issues and implemented a corrective action plan. As owner of the CRA's 230 kV transmission system, Metropolitan is subject to several NERC standards as well as delegated Transmission Operations tasks from the Arizona Electric Power Cooperative. Metropolitan Subject Matter Experts are developing the necessary documentation for submittal to WECC.

Objective #6 Improve Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Metropolitan's treatment plants continued to prepare for possible emergencies during the holiday season by running response exercises. In December, Diemer plant Incident Command Post (ICP) staff practiced responding to a local brushfire near the plant. This included reviewing notification procedures and coordinating with outside responders. On January 3, the Jensen plant activated its ICP to monitor work performed during a scheduled shutdown that ran until January 12. During this time, Jensen ICP staff entered project progress in Metropolitan's WebEOC system, which was reviewed by Emergency Operations Center staff, just as would happen during a real emergency. In adherence to COVID-19 safety measures, all exercises were conducted virtually using online emergency information sharing applications.

On January 22, a high wind event in the region caused intermittent power interruptions at facilities. At the Jensen plant, operators lost connection to control system data for about two hours due to an uninterruptable power supply (UPS) failure impacting servers. The Jensen ICP was activated, and staff quickly responded, including bringing additional operators on site. Staff diagnosed the issue and restored power connection to the control system. Additional power connection improvements are being evaluated to prevent this event from reoccurring. At the Weymouth plant, power blips affected the ozone system and, as designed, activated emergency disinfection. The plant transitioned to chlorine for primary disinfection and notified the member agencies. For both power-related events, staff took proactive steps to ensure safe and reliable operations with no impacts to water quality.

The high wind event on January 22 also resulted in fallen trees at several Metropolitan facilities. Fencing was affected at some locations, but there was no damage to facilities or impacts to operations. Staff quickly responded to ensure site security and are working to remove vegetation and clear the areas.



Fallen trees near solar facility at the Weymouth plant (left) and near the Water Quality Laboratory (right)

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 January 2022.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from December 2020 through November 2021 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of SWP and CRA water were 574, 570, and 579 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff discovered an air line leak under the road near the ozone contactor building at the Weymouth plant. Staff located the leaking air line and performed repairs. This air line is crucial to the maintenance and calibration of analyzers that measure ozone concentration in the water.



Staff exposing the air line leak under a road at the Weymouth plant



Corroded pipe causing air line leak before (left) and after (right) repairs at the Weymouth plant



Slurry coat replaced after air line pipe repair 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 allocation based on minimum human health and safety demands. Deliveries of State Water Project (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 January to conserve SWP use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in January. A new exchange agreement also allowed surface water returns of Arvin Edison Program water. 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. Staff continue to develop additional drought mitigation actions to prepare for the potential of a low SWP allocation in 2022.

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, the Class of 2021 mechanical apprentices successfully completed Demonstrated Proficiency Assessments (DPA). The DPA is a series of hands-on exams apprentices complete as the final step in academic training before attaining journey status. The Class of 2023 mechanical and electrical apprentices began Spring semester instruction. Mechanical apprentices are attending welding and fabrication training while electrical apprentices are studying programmable logic controllers.



Class of 2021 mechanical apprentices performing practical, hands-on exercises

GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

Objective #1 Prepare for Future Legislation and Regulation.

On December 9, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the Proposed Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Regulation/Program. This program applies to non-gasoline, internal combustion engine heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) with a gross vehicle weight over 14,000 lbs. Metropolitan has approximately 53 diesel and three natural gas HDVs that are subject to the requirements of the program. The new program will increase periodic emissions testing; require newer HDVs to submit on-board diagnostics data using CARB-approved readers; require submittal of semi-annual emissions tests to CARB; and requires HDV operators to carry a certificate of compliance for this program in vehicles at all time. The first phase of the program begins on January 1, 2023, and requires registration of all HDVs subject to the program to CARB's database. The final phase, which requires semi-annual emissions test submissions, starts in 2024. Staff will continue to monitor updates to this program.

On December 10, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued an order updating its COVID-19 isolation, quarantine, and face covering requirements. Effective January 11, all persons testing positive for COVID-19—regardless of vaccination status and whether they were previously infected or are asymptomatic—must isolate

for at least five days. All unvaccinated persons or fully vaccinated persons who are eligible for a booster but have not received their booster dose, must quarantine for at least five days after close contact with an infected person. The minimum five-day isolation and quarantine period may end provided a COVID-19 test collected on day five is negative. In addition, no later than January 17, employers must provide employees who work indoors and in close contact with other workers or the public with a well-fitted medical grade, surgical mask, or higher-level respirator (i.e., N95, KN95). Staff will continue to monitor COVID-19 changes from public health authorities.

On December 16, Cal/OSHA re-adopted a revised COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS), effective January 14 through April 14, 2022. Updates to the ETS include expansion of definitions for “COVID-19 test,” “face coverings,” and “fully-vaccinated”; testing of all employees in close contact with an infected person, regardless of vaccination status or whether they are asymptomatic; and return-to-work criteria for close contacts. After its adoption, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order (EO N-23-21) allowing Cal/OSHA one more opportunities to amend and extend the ETS, provided the standard does not extend beyond December 31, 2022. Staff will continue to monitor for updates to COVID-19 standards.

On December 27, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the final Revisions to the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) for Public Water Systems. EPA updates the UCMR every five years to help prioritize unregulated contaminants in drinking water for potential regulation. The new rule adds 29 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium to the nationwide occurrence monitoring for calendar years 2023–2025. EPA scheduled two virtual meetings on March 16–17, 2022, to provide a comprehensive overview of the UCMR 5 program. Staff will continue to monitor any further updates to the UCMR program.

On December 31, the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved amendments to the Sodium Hexafluoride (SF₆) Regulation making the regulation effective January 1, 2022. The SF₆ Regulation creates a tiered phase-out (as early as 2025) for SF₆ Gas-Insulated Equipment (GIE), updates SF₆ emissions reporting/recording requirements for existing SF₆-GIE owners, and updates annual SF₆ emissions limits that must not be exceeded. Metropolitan owns 19 SF₆-GIE and reports annual SF₆ emissions as part of existing regulatory requirements. Staff is summarizing the updated revisions to the SF₆ Regulation for distribution to affected areas within Metropolitan.

Objective #3 Support the Regional Recycled Water Program.

During January, staff commenced operation of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center demonstration facility with clean water in preparation for secondary membrane bioreactor (MBR) testing. Staff re-installed a return-activated sludge pump, which had been sent offsite for replacement of a damaged impeller and shaft. Staff performed other onsite maintenance activities to prepare for secondary MBR testing, including piping improvements and SCADA troubleshooting.

On January 5–6, staff held the fifth workshop with the Independent Science Advisory Panel to review tertiary MBR testing results and the secondary MBR testing and monitoring plan. Metropolitan staff, consultants, and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts staff presented testing results and recommendations to the panel and regulators.



Staff installing a return-activated sludge pump at the demonstration facility following repair and rehabilitation

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

Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of 10.2 megawatts, or more than 7,570 megawatt-hours and over \$460,780 in revenue, for the month of December 2021. Metropolitan's solar facilities totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated approximately 420 megawatt-hours in December 2021.

Staff is exploring various options for moving non-CRA electric load to "green" retail electric rates. These rates are offered by such providers as the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Southern California Edison, and Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) such as the Clean Power Alliance. Staff is reviewing options to minimize financial impact and ensure that there are no negative operational implications.

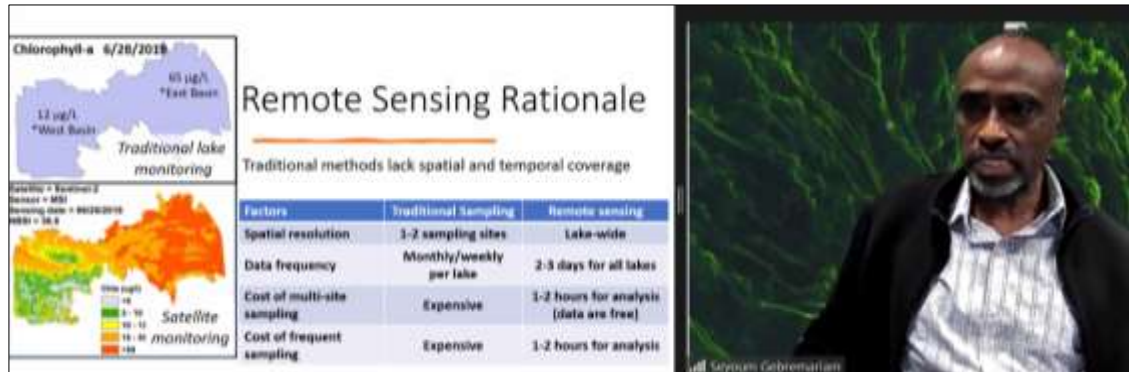
GM Strategic Priority #3: Innovation

Objective #1 Develop New Solutions to Enhance Operational and Business Processes.

Water Quality staff presented a district-wide Innovation Hour on January 26, describing innovative approaches to monitoring and modeling lakes, improvements in assessing and measuring taste and odor compounds in Metropolitan's waters, advances in detecting cyanotoxins, and novel methods for measuring pathogen removal in water reuse applications.



Innovation Hour flyer for water quality innovations



Staff presenting the use of satellite imagery to improve lake management

In support of Metropolitan’s Climate Action Plan, an electric cargo van has been received at the La Verne facility for trial use through February 3, 2022. Various work teams are assessing the vehicle’s viability for use. The van has a range of 120 miles, while newer models have a range of 140–170 miles. Staff will evaluate the van for possible future purchase and provide feedback to the manufacturer.



Passenger side view of electric cargo van



Dashboard display inside the electric cargo van

Objective #2 Support and Engage with Member Agencies on Technical Matters.

During January, staff provided an example procedure and guidance to one of Metropolitan’s sub-agencies for quagga mussel veliger sampling during raw water discharges. Many lakes and source waters across Southern California are infested with invasive quagga mussels; therefore, continued control is important to prevent further infestation.

Operations

(continued)

Monthly Update as of:

1/31/2021

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<i>Colorado River Basin</i>		
Lake Powell	6,350,000	26%
Lake Mead	8,970,000	35%
<i>DWR</i>		
Lake Oroville	1,641,543	46%
Shasta Lake	1,621,430	36%
San Luis Total	902,344	44%
San Luis CDWR	587,740	55%
Castaic Lake	185,195	57%
Silverwood Lake	67,015	89%
Lake Perris	106,053	81%
<i>MWD</i>		
DVL	594,892	73%
Lake Mathews	160,382	88%
Lake Skinner	42,994	98%



Hoover Dam

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.

The IT Cybersecurity Unit continued to implement security measures and projects to improve Metropolitan's security posture. Other on-going actions include operational analysis, security assessments, and monitoring of IT network and systems to identify potential vulnerabilities and remediate findings to protect Metropolitan against growing and evolving cyber threats.

IT Cybersecurity conducts regular briefings to the board and updates to executive management to keep them apprised of cybersecurity activities affecting Metropolitan.



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

The IT Project Management Office is responsible for the delivery of IT capital projects within Metropolitan’s Capital Investment Plan (CIP). A key project within the IT capital investment plan is Metropolitan’s Data Center Modernization project, which provides enhanced operational uptime of data center processing to meet current and future capacity and reliability needs.

With upcoming critical milestones, efforts are underway to conduct detailed planning of migration of Metropolitan’s production data center environment. As the migration effort impacts all business units, the IT project team will be working in collaboration with the Business Continuity Office and key business application owners to begin the cut-over planning as part of developing a comprehensive migration plan while minimizing disruption to the business.



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

Working behind the scenes and in collaboration with other functional areas, resources within IT Group have worked weekends and off-hours to avoid interruption to Metropolitan's business operations.

IT staff performed software upgrades, installed security patches, and conducted hardware and network maintenance during off-hours. Issuance of IT Notifications keep users informed and mitigate interruption to Metropolitan's business operations, while providing a window for resources to maintain a reliable and resilient IT infrastructure.



GM Strategic Priority #3: Innovation

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

The Information Technology Group continued to deliver innovative technologies to support our customers and member agencies. Working in collaboration with business partners, the Information Technology Group developed the Water Ordering System, which allows member agencies to use a secure web-based application to submit water flow changes.

This cloud-based web application replaces the prior manual method of having to call into Eagle Rock operators to request flow changes and the manual logging of information. With the new system, requests are captured electronically, enhancing the processing and tracking of change requests.

With the successful completion of testing and technical development, IT continued to coordinate with key stakeholders on the deployment of the Water Ordering System. To date, the new system has been implemented at the City of Long Beach, Foothill Municipal Water District, City of Glendale, and Burbank. Final preparations are underway to coordinate roll-out of the Water Ordering Systems to the City of Beverly Hills and Santa Monica.

Real Property

GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

Objective #1 Provide right-of-way planning, valuation, and real property acquisition support services for the protection and reliability of existing infrastructure.

A 24-month temporary construction easement was acquired from a private owner in support of the Perris Valley Pipeline Project to expand an existing access easement in the County of Riverside. The access easement will provide an appropriate turning radius for large construction vehicles as the new tunnel crossing the I-215 freeway has constructed. The project will enhance water delivery reliability for both Western and Eastern Municipal Water Districts.

A 24-month License from Western Municipal Water District was obtained in support of the Perris Valley Pipeline Project to run a temporary dewatering pipeline in the county of Riverside. The discharge water will be treated and blended with water from the Henry J. Mills Water Treatment Plant and released into the nearby Riverside County Flood Control Channel. Dewatering activities will reduce seepage at shaft locations and will allow the completion of the pipeline connection for the project.

Objective #2 Foster staff training and development.

Inclusive Leadership: Strategies for Leading in a Diverse Workplace—A highly interactive leadership development workshop designed to enable organizational and team leaders to learn how to more fully leverage all talent by understanding implicit bias and learning strategies for mitigating such bias in leadership decisions and practices.

How to Think Strategically and Make an Impact—This program helps develop key strategic thinking skills through interactive exercises and by studying real-world examples, which will serve to make a broader impact in the organization.

GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

Objective #1 Partner with academia, current agriculture tenants, and subject matter experts to develop and implement new and progressive farm practices that are in line with Metropolitan’s sustainability and water conservation objectives.

California State University at Chico has submitted the first annual report in connection with its Metropolitan-commissioned, five-year regenerative agriculture research program in the Palo Verde Valley to encourage sustainability and water conservation. The first year can be summarized as effective deployment of instrumentation to establish baselines for future comparison of fallow treatments of regenerative agriculture to the conventional bare fallow system.

Core Business: Real Property Acquisition, Management, and Revenue Enhancement

Objective #1 In conjunction with our partners in WSO and Security, manage and protect Metropolitan's real property land holdings and permanent easements while ensuring that Metropolitan's core operations are protected.

Local law enforcement, Water System Operations, and the Security Unit discovered four encampments inside various Metropolitan vaults, located near the Weymouth Treatment Plant boundary. Agency partnering achieved the removal of the trespassing encampments and clean up.

Additionally, new signage has been installed and a Trespass Arrest Authorization form has been executed with the City of La Verne Police Department (LVPD). The form authorizes the LVPD to arrest trespassers under Penal Code Section 602, and the authorization to arrest is valid for a period of 12 months.



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

Metropolitan received full payment of its Promissory Note secured by a Deed of Trust on a property located on Yates Road in the city of Winchester as part of the sale of the property. This Note was part of the relocation assistance provided to the property owner for the acquisition of their property located within Diamond Valley Lake's project area. The payoff of the loan satisfies the terms of the Note and Metropolitan no longer has an interest in the Winchester property.

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

Diamond Valley Lake was stocked with 3,500 pounds of several varieties of trout. This was the first of several fish plants the marina concessionaire has planned in 2022. These fish-stocking events attract anglers from many parts of Southern California to cast their fishing lines and enjoy the natural beauty of the lake.



The painting of 78 individual high-rise and low-rise elevator door panels has been completed in the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. This included scheduling and coordination to continue using the elevators during the painting process. In addition, a new building paint standard was chosen to complement the new carpet installed throughout the high-rise portion of the building.



Objective #4 District Housing Maintenance and Management.

Twenty-four work orders, including seven tenant requests were completed at the four-employee Desert villages. Tenant-requested work orders included installation of two screen doors, cabinet repairs, and a refrigerator replacement.

In September 2021, staff began a project to replace windows at 23 of the existing houses. The window replacement project was recently completed. Many of these windows were 60 to 70 years old and had exceeded their useful life; the seals had failed, and in some cases, the windows no longer functioned. The windows that had been identified as inoperable have been replaced. This will ensure that in the event of an emergency, egress is accessible.



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.

Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) Program

- Completed Revegetation Plan and broadcast seeding for the Allen McColloch Pipeline (AMP) Urgent Relining Project.
- Completed the Second Lower Feeder Reach 3 Addendum No. 5.
- Reviewed the Sepulveda Feeder South Reach 1-2 Supplemental Enhanced Preliminary Design Report and 30 percent drawings.

Foothill Feeder

- Completed Foothill Feeder Future Inspection and Maintenance Mitigation Monitoring Report to document conservation actions at the Stickleback River Ranch mitigation property.

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

Training

- Staff obtained Envision Sustainability Professional Certification.

Webinars

Staff attended the following webinars:

- “Stakeholder Briefing on Climate and Opportunity Investments in Governor’s Proposed 2022–23 Budget Confirmation”
- “Archaeology Talks: Indigenizing Curatorial Practices” by the University of Oregon

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.

Delta Conveyance Project

- Completed review of Cultural Resource and Paleontological Resource chapters of Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
- Participated in the Bay-Delta Policies Update Workshop #2.

Regional Recycled Water Program (RRWP)

- Initiated Program/Project EIR.

Weymouth Water Treatment Plant

- Finalized the Value Engineering Findings Report for the Administration Building Seismic Upgrades.
- Provided project clearance for Basins 5-8 Rehabilitation.

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.

Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve

- Seeded an acre of degraded coastal sage scrub habitat for restoration.
- Removed approximately 40 cubic yards of green waste and refuse dumped in the eastern portion of the reserve south of Cajalco Road.
- Hosted the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count on the reserve. Three juvenile bald eagles, two adult bald eagles, and one golden eagle were observed.

Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve

- Removed invasive tamarisk in Tucalota Creek as part of an ongoing restoration project and obtained native plant cuttings to propagate for future planting.
- Assessed artificial burrowing owl sites to determine maintenance needs to be performed in February.
- Hosted the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count for the second time on the reserve. Six volunteer bird watchers counted 2,762 birds and identified 108 different species.
- Conducted an assessment of rare and native plants germinating on the reserve, which identified Munz's onion, chocolate lilies, and California poppies.



**Blue gray gnatcatcher at Southwestern
Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve**



**Burrowing Owl at Southwestern
Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve**

Upper Salt Creek Preserve

- Coordinated restoration of damages caused by the Stowe Wildfire containment efforts from June 2021, including repair of dozer cuts and perimeter fencing.

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 that Metropolitan is meeting its goal.

Climate Action Plan

- Completed the public review period for the CAP Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).
- Initiated preparation of the Final PEIR (Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Responses to Comments) and started preparation of board letter to adopt the CAP and certify the Final PEIR.

Water Energy Climate Sustainability Team

- Participated in the identification of sustainability projects for the Desert region.

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 Administrative Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and Master Reclamation Plan.

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 environmental analysis templates for O&M projects in Western San Bernardino and Orange counties and finalized standard language for WSO environmental project clearance.
- Completed the template for the IS/MND and EIR table of contents to standardize and streamline preparation of Metropolitan CEQA documentation.
- Developed Zoom training platform for Desert Tortoise and Environmental Awareness trainings to register and track attendance.

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.

- Participated in California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance Natural Resources Task Force meeting, with guest speaker Chuck Bonham, Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

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. Battery Energy Storage Project at the Weymouth plant
 3. Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Housing
 4. Copper Basin Access Road and Discharge Valve Repair
 5. CRA Pump Plant 2.3 kV and 480V Rehabilitation
 6. CRA Delivery Line Rehabilitation
 7. CRA Storage Buildings and Headquarters Fire Sprinkler Level P1 Replacement
 8. Foothill Hydroelectric Plant Seismic Upgrades
 9. Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation
 10. Gene Communication Systems Upgrades
 11. La Verne Water Quality Building Improvements
 12. Orange County Feeder Relining, Reach 3, 4, and 4A
 13. Perris Valley Pipeline Rehabilitation
 14. System-wide Control System
 15. Santa Monica Feeder Cathodic Protection
 16. Weymouth Basins 5-8 Rehabilitation
 17. Weymouth Administration Building Seismic Upgrades
- Provided construction phase support for:
 1. CRA Mile 12 Flow Monitoring Station Upgrades
 2. CRA Overhead Cranes
 3. CRA Domestic Water Treatment System Replacement
 4. Cholla Wash Conduit Lining projects
 5. Garvey Reservoir Drainage Improvement Project
 6. Gene Wash Discharge Valve Rehabilitation
 7. Lake Mathews Disaster Recovery Facility Upgrades
 8. Live Oak Reservoir Asphalt Upgrades

Water System Operations

- Provided CEQA analysis and environmental planning support for the following O&M activities:
 1. Harbor College Stage Area Mowing
 2. Jensen Plant Shutdown 2022
 3. Sepulveda Feeder Road Maintenance
 4. Sepulveda Feeder Shutdown 2022
 5. Sepulveda Feeder Shutdown Pipeline Flushing 2022
 6. West Valley Feeder #1 Manhole Excavation
 7. Middle Feeder Road Grading
 8. Rialto Feeder Station 3221+00 Routine Road Maintenance
 9. Weymouth Building 20 Footings Excavation
- Environmental support to O&M activities by conducting a biological resources survey and memo for the proposed dewatering at Santiago Lateral Pipeline at Station 74+90.
- Completed South Coast Air Quality Management District CEQA Form 400 for:
 1. Weymouth Plant Blast Booth
 2. Weymouth Plant Plasma Arc System
- Submitted the 7th Annual Long-Term Maintenance Report for the Upper Feeder Santa Ana River Bridge Crossing to CDFW, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Regional Water Quality Control Board in accordance with the regulatory permits.
- Negotiated and executed the CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement for the CRA Conduit Structural Protection Project.

Water Resource Management

- Completed CEQA determination and Notice of Exemption filings to various county clerk offices for an agreement with DWR to take additional flexible storage water from Castaic Lake.

Bay Delta Initiatives

- Reviewed and commented on the Reclamation District No. 756 Administrative Draft IS/MND for the Bouldin Island Levee Rehabilitation Project.
- Reviewed and commented on the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Sites Reservoir Project.

External Affairs

- In conjunction with the General Manager's office and Legal Department, prepared comment for the California Special Districts' meeting with the Senate Climate Working Group meeting.

External Environmental Document Reviews

- Reviewed 15 CEQA notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.

Legislative Reviews

- Provided legislative analysis on:
 1. AB 1640: Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan
 2. AB 1642 CEQA: Water System Well and Domestic Well Projects: Exemption
 3. AB 1644: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: California Jobs Plan of 2021

Real Property Support

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

Finance and Administration

Finance



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

The Risk Management Unit completed 40 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 54 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.

- Continued participation in Metropolitan’s Employee Innovation Council (EIC) meetings.
- Led the second Business Continuity Steering Committee meeting. Discussed program goals and development of a charter document to serve the committee moving forward.
- Participated in meetings for the Hazard Mitigation core planning team in an effort to develop a plan in accordance with FEMA’s grant-funding requirements.

Kicked off the annual business continuity plan updates for Metropolitan. A series of meetings will be conducted with Section and Group management to facilitate the plan updates.

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 that Metropolitan has cost effective access to capital markets and the ability to finance ongoing future needs. In addition, actively manage Metropolitan’s short-term investment portfolio to meet ongoing liquidity needs and changing economic environments.

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.

Finance and Administration

(continued)

- Water Transactions for December 2021 totaled 130.5 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 7.6 TAF higher than the budget of 122.9 TAF. This translate to \$111.8 million in revenues for December 2021, which were \$5.0 million higher than budget of \$106.8 million. Year-to-date water transactions through December 2021 were 920.1 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which was 65.4 TAF higher than the budget of 854.7 thousand acre-feet (TAF). Year-to-date water revenues through December 2021 were \$825.9 million, which were \$46.8 million higher than the budget of \$779.1 million.
- In December 2021, Accounts Payable processed approximately 3,900 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$21,000 in discounts.

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.

In late November 2021, Metropolitan received 25 responses for its Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select a team of underwriters for bond issuances in calendar year 2022. Responses are being reviewed by Metropolitan and its municipal advisors. A schedule of anticipated financings and final selection of teams will be completed in February 2022. Finance staff continues its internal 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 December 31, 2021, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.48 billion; for the month of December 2021, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 26 trades.

During the month of December 2021, Treasury staff processed 1,045 disbursements by check, 18 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 117 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 71 receipts by check, 41 receipts by ACH, and 45 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

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 Management University (a ten-session, bi-monthly program for 25 newly promoted managers). January's sessions provided a guided conflict resolution exercise, as well as Franklin Covey's content on team engagement (Multipliers). The Employee Relations Section provided an overview guidelines for their support services for managers and employees.

In January, 582 Metropolitan employees attended a variety of online classes, including Effective Business Writing, Customer Service Skills, Agreement Administration, and Personal Security Awareness.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online, e-learning content platform, was used for classes including topics on Negotiation Skills, Learning Bluebeam, Overcoming Cognitive Bias, Working on a Cross Functional Team, and Preparing for Successful Communication.

The Organizational Development and Training Unit also facilitated a training for Water Quality's Chemistry Team. The topics included strengthening communication, building self-awareness and trust, and learning what motivates fellow team members.

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

The Recruitment Unit successfully filled 22 positions for the month of January. Recruitment received 28 new staffing requisitions, which resulted in 193 positions in recruitment. Recruitment continues to conduct 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 advertised, and The Hawkins Company is continuing with the next step in the recruitment process.

GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

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

HR staff organized a demonstration of the new MET Rewards system for employees who were researching alternative recognition options across teams. This demonstration provided an opportunity for employees and management to use the system for additional recognition opportunities.

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, recently revised by the California Department of Public Health. Staff continue work 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.

Human Resources staff continued to provide one-on-one coaching and mediation services for managers and employees in the developmental areas of cross training, conflict, and emotional intelligence.

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.

Staff continued to configure and test capabilities in the MyHR system to track COVID vaccination status, testing results, and other key COVID metrics. This will support Metropolitan's ability to begin safely transitioning staff back to the workplace who have been working remotely.

HR Core Business: Provide Excellent Human Resources Services

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

Employee Relations staff continued negotiations with AFSCME Local 1902 to secure a three-year MOU extension, consistent with parameters approved by the Organization, Personnel and Technology (OP&T) Committee in November. Negotiations have also begun with the Supervisors Association. A comprehensive update on the status of negotiations will be provided to the OP&T Committee in February.

Employee Relations staff also continued ongoing collaborative discussions with the bargaining units over Metropolitan's response to the COVID pandemic. The focus has been on tracking updated federal, state, and local guidelines, as well as developing "toolkits" to assist managers and employees with the eventual transition back to in-person work.

The Benefits Unit coordinated and hosted 11 pre-retirement and financial education webinars on various topics, including budgeting, investing, plan fund line-up, fraud prevention, and retirement planning for over 400 participants. The Benefits Services also hosted a 2-day virtual retirement workshop for employees eligible to retire. There were 99 participants in attendance.

HR Core Business: Comply with Employment Laws and Regulations

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

Seven 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 on the job.

Finance and Administration

(continued)

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

Activities of the Workers' Compensation/Medical Screening Unit are summarized as follows for January:

- Coordinated three medical Medvan visits (DMV, respirator exams, and hearing tests) at Jensen and Diemer.
- Arranged 11 medical evaluations (DMV, medical surveillance).
- Addressed five accommodation issues.

HR Metrics	June 2021	January 2022	Prior Month December 2021
Headcount			
Regular Employees	1,806	1,781	1,782
Temporary Employees	30	37	33
Interns	3	3	3
Recurrents	20	19	20
Annuitants	16	15	14

	January 2022	December 2021
Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)	193	187
Number of New Staffing Requisitions	28	29
	January 2022	December 2021
Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress	11	8
Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits	0	0
Number of New Job Audit Requests	3	0

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 20/21 Totals</u>	<u>January 2022</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	74	13	42
Temporary Employees	30	5	22
Interns	3	0	4
Internal Promotions	60	16	40
Management Requested Promotions	149	18	80
Retirements/Separations (regular employees)	78	14	67
Employee-Requested Transfers	20	1	4

Finance and Administration

(continued)

Retirees

ID	Last Name	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
06510	Burke	William	Construction Inspector III	11/18/2021	Retirement - Service	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP
07119	Vollucci	Stephen	Team Mgr-Right of Way Acquistn	11/27/2021	Retirement - Service	REAL PROPERTY
05984	Dietz	Albert	Electrical Specialist	12/10/2021	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
06373	Fuentes	Maribel	Admin Assistant III	12/7/2021	Retirement - Service	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP
04687	Gamble	Timothy	Unit Mgr-Engineering Services	12/4/2021	Retirement - Service	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP
04970	Molina Jr.	Jesus	Landscape Maintenance Tech II	12/10/2021	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
07966	Bueno	Jesus	O&M Tech IV	12/10/2021	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
05510	Ford Jr.	Richard	Team Manager IV	12/25/2021	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
05778	Jordan	Devin	Team Manager IV	12/25/2021	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
03574	Mann Jr.	Leland	O&M Tech IV	12/26/2021	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
06101	Pytlinski	Michael	Sr Engineer	12/25/2021	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
07312	Yu	Loida	Sr Recruitment Specialist (C)	12/25/2021	Retirement - Service	HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP
11910	Marich	Jeffery	O&M Tech III	12/17/2021	Resign - Personal Reasons	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
11410	Ake	Hannah	Assoc Resource Specialist	11/27/2021	Resign-Accepted Other Employ	WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GRP

External Affairs



GM Hagekhalil spoke at the general membership meeting of the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities about drought conditions and Metropolitan drought resiliency and conservation actions. (January 6)

Chairwoman Gray was installed as co-chair of the Los Angeles County Business Federation's Water Committee. (January 18)

GM Hagekhalil attended the groundbreaking for the city of Santa Monica's Arcadia Water Treatment Plant, which is partially funded through Metropolitan's Local Resources Program. (January 20)

GM Hagekhalil was a featured panel member at the Southern California Water Coalition Quarterly luncheon focused on the Colorado River. (January 24)

Director Repenning and GM Hagekhalil attended and Metropolitan sponsored the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Inaugural event, which recognized leaders in the business and civic community. (January 27)



Legislative Services

Local

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

- South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce Board/Government Affairs Committee (January 4)
- Glendora Chamber Economic Development and Legislative Action Committee (January 6)
- Oxnard Leadership Steering Committee (January 6)
- Water Associations of the County of Orange (January 7)
- United Chambers of the San Fernando Valley Governmental Affairs Committee (January 10)
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Board (January 10)
- Regional San Gabriel Valley Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (January 10)
- Orange County Business Council Infrastructure Committee (January 11)
- Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee (January 11)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition Legislative Committee (January 12)
- Ventura County Council of Governments (January 13)
- Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Policy Committee (January 13)
- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (January 13)
- Building Industry Association of Southern California Board of Directors Educational Summit (January 13)
- Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (January 13)
- Inland Empire Economic Partnership All Partners Meeting (January 13)
- Orange County Business Council Government Affairs Committee (January 14)
- Los Angeles County Business Federation Board of Directors (January 18)
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Water Issues Committee (January 18)
- California Women for Agriculture Ventura County Member Meeting (January 18)
- Ventura County Economic Development Association Board (January 18)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Governmental Affairs Committee (January 19)

- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Sacramento meetings with ten legislators (January 19)
- Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business WHEEL Meeting (January 19)
- Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation Board of Governors (January 19)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Los Angeles Mayor Candidate Forum (January 19)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (January 19)
- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County Waterwise Breakfast (January 20)
- Pomona Economic Development Committee (January 20)
- Central City Association Executive Member Meeting (January 20)
- San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers (January 20)
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Governing Board (January 20)
- South Bay Cities Council of Governments Steering Committee (January 20)
- Anaheim Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (January 21)
- United Chambers of the San Fernando Valley Board (January 24)
- El Segundo Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (January 24)
- Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (January 25)
- Gateway Chambers Alliance (January 25)
- Tri-County Alliance of San Luis Obispo Santa Barbara, Ventura Counties Board (January 25)
- Alhambra Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee (January 25)
- Central City Association Policy Committee (January 26)
- Huntington Beach Government Affairs Committee (January 26)
- Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce Legislative Affairs Committee (January 26)
- Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality Board /Regulatory Affairs Committee (January 26)
- Valley Industry and Commerce Association Board Meeting (January 26)
- West Ventura County Business Alliance Board Meeting (January 27)
- Association of California Cities—Orange County Legislative Affairs Committee (January 27)
- South Orange County Economic Coalition General Membership Meeting (January 28)

State

Governor Newsom released his \$286.4 billion budget proposal for FYI 2022-23, which includes a \$750 million for drought response, including a \$100 million for water conservation and planning, \$120 million for urban and small community drought relief, \$75 million for turf replacement, and a \$250 million contingency for additional drought assistance.

Metropolitan staff continues to work on legislation including CMUA's co-sponsored bill SB 230 (Portantino, D-La Canada Flintridge) that would create a program for constituents of emerging concern in drinking water at the State Water Board, and measures related to indoor water conservation and other initiatives.

The redrawing of district boundaries for the 2022 elections is spurring a wave of early departures and members choosing not to run for reelection including Assembly Members Mayes (I-Rancho Mirage), Medina (D-Riverside), O'Donnell (D-Long Beach) and Senator Leyva (D-Chino). In addition, there are two vacancies in the Metropolitan service area. Assembly District 49, formerly held by Ed Chau, who was appointed Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge, and Assembly District 80, formerly held by Lorena Gonzalez, who resigned to lead the California Labor Federation, will have special elections.

Federal

Federal agencies began rolling out the first round of funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Reclamation released \$245 million for Title XVI water recycling projects and applications for that funding are due March 15. The Environmental Protection Agency announced that California's state revolving fund program will receive \$609.4 million in IIJA funding in 2022.

Lawmakers began work on the Water Resources and Development Act of 2022. Metropolitan staff will be closely tracking the bill as it moves through Congress. The bill authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop locally-driven water resources projects. It is often expanded to include programs at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Media and Communications

Media Activities and Interviews

- Coordinated various interviews about the 500+ Plan for the Lower Colorado River Basin with Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp and Water Environment Federation reporter Justin Jacque, Aspen Journalism reporter Heather Sackett, and PPIC writer Sarah Bardeen.
- Arranged an interview between Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp and Associated Press' Felicia Fonseca regarding the new land fallowing agreement with the Quechan tribe.
- Set up appearance of CE/AGM Upadhyay on KPCC's Larry Mantle show on the impact of the December snow and rainfall on water supply outlook for Southern California.
- Coordinated live radio interview of GM Hagekhalil on KNX-AM 1070 on State Water Project allocation increase of 15 percent.
- Arranged interviews with Chairwoman Gray and LA Times' Ian James regarding board action on committee chair and vice chair assignments.

Press releases

- Issued statement on increased SWP allocation.
- Issued statement on results of DWR January snow survey.

Creative Design

- Developed new collateral materials, including a six-page fact sheet and PowerPoint presentation, in response to low SWP allocation and the need to make Metropolitan's distribution system more resilient in the future.
- Produced and posted on mwdh2o.com website the SB 60 Annual Achievement Report as well as the Executive Summary mini version.



Website

- Generated more than 126,000 visits to the mwdh2o.com website, with the homepage, careers and job site the most popular pages.
- Logged more than 18,000 views on bewaterwise.com, with the turf replacement and rebates the most visited destinations.

Social Media

- Collaborated with Human Resources to promote several open positions on social media, including three executive-level positions and Water System Operations journey-level jobs; a short slideshow of field employees working supported the effort, which resulted in some of the highest engagement during the month.
- Continued advertising conservation campaign, currently in its second phase of its ad run, on social media, which has so far received more than 16,000 clicks to bewaterwise.com and reached more than 1.1 million with more than 3.4 million impressions.
- Celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day on social media with a quote from Chairwoman Gloria Gray honoring Dr. King's legacy.



Public Outreach and Member Services

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

- Carson Chamber of Commerce (January 5 and 20)
- Long Beach Chamber of Commerce (January 11)
- Recycled Water Communications Coordination Group with Council for Watershed Health (January 12)
- Virtual Tour of Demonstration Facility in Spanish on January 18 and in English on January 19
- Staff at Los Angeles County Supervisory District 5 (January 20)
- Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality Meeting (January 26)
- Carson Coalition and Planning Commission Members (January 31)

Construction Outreach/Other

- Distributed approximately 400 flyers to residents and business regarding the Second Lower Feeder Shutdown. (January 3)
- Notified the community near Live Oak Reservoir regarding construction activity at the Reservoir. (January 13)
- Metropolitan staff met with the City of La Verne staff to provide an update on infrastructure and activity. (January 25)

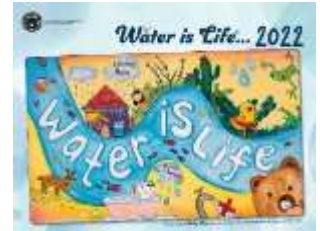
Education and Community Relations

Metropolitan staff virtually interacted with over 2,100 teachers, students, and parents through online virtual tours, scouting programs, customized ZOOM class presentations, and digital outreach through the latest edition of the H2Know Newsletter.

Education staff virtually attended a meeting of the Ventura County Work-based Learning Consortium, which seeks to connect high school and community college students with careers.

2022 “Water is Life” Calendar Distribution

Staff distributed over 6,000 “Water is Life” 2022 Calendars to Member Agencies and retailers. The calendars feature the artwork of the 37 student artists whose works were selected from a total of 213 pieces of student art.



Solar Cup 2022 Celebrates 20th Anniversary

This year's Solar Cup marks the 20th anniversary of the program. Member Agencies are currently assembling and submitting Solar Cup Teams. The program is online and will include eight challenges: Onshape (3D CAD drawing), Electrical/Circuits, Solar Panels, Water Conservation Public Outreach Campaign, Zero Emission Truck, Robot Powered Water Conservation Device, Green Careers, and a Sustainability Workshop for Teachers.

SWP Dependent Area Marketing – Google Advertising

Staff launched a point of purchase and digital marketing campaign focused on SWP-dependent agencies of Calleguas, Las Virgenes, and IEUA service areas with rebate-focused Google display advertisements. The ads appear in many hardware and gardening stores and on curated websites and direct consumers to mobile-friendly landing pages specific to clothes washer, toilet, sprinkler nozzle, and irrigation controller rebates. The SoCalWaterSmart “microsites” streamline the rebate application process and emphasize the importance of switching to water efficient devices during a drought.



Business Outreach and 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:

- USGBC-LA NET ZERO Accelerator, promoting pilot projects to create a more sustainably built environment (January 13)
- USGBC-LA Community Open House, promoting environmental, socio-economic, and racial equity (January 19)
- City of Compton Councilmember Lillie P. Darden's virtual business roundtable (January 27)

EO/AGM Upadhyay and Innovation staff participated in a technology scan review meeting of various water agencies' approaches and use of technologies that can reduce evaporation of lakes, reservoirs, and canals. (January 18)

Hosted an Innovation Hour brown bag focused on innovative advancements made by Metropolitan's Water Quality cyanotoxin detection and pathogen testing at the RRWAPC. (January 26)



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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