



# General Manager's Monthly Report



**April 12, 2022**

**Activities for the Month of March 2022**



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# Message from the General Manager

We head into April after a dry and thirsty start to the year. The context of Earth Day 2022 is sobering: severe drought and climate disruptions have shrunk the snowpack, altered the passing of seasons, and put at risk the water supplies of tens of millions of people.

I am buoyed, however, by the commitment of our workforce and the readiness of leaders all around me to forge solutions to our present crises.

I recently spent two days touring the Bay Delta and met with property owners, activists, elected officials and scientists who are envisioning a more sustainable future. I visited farms that could share land during the rainy season so that flood waters can benefit fish and wildlife. I saw up close the interface of urban and wild lands where a shared interest in water quality could help communities realize the potential for economic and recreational activity.

Standing on the levee, one is reminded that the water at the core of Met's mission is relied upon multiple times over. In the river it serves wildlife and recreation and commerce. Behind the dam it drives clean hydropower. It is at the foundation of local economies of all kinds. We grow our food with it, drink it, clean with it, and, in the best cases, reuse it. Every drop is precious, and too often its value and potential are underappreciated.

Our "One Water" approach recognizes the interconnected nature of finite water resources and seeks to integrate planning for long-term resilience and reliability to meet both community and ecosystem needs. Only by working together and harnessing the expertise of our dedicated employees, can we secure true sustainability, through a renewed commitment to conservation, innovative approaches to water management, inclusive planning and dialogue, and major investments to modernize our infrastructure.

We are one,

Adel



**“Now is the time to make investments, big and small, to ensure the reliability of our water supply.”**



# Executive Summary

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

## **Administrative Services**

The Enterprise Content Management (ECM) Team reached an important milestone in the Program by completing prerequisite work (ECM Phase I) necessary to deploy an ECM System to manage our electronic files in the cloud (ECM Phase II). The Professional Services Contracting Team completed Request for Proposals (RFP) 1254 – Control System Upgrade. A highly visible and integral acquisition is to upgrade Metropolitan’s current supervisory control and data acquisition system (SCADA) to obtain higher levels of functionality and security. The essential services include designing, programming, configuring, manufacturing or procuring, and commissioning the upgraded SCADA system.

## **Bay-Delta Initiatives**

In March, scientific studies related to the Bay-Delta that Metropolitan funded and/or collaborated on were published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. The studies address the risk of pesticide contaminants in salmon habitats, juvenile salmon growth rates in different habitats, the impacts of drought on Delta smelt reproduction, and development of pathogen screening methods for Delta smelt. These published studies contribute toward Metropolitan’s objectives to support strong science to inform management actions that protect the Delta ecosystem and State Water Project water supply reliability, reduce stressors, and inform habitat restoration efforts.

## **Chief Financial Officer**

Water Transactions for February 2022 totaled 104.3 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which were 3.1 TAF higher than the budget of 101.2 TAF and translate to \$96.2 million in revenues for February 2022, which were \$3.2 million higher than the \$93.0 million budget. Year-to-date water transactions through February 2022 were 1,112.5 TAF, which were 48.8 TAF higher than the budget of 1,063.7 TAF. Year-to-date water revenues through February 2022 were \$1,002.8 million, which were \$30.5 million higher than the budget of \$972.3 million. In February 2022, Accounts Payable processed approximately 2,800 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$1,300 in discounts.

## **Colorado River**

Another dry month in the Colorado River Basin has the Department of the Interior concerned about the potential for Lake Powell to fall below minimum power pool elevation within the next 18 months. Federal officials have been meeting with the Basin States to discuss options to reduce that threat, including reducing releases from Lake Powell this summer.

## **Engineering Services**

While the 2021/2022 shutdown season is winding down, Engineering is getting ready for the next shutdown season. During March nine contracts were out for bid by contractors, including relining of a portion of the Second Lower Feeder and the Orange County Feeder.

## **Environmental Planning**

The Environmental Planning Section negotiated and executed a new agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Regions 5 and 6 for dedicated CDFW staff support. The agreement will be utilized on an on-call basis to streamline and expedite regulatory permitting for critical capital projects and O&M activities.

## **External Affairs**

Chairwoman Gray and GM Hagekhalil joined with California Natural Resources Secretary Crowfoot and LA DWP’s Managing Water Utility Engineer Kwan for a well-attended media event calling on Southern Californians to increase conservation efforts and use more native plants as a water saving strategy during this historic drought. The event, which was held at the Theodore Payne headquarters, was covered by CBS2, NBC4, Spectrum News, Univision, KNX, KFI and the San Fernando Sun. (March 21)

## **Human Resources**

This month HR completed two high level recruitments with the successful hiring of the new Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer and the new Equal Employment Opportunity Officer.

## **Information Technology**

IT Group worked diligently to support the Board of Directors and executed the first hybrid board and committee meetings. In preparation for the return of in-person board and committee meetings, IT technical staff and iHUB tested the hardware, software and integration of the audio and video systems. The team continues to work collaboratively with key stakeholders for future on-site board and committee meetings, as well as the required in-person resources needed to support the meetings and logistics.

## **Real Property**

A new ten-year lease was executed for the continued farming of 585 acres in Palo Verde Valley. This new lease replaces the lease that was executed in 2017 with updated terms and conditions and encourages water conservation with fallowing, conservation and innovative farming financial incentives included in the new lease.

## **Security Management**

Western Region C&D partners with Security to safeguard drinking water integrity.

## **Water Resource Management**

WRM staff has been working extensively with member agencies who are currently receiving Metropolitan's State Water Project (SWP) supply. The group is regularly reporting drought-response activities and developing a State Water Project Conservation Plan to preserve the limited supply available in 2022.

## **Water System Operations**

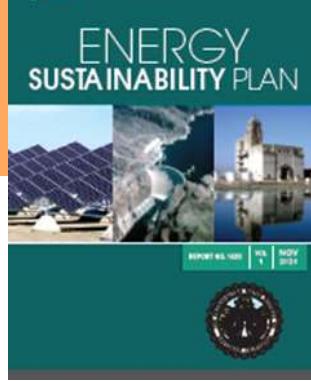
While maintaining approximately 350 miles of unpaved dirt roads along its vast system, Metropolitan uses water trucks for dust abatement, soil compaction, and fire watch. Staff developed a new, innovative approach to refilling water trucks in the field utilizing our existing infrastructure and raw water pipelines. This maintenance improvement saves both time and fuel, while meeting all environmental requirements in an efficient and flexible manner.

# Upcoming Board Items

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

Month	Key Board Items
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report on Bond Financing CY 2022</li><li>• Presentation by Delta Conveyance Authority Regarding Delta Conveyance EIR Technical Support</li><li>• Approve the Climate Action Plan</li><li>• Update on Status of Recommendation from Independent Review of Workplace Concerns</li></ul>
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approve Bay-Delta Policies</li><li>• Authorize payment for support of the Colorado River Board and Six-Agency Committee for FY 2022/23</li><li>• Approve 500+ Plan Implementation Agreements</li><li>• Update on Public Draft EIR Release on Delta Conveyance Project (Invited Presenter from California Department of Water Resources)</li></ul>
<b>July</b>	
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update on Delta Conveyance Public Draft EIR and Comments</li><li>• Authorize an increase to agreement with Roesling Nakamura Terada Architects for final design and architectural services in support of the District Housing and Property Improvement Program</li></ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oral Report on the Surplus Plan</li><li>• Consider Project Labor Agreement Status</li></ul>





“Metropolitan, like all of us, is living in an era of constant change, from climate to regulation and the evolving impacts of the current pandemic. The challenge and the key component when implementing changes is to gain buy-in from all stakeholders, which is what we have strived for and incorporated in both project planning and execution”

*Ha Nguyen,  
Principal Resource Specialist*

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In 2020, Metropolitan began the implementation of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at its facilities. Taking advantage of the State of California’s incentive program, three BESS projects at Jensen, Skinner, and Weymouth treatment plants are currently underway. Paired with existing solar facilities on site, the BESS will store energy during lower cost and lower GHG emission periods and discharge energy for usage during higher energy cost periods in the evening hours.

## IMPORTANCE TO METROPOLITAN

BESS is one of the key recommendations of Metropolitan’s Energy Sustainability Plan (ESP), and the implementation of these projects will provide electricity cost savings, improve operational flexibility and resiliency, and reduce GHG emission at these facilities. These projects also showcase the ability of Metropolitan employees to adapt to new technologies that increase efficiency and further the mission of providing reliable water supplies in a sustainable way. The success of these innovative projects is evident in the high degree of collaboration to gather input and address concerns, and make adjustments when and where appropriate as we proceed with the design and installation of the new battery storage systems at the three treatment plants.

The work supports the three I’s that are pillars of our foundation for success: *Integration* of smart water management into our infrastructure, *inclusion* of all voices to create our water future together, and *innovation* to ensure we look at different and creative ways to problem solve.

## MEMORABLE MOMENT

Critical work was identified and planned accordingly to meet the milestones required to preserve the incentives awarded to Metropolitan’s projects. Despite the current supply chain disruptions, Metropolitan staff were able to secure the necessary materials and successfully complete critical site modifications as part of the preparations for the BESS installation.



# Water Resources and Engineering



## Water Resource Management

### GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

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

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is initiating a project to design and install a debris catchment device in the State Water Project intake towers. This project is necessary to protect downstream valves and other infrastructure in case of concrete debris falling inside the intake tower during catastrophic events, such as a major earthquake. During the construction of this project, no water deliveries will be available via the intake towers, and DWR is working with Metropolitan to install barge pumps to maintain deliveries from Castaic Lake to the SWP-dependent areas.

Two Lake Perris-related dam safety projects are expected to be advertised for construction in 2022:

1. **Perris Dam Emergency Release Facility Project**—Scheduled to go out in the second quarter of 2022. This project aims to design and construct infrastructure necessary to safely convey an emergency release around the residential neighborhood to the Perris Valley drain.
2. **Perris Dam Outlet Tower Improvements**—Scheduled to go out in the third quarter of 2022, and 32.2 percent of the costs will be covered by recreation funding.

These projects will help improve the reliability of the SWP infrastructure.

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

Staff attended meetings with other Lower Colorado River Basin State and federal representatives to discuss implementation of the 500+ Plan. The 500+ Plan aims to increase water storage in Lake Mead by a total of 500,000 acre-feet over the course of 2022 and 2023 through additional conservation to offset rapidly declining reservoir levels in the Basin. The overarching funding agreement for the 500+ Plan was signed in December 2021. In these March meetings, staff helped to finalize the cost-sharing framework for individual conservation projects.

Staff attended a Lower Colorado River Basin States meeting that included representatives from California, Nevada, Arizona, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). In the meeting, USBR reported on reservoir conditions in Lake Powell and Lake Mead and presented USBR's current understanding of Glen Canyon Dam outlets that could be used to release water if Lake Powell drops below elevation 3,490 feet, the minimum elevation for generating power at the dam. USBR's presentation was in response to continued dry conditions and declining reservoir elevations in the Basin.



## **GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability**

### **Objective #1 Complete the 2020 Integrated Water Resource Plan.**

Phase one of the 2020 IRP nears completion. On March 11, staff met with the member agency managers to discuss and receive feedback on the draft findings of the Draft 2020 IRP Regional Needs Assessment. Staff considered all member agency feedback and incorporated revisions into a draft report that includes findings in five broad categories (State Water Project Dependent Areas, Storage, Demand Management, Imported Supplies, and Local Supplies), quantifies supply/demand gaps, and examines the effectiveness of generalized portfolio categories. The report documents the completion and findings of phase one of the 2020 IRP process. On March 22, the IRP Regional Needs Assessment Report was submitted for consideration by the Integrated Resources Plan Special Committee. The IRP Committee unanimously recommended that the Board adopt the 2020 Integrated Water Resources Plan Needs Assessment at the April 12 board meeting. Adopting the Regional Needs Assessment will allow the analysis and findings to serve as guidance for phase two of the IRP process, which will focus on implementation of policies and programs to address the findings identified in phase one.

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

WRM staff has been working extensively with member agencies who are currently receiving Metropolitan's State Water Project (SWP) supply. The group is regularly reporting drought-response activities and developing a State Water Project Conservation Plan to preserve the limited supply available in 2022.

WRM staff attended the groundbreaking ceremony in Long Beach for the Rancho Los Cerritos—Looking Back to Advance Forward project, as part of the Stormwater for Direct Use Pilot Program. The project commenced construction in late February and is estimated to be operational by September 2022. Upon completion, the project will capture and store virtually 100 percent of the stormwater on the 2.25-acre property for direct irrigation use. Metropolitan is funding \$324,800 toward the project's construction, monitoring, and reporting costs.

### **Objective #8 Implement Regional Conservation Program.**

As dry conditions persist, Metropolitan staff continued efforts to implement the regional conservation program. Conservation outreach activities this month include:

- Holding a Water Efficient Landscape Dual Certification Program session in partnership with Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC). The session focused on efficient landscaping, irrigation, and maintenance practices and had approximately 40 attendees.
- Hosting Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO) training classes for roughly 60 city and county staff, as well as landscape professionals. MWELO aims to increase landscaping water efficiency and improve environmental conditions in the built environment.
- Participation in the Board of Directors Meeting for California Water Efficiency Partnership (CalWEP). CalWEP is a chapter of AWE and its mission is to maximize urban water efficiency and conservation throughout California.
- Presenting on Metropolitan's water efficiency programs at the Southern California Water Utilities Association monthly meeting.

## GM Strategic Priority #3: Innovation

**Objective #2 Collaborate with member agencies, water agencies and associations, and provide leadership for policy development, advocacy, outreach and education.**

Staff attended and participated in the California Irrigation Institute's (CII) 60th Annual Conference. The California Irrigation Institute brings both agricultural and urban water leaders together to discuss water efficiency. Staff co-moderated a panel titled "Regenerative Agriculture: What it is, and Where are We Headed?" Staff is a member of the Board of Director of CII.

Staff participated in the Board of Directors Meeting for Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE). AWE is a national water efficiency non-profit organization with over 500 members from all areas of water efficiency. AWE recently completed in partnership with Metropolitan and the City of Long Beach on a research report titled, "An Assessment of Water Affordability & Conservation Potential in Long Beach California". The report examined water affordability in the City of Long Beach and how water efficiency and conservation can help families lower their water and sewer bills. The Alliance of Water Efficiency's report ultimately found that the Long Beach-implemented water efficiency and conservation programs help lower the average water bill by up to 22 percent.

In addition, Metropolitan staff participated in a webinar with AWE and Long Beach to promote the release of the assessment. As a follow up to the assessment, Metropolitan is working with Long Beach and manufacturers Kohler and Whirlpool to provide direct installation of water efficient toilets and clothes washers in up to 100 homes within disadvantaged census tracts to further examine the potential for water efficiency to lower consumer costs and make water more affordable.

On March 29, Metropolitan staff hosted an online meeting with the member agencies to begin coordination on their Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessments, which will be due, beginning in 2022, to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), by July 1 or within 14 days of receiving final State Water Project or Central Valley Project allocations, whichever is later. This is a new annual requirement that is part of the 2018 Conservation as a California Way of Life legislation and related to the Water Shortage Contingency Plans that were completed by each agency with their 2020 Urban Water Management Plans in 2021.

DWR started its collaboration with statewide stakeholders for the California Water Plan (CWP) Update 2023. The CWP, updated every five years, is the state's strategic plan for developing and managing California's water resources. DWR is leading the work and ultimately developing the final plan, while actively promoting coordination among state agencies and California's diverse water resources interests. On March 2, 2022, DWR hosted a public workshop covering the scope of Update 2023 and to convene the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC comprises 41 member organizations, including Metropolitan. The purpose of the PAC is to inform and advise DWR and state agency partners, share and explore innovative ideas, inform content development, and promote a common understanding for enhancing the resilience of the state's watersheds. The intended outcome of Update 2023 is regional water resilience across California's watersheds centered around three central themes: 1) Promote climate change adaptations that ensure resilient water resources; 2) Support watershed-based, multi-sector resilience planning; and 3) Strengthen water equity. DWR has scheduled a series of stakeholder meetings and public webinars leading up to the anticipated release of the CWP Update 2023 Public Draft in the first quarter of 2023.

# Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

## **Objective #4 Implement Future Supply Actions Funding Program.**

Staff provided testimony in support of the Doheny Ocean Desalination Project during a March 9, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) permit hearing. The testimony reinforced the support letter Metropolitan submitted to the South Coast Water District—the project proponents. Metropolitan’s letter and testimony stressed the need for diversifying Southern California’s water resource portfolio to adapt to climate change and recognized the sustainability features of the project. The RWQCB approved the permits unanimously in a 4 to 0 vote. The next step in the permitting process will be consideration of the project’s coastal development permit by the California Coastal Commission.

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

Staff participated in a board meeting of the California Water Data Consortium (Consortium) on March 22. The Consortium’s Board approved the one-year appointment of Adrian Covert of the Bay Area Council as Board Chair. The Consortium also re-elected Debbie Franco, Meredith Lee, and David Orth to serve on the Board for a term of three years. Agenda items included discussions of fundraising efforts and updates on pilot projects such as the Urban Water Data Reporting study. The Consortium is recruiting members and will be providing an update during Metropolitan’s Member Agency Manager’s meeting in April. Metropolitan helped launch the Consortium with a \$200,000 investment in 2020 and currently serves on the Consortium’s Board.

## **Objective #8 Explore and study current and new opportunities to reduce water demand.**

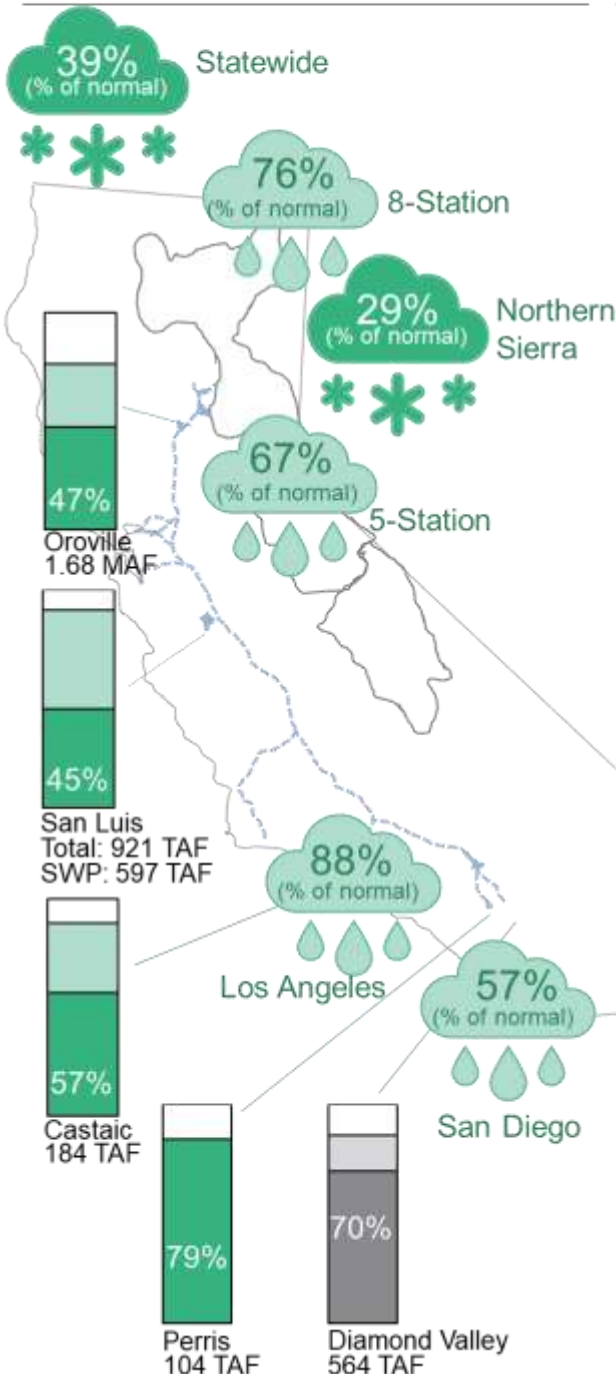
Staff led and participated in the evaporation control technologies workgroup. This workgroup was formed to study potential opportunities to reduce evaporation loss at Metropolitan’s canals and reservoirs as well as potential for solar power generation at the same time. The workgroup is formed with staff from Water Resource Management, Water System Operations, Engineering, and External Affairs groups and will start a second phase to the project. This workgroup is also tracking the \$20 million state sponsored pilot project at Turlock Irrigation District that aims to install solar panels over their irrigation canals to generate clean energy while hopefully reducing water evaporation.

# Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

## State Water Project Resources

SWP Table A – 5% - 95,575 AF



## Colorado River Resources

Projected CRA Diversions – 1,135,000 AF



Extended Report:

<http://mwdh2o.com/WSCR>

As of March 31, 2022

## Bay-Delta Initiatives

### Resiliency

Staff continued to participate in the collaborative groups called for in the 2019 Biological Opinions (BiOp) for the State Water Project (SWP) and the Central Valley Project (CVP), and in the 2020 Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for long-term operation of the SWP, to address science needs and inform management and operation of the water projects. Staff is collaborating with state and federal agencies to conduct planning for a migratory barrier at Georgiana Slough to reduce the diversion of juvenile salmonids from the Sacramento River into the interior and south Delta, as required by the ITP. The group is finalizing the monitoring plan, which describes the project, its location and infrastructure, and how its effectiveness will be monitored and analyzed.

Staff is participating in the Delta Coordination Group to develop and implement an expert elicitation regarding the Summer-Fall Habitat Actions considered for 2022 through the structured decision-making process as part of the BiOp/ITP. The elicitation will address how contaminants may change in response to the actions and how changes in contaminants may affect the vital rates of Delta smelt and zooplankton. The two actions planned for 2022 are the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gate Operations and the North Delta Foodweb Enhancement.

### Sustainability

#### Delta Conveyance

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing to develop a public Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Delta Conveyance Project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), as part of its permitting review under the Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act, is preparing 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.

#### Joint Powers Authorities

At its regularly scheduled March 17 Delta Conveyance Design and Construction Authority (DCA) Board of Director's meeting, the board of directors approved a resolution to amend the Joint Exercise of Power Authority (JEPA) to clarify the expiration date of the agreement during the planning phase. While the body of the JEPA does not have an expressed termination date, an expiration date was included when the Department of General Services approved a prior amendment. This amendment will extend the termination date of the agreement during the planning phase until June 30, 2025.

The regularly scheduled March 17 Delta Conveyance Finance Authority meeting was cancelled.

#### Sites Reservoir

At their joint March meeting, the Sites Project Authority Board (Authority Board) and the Sites Reservoir Committee (Reservoir Committee) gave the Executive Director authorization to submit the Sites Reservoir Project's (Project) water right application to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) including the associated application fee. The Authority Board and Reservoir Committee also directed staff to proceed with pivoting to Alternative 3 as the Preferred Project Alternative and adjusting to more environmentally protective diversion criteria that could potentially achieve a higher degree of permitting certainty while maintaining project affordability.



Alternative 3 would allow for a federal investment (through the United States Bureau of Reclamation [Reclamation]) in the Project of between 7 and 25 percent. Their current level of participation is 7 percent.

The Executive Director was also authorized to execute a proposal letter with the Environmental Defense Fund and The Nature Conservancy, to cooperatively develop terms and conditions for consideration in the Proposition 1 Benefit Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to incorporate an Environmental Water Manager “pilot” as part of the Sites Project implementation. The goal of this pilot is to work with the non-governmental organization partners to determine the technical, legal, contractual, and statutory provisions necessary for the practical implementation of an Environmental Water Manager within the Sites Reservoir Project. Revisions to the Funding Credit and Reimbursement Policy were also approved to incorporate an opportunity cost fee and key terms for potential new participants, and priority system for admitting new participants was discussed.

## Innovation

### Science Activities

Staff co-authored two scientific papers published in March in peer-reviewed journals that reported on results from a study evaluating the bioavailability of pesticides in juvenile Chinook salmon habitat in the Sacramento River watershed. The study was funded by a Proposition 1 grant with cost-share from Metropolitan. The first paper published in the journal *Chemosphere* ([Bioavailability of legacy and current-use pesticides in juvenile Chinook salmon habitat of the Sacramento River watershed: Importance of sediment characteristics and extraction techniques - ScienceDirect](#)), evaluated the presence and bioavailability of pesticides in salmon habitats in a floodplain and the mainstem Sacramento River. Higher organochlorine pesticide concentrations were found in floodplains compared with riverine habitats, and overall, pesticides were less available during low-flow conditions. The second paper published in the journal *Environmental Pollution* ([Pesticide residues in juvenile Chinook salmon and prey items of the Sacramento River watershed, California – A comparison of riverine and floodplain habitats - ScienceDirect](#)), reported on the occurrence of pesticide residues in Chinook salmon, zooplankton, and macroinvertebrates from the Yolo Bypass floodplain and the mainstem Sacramento River. The study found that zooplankton had higher concentrations of pesticides than macroinvertebrates. Chinook salmon had threefold higher organochlorine pesticide concentrations in the floodplain as compared with the Sacramento River, and pesticide concentrations were higher in prey organisms during flood events than in drought conditions. The study findings suggest that within these habitats, the benefits to juvenile salmon of an improved food supply in floodplains may be countered by increased pesticide exposure.

Staff co-authored another salmon scientific paper in March in collaboration with researchers from UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Southwest Fisheries Science Center, evaluating juvenile salmon growth in the Delta. The paper published in *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* ([Variation in Juvenile Salmon Growth Opportunities Across a Shifting Habitat Mosaic \(escholarship.org\)](#)) reported on a study evaluating juvenile salmon growth rates in the American River and Delta by measuring the width of the daily rings in the fish’s otoliths (earbones) similar to how growth is measured with tree rings. The region that produced the highest growth rates varied within and among years. Juvenile salmon grew fastest in the Delta in some years, but slower in drought years. The study findings suggest that maintaining a mosaic of quality habitats in both the rivers and Delta will be important for juvenile salmon in California’s dynamic hydroclimate.

Two scientific papers addressing Delta smelt studies were also published in March. Staff co-authored a study in collaboration with researchers from UC Davis, CDFW, and Reclamation. The paper published in *PLOS ONE* ([Reproductive strategy of Delta Smelt \*Hypomesus transpacificus\* and impacts of drought on reproductive performance \(plos.org\)](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0211111)) reported on a study evaluating the impacts of drought on Delta smelt reproduction. Salinity was a stronger driver of distribution than temperature or turbidity during the subadult/adult period. Mature females exhibited lower numbers and smaller sized eggs during the drought of 2013–2014 than the wet year class of 2011 suggesting that reproductive performance was negatively affected by environmental conditions during the drought.

The second Delta smelt publication reported on a study funded by Metropolitan to conduct pathogen screening in Delta smelt. The paper published in *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science* ([Investigation of Molecular Pathogen Screening Assays for Use in Delta Smelt \(escholarship.org\)](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sfses.2020.100211)) reported on efforts to develop molecular assays to screen cultured Delta smelt in the lab and in enclosures in the Delta, and screen wild Delta smelt for a variety of pathogens. The study found that hatchery and wild Delta smelt had similar pathogens and that hatchery Delta smelt posed a low risk for pathogen transmission.

## **Delta Islands Adaptation Planning Grant**

Staff is managing the Delta Island Adaptations project funded by a CDFW Proposition 1 Planning Grant. The planning project is an evaluation of opportunities for island-wide improvements that include subsidence reversal, sustainable agricultural practices, carbon sequestration, water quality improvements, and habitat restoration. The objective of this effort is to provide science-based planning for potential land uses on an entire island owned by Metropolitan that meets the Delta Plan co-equal goals using creative and innovative solutions for subsided Delta islands. The first public workshop was held on March 15, to get input from interested parties on the adaptation opportunities. The next step in the project is to document and include the public input and continue focused meetings with subject expert teams.

## **Core Business Reliability**

On February 28, 2022, Reclamation issued a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register which formally began the process to reinitiate consultation on the 2019 BiOp for the long-term operations of the CVP and SWP. Staff is working in coordination with the State Water Contractors to provide scoping comments by the March 30, 2022, deadline. Staff is also involved in ongoing technical workgroups and policy-level discussions that help provide input into the process. Under the current schedule, Reclamation anticipates a Biological Assessment and Public Draft (EIS will be completed in 2023, and a Final EIS and Record of Decision in 2024).

On March 18, DWR and Reclamation jointly filed a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) with the State Water Board requesting temporary modification of water right permit and license requirements for Delta outflow and Delta salinity during the April 1 to June 30, 2022 timeframe. The TUCP was filed in response to critically dry conditions in the Bay-Delta watershed. The State Water Board will consider the TUCP at a future meeting.

## Colorado River

### **Reclamation Concerned over Drought Impacts to Glen Canyon Dam**

Following a dry January and February, it is becoming apparent that water year 2022 will be another below average runoff year for the Colorado River. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) regularly updates its projections for future elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. In February, Reclamation concluded that without proactive actions, there is about a 30 percent chance that Lake Powell would fall below minimum power pool in the summer of 2023. In March, Reclamation met with the Basin States, including staff from Metropolitan, to discuss its concerns about the infrastructure of Glen Canyon Dam, and the possibility of the water level dropping below the power plant intake structure, which would require use of the bypass tubes. They explained that the bypass tubes have not been operated for extended periods in more than 50 years, and they are concerned that this could have challenged the tubes' ability to operate effectively. Additionally, losing the ability to produce power at Glen Canyon Dam could affect the reliability of the western energy grid. To reduce the risk of Lake Powell falling below minimum power pool, Reclamation is exploring options to increase releases from upstream reservoirs into Lake Powell and reducing releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead. Reclamation modeling suggests that both of those actions could effectively eliminate the risk of Lake Powell falling below minimum power pool for at least the next two years. Staff will continue to work with Reclamation and the Basin States to explore these options and any efforts to mitigate the Lower Basin water users from these proposed actions.

## 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:

- **Lake Mathews Wastewater Replacement**—The project consists of installing a wastewater system in place of the existing septic tank system at Lake Mathews. The new wastewater system connects various facilities at Lake Mathews and ultimately connects to the Western Municipal Water District main wastewater line. Construction is 6 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by March 2023. The contractor is currently working on submittals for Metropolitan's review.
- **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. Final design is complete, and Metropolitan's Board awarded a construction contract in 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 in three stages. Construction of Stages 1 and 2 are complete. Final design and the project advertisement for the remaining third stage is complete and a board action for award of a construction contract is planned for April 2022.
- **OC-88 Pump Station Chiller Replacement**—This project replaces chiller units at OC-88 Pump Station. The chillers circulate liquid to cool pumps and other process equipment. Final design is complete, and a board action for award of a construction contract is planned for May 2022.
- **Garvey Reservoir Hypochlorite System Replacement**—This project replaces the existing chemical feed pumps, reconfigures the feed pipe system, upgrades the existing control systems and automatic process controls, and implements the remote feed control from the SCADA system. The contractor completed demolition of the existing pump pad and is currently installing electrical control panels. Construction is 65 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete in July 2022.

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

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

- **Second Lower Feeder PCCP Rehabilitation**—This project rehabilitates the remaining 28 miles of PCCP segments within the Second Lower Feeder and will enhance delivery reliability to member agencies. Long-term rehabilitation of this pipeline is being staged over a period of eight to ten years, with multiple

construction and procurement contracts. Final design of Reach 3, the westernmost portion of Second Lower Feeder, spanning approximately 4.8 miles through the cities of Lomita, Torrance, Los Angeles, and Rolling Hills Estates, has been 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 for May 2022. Reach 3B is 95 percent complete and scheduled to be complete by June 2022. Study efforts continue for Reach 9, an approximately 0.8-mile-long portion of Second Lower Feeder in western Long Beach that crosses the Los Angeles River.

- **Second Lower Feeder Isolation Valve Procurement**—This fabrication contract provides 13 conical plug valves for the Second Lower Feeder PCCP rehabilitation. These valves, which include three 48-inch and ten 54-inch diameter, provide primary isolation for maintenance activities, inspections, and repairs required to maintain reliable water deliveries within Metropolitan’s distribution system. Fabrication of these valves is approximately 60 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 April 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 early-2024.
- **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 18 percent complete and Reach 2 is 35 percent complete. Both are scheduled to be complete by February 2023. Preliminary design to rehabilitate the remaining reaches of the feeder continues. Inspections of Reaches 1, 4, and 5 have been completed 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:

- **Gene Wash Reservoir Discharge Structure Rehabilitation**—This project replaces the existing deteriorated discharge valve and refurbishes the valve house and discharge structure at the base of the Gene Wash Reservoir dam. If the reservoir needed to be drained rapidly in the event of an emergency, the valve would be opened to safely release the water. The contractor completed installation of the discharge valve and actuator and began start-up and commissioning activities. Construction is 94 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 98 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2022.
- **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. Construction is 6 percent complete is scheduled to be complete by March 2025. The contractor is currently working on submittals for Metropolitan’s review.



## 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:

### Jensen Plant

- **Jensen Electrical Upgrades, Stage 2**—This three-stage project upgrades the electrical system with dual power feeds to key process equipment to comply with current codes and industry practice, 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. Cutover work for Building 12 and other MCCs was successfully completed during the January plant shutdown. The contractor completed transferring and commissioning Thickeners Nos. 4 and 6 and is continuing work at Thickener No. 5 and other solids handling facilities. Construction is 97 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by August 2022.

## System Reliability Program

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

- **Headquarters Building Improvements**—This project provides seismic upgrades and other needed improvements to the Metropolitan Headquarters Building. Construction related to the original contract scope and the UVC air disinfection system are substantially complete. The contractor continues installation of additional cooling equipment for electrical and AV/IT rack rooms. Because of the long equipment lead time, the anticipated contract completion date is being reassessed.
- **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, boardroom, executive dining lounge, and security control room. Construction of Stage 2 improvements is 95 percent complete and is scheduled to be complete by June 2022. The contractor completed security equipment installation on all floors; completed the 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 that occupants and visitors can safely exit in the event of a fire. The contractor completed the installation of the CO controllers; is finalizing the fire alarm system cutover on the first floor; is continuing installation of the electrical closets and Emergency Radio Responder System; and is beginning the fire alarm

# Water Resources and Engineering

(continued)

system cutover on the second floor. Construction is 39 percent complete, and the anticipated project completion date is being reassessed.



**Headquarters Building Improvements**  
Installation of fire alarm devices in cafeteria



## Water System Operations

### GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

#### Objective #1 Provide Reliable Water Deliveries.

Metropolitan member agency water deliveries were 120,450 acre-feet (AF) for March with an average of 3,885 AF per day, which was 435 AF per day higher than in February. Treated water deliveries increased by 20,221 AF from February for a total of 75,541 AF, or 63 percent of total deliveries for the month. Following a month-long shutdown, the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) ramped up from a five-pump to an eight-pump flow earlier in the month with a total of 97,000 AF pumped during the period. State Water Project (SWP) imports averaged 1,136 AF per day, totaling about 35,225 AF for the month, which accounted for about 29 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 February 2022.

On March 15, the California State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) conducted a sanitary survey at the Jensen plant. A sanitary survey is a comprehensive review and inspection periodically performed to evaluate the adequacy of a water system to provide safe drinking water. Accompanied by Jensen plant and Water Quality staff, the DDW inspectors walked through the plant, visited unit treatment processes and chemical tank farms, and observed various plant alarms and responses that were tested for the survey. The second part of the survey will be conducted in April.



#### Staff explaining filter water quality sampling to Division of Drinking Water inspectors at the Jensen plant

This month, staff published and posted a Safety Talk on the SRS IntraMet webpage that provides details on different stretches that can be performed before the start of each workday to help avoid musculoskeletal injuries.

## MWD Safety Talk

### Employee Environmental, Health & Safety Information for Stretch & Flex

#### Importance of Stretching

Performing stretches at the beginning of the workday helps warm up muscles and improve elasticity. Investing 5-15 minutes to stretch throughout the workday helps reduce fatigue, prevent body sprain/strain injuries, improve posture, increase muscle coordination and balance, and increase range of motion. Stretching at the end of the workday can also help with muscle recovery.

#### Stretch & Flex Improves

- Flexibility** - allowing you to push your body beyond its comfort zone, thus increasing your overall physical ability.
- Range of Motion** - providing better balance which will help keep you mobile and less susceptible to falls.
- Circulation** - increasing the blood flow to your muscles, thus improving your circulation.
- Stress Management** - relaxing tense muscles and releases the mind that often accompany stress.
- Posture & Technique** - preventing muscles and joints from seizing up and improves elasticity, allowing better posture and technique.

#### Do's and Don'ts

- Stretch to the point where it is comfortable, not painful.
- Do not strain when you stretch - straining keeps the muscle from relaxing.
- As the feeling of the stretch changes to a mild stretch, stretch a little further, a comfortable stretch with no pain.
- Do not bounce when you stretch. That causes injuries. Always stretch to the right side first.
- Breathe with a slow, normal rhythm. Don't hold your breath.
- Stretch slowly and gently.

#### Simple Stretches to Do on the Job

Here are stretches you can do at the beginning, during, and at the end of the workday.

- Each stretch focuses on a specific part of the body.
- Each stretch should be done slowly and gently.
- Before beginning any stretching program, be sure to check with your healthcare practitioner.
- If at any point you feel discomfort performing any of the following stretches listed below, stop what you are doing and consult with your healthcare practitioner before continuing.

### New Safety Talk on Stretch and Flex

The 2021 Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Performance Chart was published and posted on the SRS IntraMet webpage. The revised chart is now one page and displays all of the Water System Operations (WSO) units. It includes a new leading metric (Near-Misses Reported) and an improved color-coded layout to easily identify which indicators meet EHS goals. Green indicates the goal was met and yellow indicates the goal was not met for the noted quarter. EHS Performance Chart results are used for determining the annual safety award winners.

Date of Last Update:		2/3/2022	
Includes Data Up To:		4th Quarter, 2021	

Goal Met

Goal Not Met

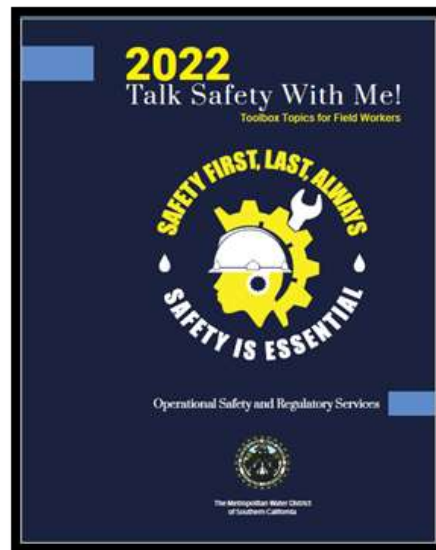
## WSO EHS Performance Chart

### Calendar Year 2021

		Leading Indicators												Lagging Indicators																															
		Safety Inspection Completion Rate (%) <sup>1</sup>				Training Completion Rate (Running % for FY) <sup>2</sup>				Toolbox Completion Rate (%) <sup>3</sup>				Safety Committee Meeting Rate (%) <sup>4</sup>				JH Checklist Completion Count <sup>5</sup>				Near Miss Submissions Count <sup>6</sup>				Recordable Injury Count <sup>7</sup>				Reportable Chemical Release or Spill Count <sup>8</sup>				Regulatory Inspection Findings - HCV Count <sup>9</sup>				Regulatory Inspection Findings - HVC Count <sup>10</sup>				Regulatory Inspection - Count <sup>11</sup>			
		30%				90%				90%				100%				Near-Over-Year Improvement				Near-Over-Year Improvement				0				0				0				0				N/A			
QUARTER		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>								
WT - Denver Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Jensen Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100						
WT - Midvale Unit		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100																	

### Updated EHS Performance Chart for 2021

Staff published the 2022 *Talk Safety With Me* book. The book contains 52 toolbox topics—one for each week of the year—reflecting Metropolitan Health and Safety policies and procedures. Sixteen new topics were added this year, including a new cover designed by a Mills plant staff member. The Safety Talk book is posted on the SRS IntraMet webpage.



**2022 *Talk Safety With Me* book**

Metropolitan has partnered with the National Safety Council (NSC) to conduct an independent review of Metropolitan’s safety program. This month, the General Manager sent a communication to all employees asking for voluntary participation in virtual focus groups, which will delve further into perceptions that emerged from the safety barometer survey completed in December 2021. The focus groups are expected to meet throughout the month of April.



**Flyer update on the independent review of Metropolitan’s Safety Program**



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

Staff inspected and cleaned the Wastewater Reclamation Plant (WWRP) in preparation for a rehabilitation capital project at the Jensen plant. Staff established a clearance to allow a vendor to remove accumulated solids from the flocculation basins and to allow Engineering staff to safely perform an inspection. This work provided additional data for staff to accurately scope the project.



**Staff inspecting the WWRP at the Jensen plant**



**Accumulated solids before cleaning (left) and after removal (right) from the WWRP at the Jensen plant**

Staff began planning for the conversion of a formerly used workshop to be used for storage of materials for Diemer plant operations and maintenance. Work will include lighting improvements, addition of storage bins, and other facility improvements. This minor capital project will provide a much-needed centralized material storage facility at the treatment plant.



**Staff planning the arrangement of storage racks for a repurposed storage facility at the Diemer plant**

As part of the Colorado River Aqueduct Main Pump Rehabilitation (CRAMPR) capital project, a large conical plug valve was disassembled for inspection and repair. Staff disassembled the valve, performed the necessary repairs, and provided Engineering Services an opportunity to gather data for the upcoming rehabilitation project.



**Staff disassembling a large conical plug valve for the CRAMPR project**

## **Objective #4 Optimize Maintenance.**

The La Verne Shops supported the Sepulveda Feeder shutdown by replacing two large lubricated plug valves and trimming two existing stainless-steel thimbles at the Venice Pressure Control Structure. The stainless-steel thimbles were trimmed in the shops and transported back to the facility to successfully complete the installation.



**Staff removing the existing plug valve at the Venice PCS**



**Staff installing the new plug valve at the Venice PCS**



Staff completed routine patrol road grading on the Lower Feeder patrol roads through Chino Hills State Park. The Lower Feeder conveys water from Lake Mathews to the Diemer plant. The patrol road grading includes minor vegetation removal, erosion repair, and road grading. Grading inside the state park requires proper notification to park staff and Metropolitan's Environmental Planning staff.



**Staff using a motor grader for patrol road grading along the Lower Feeder**

The Lower Feeder has cathodic protection along the pipeline to minimize corrosion and ensure reliability of Metropolitan's infrastructure. Along the Lower Feeder, the meter pedestal that supplies power to the corrosion protection rectifier was severely corroded and in need of replacement. Staff removed the damaged meter pedestal and concrete base to install a new meter pedestal on a new concrete base.



**Damaged metering pedestal and concrete base along the Lower Feeder**



**Staff removing damaged sections of concrete base for repairs to cathodic protection equipment along the Lower Feeder**

Staff prepared to install security gates at the rejection structure openings at the Weymouth plant to prevent trespassing. This work includes installing security gates, “no trespassing” signs, and manhole-locking devices to secure Metropolitan’s infrastructure and prevent harm to trespassers in the event of a water release.



**Staff determining concrete anchor point for a security gate at the Weymouth plant rejection structure**

Staff performed high-voltage electrical switching at the Skinner plant in preparation for maintenance activities. In addition to performing the switching activities, a recent Apprenticeship Program graduate was evaluated for the final test to become a certified high-voltage switcher. High-voltage switching has the potential to cause an arc flash, which is a phenomenon where a flashover of electric current leaves its intended path and travels through the air or ground from one conductor to another. Because of this danger, the high-voltage switcher wears an arc flash protection suit as a safety measure.





**Staff performing high-voltage switching wearing an arc flash protection suit at the Skinner plant**

The tunnel cleaning machine is used to remove underground buildup in the CRA conduits. During the 2022 CRA shutdown, the tunnel cleaning machine and crew traveled a total of 332 miles underground making four passes through tunnel portions of the aqueduct. Above-ground teams cleaned and scraped an additional 60 miles of open canal.



**Tunnel Cleaning Machine being lowered into the CRA**

The spare 230kV transformer at Gene pumping plant was removed from service during the 2022 CRA Shutdown for maintenance. The Gene facility transformers supply 6.9kV of power for the facility's pumps and 69kV that power the Whitsett Intake pumping plant.



**Staff removing the 230kV feed to the spare transformer at the Gene pumping plant**

Staff used the 2022 CRA Shutdown to perform critical maintenance on pumps and ancillary equipment, some of which have been running non-stop for the last year. With drought conditions and current demands, these units must be maintained and ready to operate around the clock in the coming year.



**Staff performing exciter maintenance on a 12,500 hp pump during the CRA shutdown**

In accordance with the Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe (PCCP) inspection and rehabilitation program, staff inspected the condition of the Sepulveda Feeder's PCCP. These inspections are completed in 5-year intervals and have been instrumental in detecting wire breaks used to monitor and focus rehabilitation efforts. During a 10-day

shutdown of the Sepulveda Feeder, visual and electromagnetic (EM) inspections were completed on 12 miles of pipe between the Venice Pressure Control Structure and West Coast Feeder interconnection. Visual inspection indicated that the pipe lining is in good condition. The large amount of EM inspection data collected is being compiled and will be reviewed in April.



**Staff dewatering a pump-well structure during the Sepulveda Feeder shutdown**



**Staff performing an electromagnetic inspection of the Sepulveda Feeder**

San Diego Pipeline No. 4 (SDPL4) was shut down for 10 days in early March as requested by the San Diego County Water Authority to facilitate replacement of several sections of PCCP in their portion of SDPL4. Once the pipeline

was isolated, Metropolitan staff also used this opportunity to replace a secondary isolation valve for an air release vacuum valve on the northern reach of the pipeline within Metropolitan's jurisdiction.



## **Staff replaced secondary isolation valve for an air release vacuum valve on SDPL4**

Staff continued the system-wide coatings program aimed at preventing corrosion and extending the life of pipelines and other infrastructure. In addition to maintaining the valves and piping systems in pressure control structures and hydroelectric plants, the control cabinets also require periodic coating because of their operating environment. This month, staff completed coating of a control cabinet at the Irvine Pressure Regulating Structure on the Orange County Feeder.



## **Staff coating control cabinet at Irvine Pressure Regulating Structure on the Orange County Feeder**





**Control cabinet before (left) and after (right) coating at Irvine Pressure Regulating Structure on the Orange County Feeder**

## **Objective #5 Manage the Power System.**

Staff reviewed the Resource Adequacy (RA) requirements for CRA pumping operations for May 2022. An RA deficit of 14.05 MW was identified, because of an expected eight-pump flow and declining Hoover power generation forecast for 2022 that indicates a decline of about one-third of Hoover Dam's maximum generation output. An RA purchase request was submitted and approved. Given the continuing drought conditions, the CRA is expected to maintain a planned eight-pump flow for several months. Under eight-pump flow conditions, an RA deficit of approximately 2 MW is anticipated in June 2022.

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

Emergency Management and Cybersecurity staff have been planning Metropolitan's emergency response to possible cybersecurity incidents in the future. This coordinated planning extends to Metropolitan's field resources including several units running cybersecurity emergency response exercises. Although there are no specific threats at this time, these planning efforts are prudent given current world events.

Part of an effective emergency response includes coordination between various responding agencies during an emergency. To support this concept, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) established the State's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Credentialing Program. This program credentials individuals who meet standard training and experience requirements in specific EOC positions and, therefore, are able to work within any government EOC in the state during an emergency. Metropolitan's Emergency Management Program Manager was

officially credentialed this month by OES to work as an *EOC Coordinator* in a government EOC. Although not mandatory, this credentialing provides standard training and experience for those wishing to expand their emergency management background. Other staff are currently working towards their EOC credentials as Metropolitan continues to build its Emergency Management program.

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

The State Project water (SPW) target blend entering the Weymouth and Diemer plants was zero percent in February 2022. The supply entering Lake Skinner transitioned from 100 percent SPW to 100 percent Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) water on March 3 following the CRA shutdown and stayed at this level through the end of the month.

Flow-weighted running annual averages for total dissolved solids from January 2021 through December 2021 for Metropolitan's treatment plants capable of receiving a blend of SPW and CRA water were 575 mg/L, 570 mg/L, and 577 mg/L for the Weymouth, Diemer, and Skinner plants, respectively.

Staff performed 5-year maintenance and cleaning of the chlorine scrubbers at the Skinner plant. The scrubbers are part of the protection system of the plant's chlorine containment facility. In the event of a chlorine release, the scrubbers remove chlorine from the air within the facility and prevent it from being released into the environment. The 5-year maintenance involves removing the used caustic solution and cleaning any remaining solids from the scrubbers using a muriatic acid wash. All equipment was inspected for wear and repaired as needed, and the caustic solution was replaced.



**Chlorine scrubber pump before (left) and after (right) acid wash cleaning at the Skinner Plant**

## **Objective #8 Manage Water Reserves.**

Water reserves continued to be managed according to Water Surplus and Drought Management (WSDM) principles, operational objectives, and the current 5 percent State Water Project (SWP) allocation. Deliveries of SWP supplies were minimized to preserve SWP Carryover and Flexible Storage. Releases from DVL through PC-1 to connections on the Lakeview Pipeline, as well as the DVL to Mills plant operation, continued in March to conserve SWP use in that area. Returns from the Semitropic and Kern Delta SWP Banking Programs also continued in March. 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 help with the low SWP allocation in 2022.

**Objective #10 Manage Vacancies.**

WSO filled 4 vacant positions in February.

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

The Water System Operations Apprentice and Technical Training Programs develop and train personnel to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, the Class of 2023 mechanical apprentices continued welding and fabrication training. This course teaches safe hot work practices, welding principles, torch cutting, metallurgy, and project layout. Apprentices attend lecture and hands-on training during class sessions. Once apprentices understand concepts and techniques, they are assigned projects to complete during class.



**Apprentices observing oxy-fuel torch cutting demonstration**



**Apprentice using an oxy-fuel torch to cut practice weld coupons**

## GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

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

On February 22, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) held a workgroup meeting to discuss potential regulatory concepts for its Zero-Emission (ZE) Forklift Regulation. The goal of the ZE Forklift Regulation is to accelerate the transition of large-spark ignition (LSI) forklifts (i.e., propane and gasoline) to ZE technologies. Metropolitan owns approximately 20 LSI forklifts that will be subject to the ZE Forklift regulation. Staff are working with CARB to provide feedback on rulemaking language and will continue to participate in future workshops.

Staff met with CARB board members and presented on the regulatory challenges faced by water agencies in trying to meet proposed zero-emission vehicle regulatory requirements under CARB's Advanced Clean Fleet Regulations. Staff highlighted Metropolitan's positive planning efforts and recommendations to feasibly make the transition towards electrification. The board members were receptive and indicated that they would follow-up with CARB staff. CARB anticipates releasing a full regulatory draft rule in summer 2022.

Effective March 1, 2022, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) rescinded its indoor mask mandate for unvaccinated workers. However, masking is strongly recommended and still required in high-risk settings (i.e., public transit). In late March, Metropolitan's General Manager made mask wearing voluntary at facilities, with some exceptions based on CDPH guidelines. Staff will continue to monitor for new local, state, and federal COVID-19 updates.

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

During March, staff continued maintenance of the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center (RRWAPC) demonstration facility in preparation for secondary membrane bioreactor (MBR) testing, treating primary effluent from the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD). Staff supported primary effluent functional testing, prepared for bioreactor seeding, and scheduled membrane replacement following the demonstration facility startup. Staff began training onsite laboratory and operations staff on microbial sampling techniques and also performed extensive maintenance activities to prepare for secondary MBR testing. Training included replacing UV lamps, improvements to the reverse osmosis system, piping modifications, SCADA troubleshooting, and various other preventative maintenance. Staff supported LACSD efforts to repair the plant influent line, address minor leaks, and ensure that sufficient flow can be provided for secondary MBR operations.

Staff continued to engage in dialogue with the Independent Science Advisory Panel to finalize the report from Workshop No. 5 held in January and obtain feedback on a modified testing approach for the secondary MBR testing phase.

On March 9, staff hosted visitors from Southern Water in the United Kingdom to exchange technical information on reuse, discuss treatment approaches, and showcase the RRWAPC demonstration facility.



**Practicing the microbial sample elution protocol at the RRWAPC demonstration plant**



**Training on microbial sample collection protocol for the next phase of testing at the RRWAPC demonstration plant**



**Reinstalling a repaired return activated sludge pump at the RRWAPC demonstration plant**

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

Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants generated an average of about 15.5 megawatts or 10,435 megawatt-hours, and approximately \$475,650 in revenue, for the month of February 2022. Metropolitan's solar facilities, totaling 5.4 megawatts of capacity, generated approximately 750 megawatt-hours in February 2022.

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

## **GM Strategic Priority #3: Innovation**

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

Metropolitan maintains approximately 350 miles of unpaved dirt patrol roads which provide access to Metropolitan's conveyance and distribution infrastructure. These access roads are routinely used by staff to perform maintenance and water sampling and are vital to Metropolitan's emergency response preparedness. Staff use water trucks for dust abatement, soil compaction and fire watch during patrol road maintenance, while meeting all environmental requirements. Recently, staff have been implementing a new innovative approach to refilling water trucks in the field using existing Metropolitan infrastructure, saving time and fuel. Staff added strategically-placed, secure connections to Metropolitan's raw water pipelines to refill water trucks directly in the field, enabling staff to meet environmental requirements and critical maintenance needs in an efficient and flexible manner.



**Staff filling water truck from manhole structure (left) and applying air gap for filling water truck (right) in the field**

Staff participated in a peer review with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' (LACSD's) Fleet Manager regarding LACSD's Zero Emission (ZE) "green fleet" efforts. LACSD is transitioning its 1,100-vehicle inventory to ZE vehicles with 13 percent of their fleet converted to electric passenger vehicles to date. They also have electric light-duty trucks on order and are working with a manufacturer to have three heavy-duty trucks built. Funding for the vehicles and charging infrastructure has been supplemented by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Southern California Edison, and State incentive programs. Staff discussions with LACSD have been beneficial to Metropolitan's ZE fleet transition efforts. In the coming months, staff will be coordinating with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power on their ZE fleet transition.



## **Partnering with LACSD on Transitioning to a Green Fleet**

### **Objective #3 Advance Education and Outreach Initiatives.**

On March 6–9, staff presented the results of tertiary MBR testing at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual WaterReuse Symposium in San Antonio, Texas. This meeting also provided an opportunity for Metropolitan staff to engage with the broader reuse science, engineering, and regulatory community and gain valuable insights on the latest developments in reuse technology and applications.



**Metropolitan, LACSD, and consultant staff at the 2022 WaterReuse Symposium in San Antonio, Texas**



Monthly Update as of:

3/31/2022

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Capacity</u>
<b><i>Colorado River Basin</i></b>		
Lake Powell	5,824,000	24%
Lake Mead	8,756,400	34%
<b><i>DWR</i></b>		
Lake Oroville	1,676,435	47%
Shasta Lake	1,732,317	38%
San Luis Total	909,218	45%
San Luis CDWR	584,762	55%
Castaic Lake	179,781	56%
Silverwood Lake	67,208	90%
Lake Perris	104,449	79%
<b><i>MWD</i></b>		
DVL	564,597	70%
Lake Mathews	119,644	66%
Lake Skinner	37,061	84%



Hoover Dam



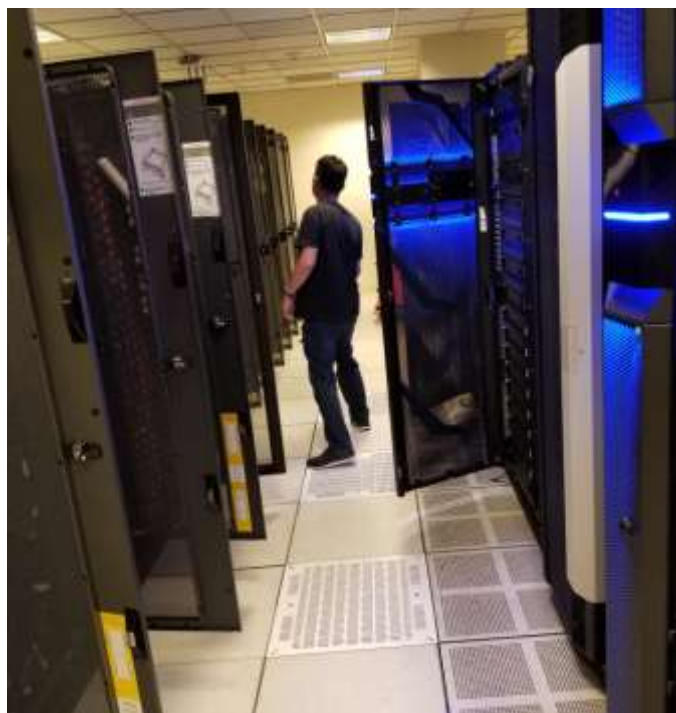
## Information Technology

### GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

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

Information Technology (IT) continued to execute capital projects supporting Metropolitan's priorities by replacing end-of-life infrastructure, upgrading applications, and delivering innovative solutions to ensure the reliability and resilience of IT systems. These capital projects require close collaboration with business groups and resources from across the enterprise. Examples of key projects underway within the IT capital investment plan include:

- Implementation of Cybersecurity projects and initiatives to improve Metropolitan's security posture and to collaborate with stakeholders to further enhance network security capabilities for Metropolitan's computing environments.
- Partner with Water System Operations Group (WSO) to enhance the reliability of the Automatic Meter Reading system to address obsolescence related to end-of-life equipment.
- Collaborate with Finance on the Water Information System (WINS) Upgrade.
- Work with Engineering Services Group and WSO on wireless connectivity enhancements at field facilities to improve coverage and capacity.
- Continued efforts to upgrade older Windows servers to up-to-date versions to better support Metropolitan business and operational applications affecting various business groups.



## GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

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

In addition to completing new technology in the Metropolitan Headquarters Building (i.e., board room and committee room upgrades), staff has been working behind the scenes in preparation for our return-to-work initiative. IT staff worked in collaboration with various business units to plan and support the upcoming transition by:

- Participating in a webinar hosted by Human Resources, Facilities, and IT Cybersecurity.
- Provided Return to Office checklist, instructions, and frequently asked questions sheet.
- Prepared Instruction guides to support staff with the transition of working in a hybrid environment.
- Continued to prepare Metropolitan's computing environment (IT infrastructure and networks) to support staff returning to work at headquarters.

## GM Strategic Priority #3: Innovation

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

The construction of the Security Operations Center (SOC) is proceeding as planned. This project will assess and remediate exposures and cyber threats throughout Metropolitan with special emphasis on the business and SCADA networks. Cyber security remains a high priority and is a key part of the Information Technology Strategic Plan. Maintaining a secure computing infrastructure requires application of ongoing cyber countermeasures to protect against new cyber threats that are identified on a continual basis.

Additional project details and updates are provided to executive management and the Board through cybersecurity briefings.



**Objective #3 Modernize Operational Technology and Control System Upgrades as part of the Capital Investment Plan.**

Ongoing efforts continue to upgrade Metropolitan's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) to ensure continued reliability of the system-wide control system. Metropolitan staff have completed the recommendation to award memorandum (RTAM) for the prime consultant solicitation. Staff plan to submit their recommendation for the Board's consideration at the April 2022 Engineering and Operations (E&O) Committee meeting. The proposed action begins the design and implementation activities for the first area of Metropolitan's System-Wide Control System Upgrade.

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

Information Technology staff continued to work closely with customers to provide innovative solutions for their business needs. During this period, staff collaborated with business units to leverage drone technology to conduct missions and capture footage of the newly installed orifice gates at the Hinds Pumping Plant. In addition, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles were used to capture 16 miles of Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) while it was empty as a proof of concept project to test the validity of using drones for documenting and inspecting the condition of the CRA.



## 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.**

An encroachment permit was acquired from the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in support of the Perris Valley Pipeline Project. This permit allows the temporary installation of a dewatering line to dewater into the flood control's facility. The pipeline project will ensure continuous reliability of water delivery for both Western and Eastern Municipal Water Districts.

An entry permit for one month in duration was obtained from a private owner in the city of Tustin for contractor parking on the corner of Red Hill Avenue and Warner Avenue to repair a damaged meter cabinet that collects water use data and supports billing activities for Metropolitan's customers.

A two-year lease was executed with a private property owner in the city of Costa Mesa. The lease allows the site to be used as a construction storage area and ultimately to construct a portion of the Orange County Feeder Relining Project. This project will aid in increased reliability of the pipeline.

**Objective #2 Foster staff training and development.**

Staff attended the International Right of Way Association's "Engineering Plan Development" course, which provides an improved understanding of construction and right of way drawings.

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

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

A new ten-year lease was executed for the continued farming of 585 acres in Palo Verde Valley. This new lease replaces the lease that was executed in 2017 with updated terms and conditions and encourages water conservation.

Metropolitan staff has coordinated with the Diamond Valley Lake Marina Concessionaire to reopen the Wildflower Trail for the 2022 season. The natural landscape is showing early signs of the vibrant colors that draws visitors to the trail.





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

Office renovations, including wallpaper removal and carpet replacement were completed on the twelfth floor because of normal wear and tear and to meet current carpet and paint standards.



Before



After

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

Sixty-two work orders were completed in the desert villages that consisted of flooring, HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and roofing repairs or replacements.

A concrete patio was replaced at a village residence to eliminate a safety hazard.



Before



After

Replacement of a column supporting a shade structure and partial roof work was completed at a Metropolitan house located at the Live Oak Reservoir. The repair was needed because of dry rot and termite infestation.



**Before**



**After**

## **Objective #5 Annexations.**

Over the past few months, two annexations have been completed within the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and Metropolitan.

Metropolitan's Board approved the Rancho Corrido Annexation to SDCWA and Metropolitan on April 14, 2020, and set terms and conditions in resolution 9264 to annex 32.026 acres with an anticipated water use of 16.8 acre-feet a year. This annexation was completed through the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (SDLAFCO) and recorded with the county of San Diego, on October 15, 2021, which is the completion date of this annexation. The Certificate of Completion was re-recorded on February 14, 2022, to add Metropolitan's Board Resolution of terms and conditions.

Metropolitan's Board also approved the Sringeri Vidya Bhatari Foundation Temple Annexation to SDCWA and Metropolitan on January 14, 2020, and set terms and conditions in resolution 9263 to annex 22.13 acres with an anticipated water use of 11.9 acre-feet a year. This annexation was completed through the SDLAFCO and recorded with the county of San Diego, on December 16, 2021.



## 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.

#### Colorado River Aqueduct Projects

- Completed hydrologic surveys in support of testing the newly installed Gene Wash Discharge Valve.
- Completed biological, cultural, and noise assessments in support of the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) Housing Upgrade Project.
- Completed biological, cultural, and jurisdictional surveys in support of the Copper Basin Discharge Valve Rehabilitation and Copper Basin Access Road Repairs Project.

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

Staff attended the following trainings and workshops:

- Endangered Species Regulation and Protection hosted by UC Davis Extension.
- 2022 Advanced CEQA Workshop hosted by Association of Environmental Professionals.

### GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

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

#### Lake Perris Seepage Recovery Project

- Provided design phase support and continued coordination with California Department of Water Resources to finalize the CEQA document.

#### Perris Valley Pipeline Project

- Provided support for final design phase.

#### Regional Recycled Water Program

- Continued coordination with Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts in support of environmental planning phase activities.

#### San Gabriel Tower and Improvements Project

- Provided support for the design phase and continued development of draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

## **Weymouth Water Treatment Plant**

- Executed a professional services agreement and initiated preparation of the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and La Verne Sites Improvements Program EIR.

**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**

- Completed invasive vegetation removal and management effort.
- Began annual invasive species surveys of the Reserve using UAVs.
- Continued conducting security patrol around the Reserve boundary and maintenance of perimeter fencing.

## **Southwestern Riverside County Multi-Species Reserve**

- Submitted a \$2 million request for a CalFire grant to assist with habitat restoration activities.
- Initiated surveys for rare plants on the Reserve.
- Conducted invasive vegetation removal and management efforts, including removal of Stinknet, a priority invasive species.
- Completed burrowing owl artificial burrow maintenance.
- Reopened the Alamos Schoolhouse Reserve environmental education center to the public.

**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**

- Continued finalization of Program EIR and preparation of May board letter; certification of the Program EIR and adoption of the CAP scheduled for the May board meeting.

## **Water Energy Climate Sustainability Team**

- Completed draft CRA Sustainability Study Proposal.

## **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 site visit to all SMARA sites with Department of Conservation staff in preparation for submission of the draft Reclamation Plan.

**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.**

- Executed agreement with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for dedicated staff support to expedite regulatory permitting processes for capital projects and O&M activities in CDFW Regions 5 and 6.

## **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. CRA Housing Upgrade
  3. Copper Basin Access Road and Discharge Valve Repair
  4. CRA Pump Plant 2.3 kV and 480V Rehabilitation
  5. CRA Delivery Line Rehabilitation
  6. CRA Storage Buildings
  7. Gene Communication Systems Upgrades
  8. Etiwanda Pipeline Relining Stage 3 Project
  9. Foothill Hydroelectric Power Plant Seismic Upgrade
  10. Garvey Reservoir Rehabilitation Project
  11. Headquarters Fire Sprinkler
  12. La Verne Water Quality Building Improvements
  13. Mills Plant Maintenance Building Roof Replacement
  14. Orange County Feeder Relining, Reach 3, 4, and 4A
  15. Perris Valley Pipeline Rehabilitation
  16. San Diego Canal and Cabazon Radial Gate Replacement
  17. San Diego Canal Repairs
  18. Western San Bernardino Right-of-Way and Infrastructure Protection Program Phase 2
  19. Weymouth Plant Basins 5-8 Rehabilitation
  20. Weymouth Plant Battery Energy Storage System
  21. Weymouth Plant Administration Building Seismic Upgrades
- Provided construction phase support for:
  1. Cholla Wash Conduit Lining projects
  2. CRA Mile 12 Flow Monitoring Station Upgrades
  3. CRA Overhead Cranes
  4. CRA Domestic Water Treatment System Replacement
  5. Garvey Reservoir Drainage Improvement Project
  6. Gene Wash Discharge Valve Rehabilitation
  7. Live Oak Reservoir Asphalt Upgrades

## **Water System Operations**

- Provided CEQA analysis and environmental planning support for the following O&M activities:
  1. CRA Routine V-Dike & Drainage Maintenance MM 127.29-149.34 (5-Year Authorization)
  2. Repair Fire Hydrant Isolation Valve at Diemer North Access Road
  3. San Diego Canal Algae Piping Bypass
  4. San Diego County Water Authority Emergency Shutdown Pipeline Repair
  5. San Dimas Hydroelectric Plant Oak Tree Trimming
  6. Tin Mine Road Trespass Issues
- Negotiated and obtained the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Final Streambed Alteration Agreement for the Lake Skinner Outlet Tower Shutdown.
- Conducted sensitive species and nesting bird surveys to ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Code for multiple operations and maintenance activities throughout service area.

## **External Affairs**

- Provided support to External Affairs to manage proper transfer of curation of cultural resources due to the conversion of the Diamond Valley Lake Visitor's Center to the Apprenticeship Program Training Facility.
- Provided legislative analysis on the following: Assembly Bill (AB 1640): (Ward) Regional Climate Networks; AB 1676: (Burke) Greenhouse Gases: carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration; AB 2944: (Petrie-Norris) Greenhouse Gases: carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration; AB 2966: (Rivas) Conservation easements: forest lands: California Conservation Corps; Senate Bill (SB) 852: (Dodd) Climate resilience districts: formation: funding mechanisms; and SB 1145: (Laird) GHG dashboard.

## **External Environmental Document Reviews**

- Reviewed 23 CEQA notices for external projects and prepared comment letters for those that may affect Metropolitan facilities and/or operations.
- Provided analysis of Fish and Game Commission review of California Endangered Species listing petition for southern California steelhead trout.

## **Real Property Support**

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

## Security

### GM Strategic Priority #1: Resiliency

#### Objective #2 Improve Security and Emergency Response

Utilities throughout Southern California have experienced a significant spike in commercial burglaries targeting vehicle fleets. Darkness often gives potential adversaries a substantial advantage in facilitating catalytic converter theft, vehicle burglary, and potential sabotage of the drinking water system. By installing new, low-cost LED security lights in four key locations, that advantage is completely nullified.

Metropolitan has largely escaped costly and debilitating criminal loss events because of proactive partnerships between Security and key stakeholders. Security specialists and Jensen facility electricians worked diligently to upgrade security lighting at the Valley C&D yard. The new lighting allows for:

- Early detection of intruders and hazardous conditions by Security staff during evening shifts
- Enhanced safety for C&D workers, who often conduct nighttime operations during planned or emergency shutdowns
- Significant visual improvement within the maintenance yard for video surveillance



Before installing LED security lighting



After installing four new security lights in key locations



## Objective #2 Improve Security and Emergency Response

Los Angeles Conveyance and Distribution (C&D) Team patrollers observed standing water near Palos Verdes Feeder vent stacks and substructures due to vandalism. Security and LA C&D staff quickly responded to the scene and discovered both a valve cabinet and a substructure lid had been severely damaged by vandals seeking to illegally tap into the potable water system.

Solid metal sheeting was welded into place on the cabinet face and a large stainless-steel, reinforced, double-locked, substructure lid was craned onto the substructure and bolted into place from the inside of the structure—guaranteeing the integrity and security of the feeder for years to come.



**Problem: Vandals attacked substructure lid & lock**



**Solution: Stainless-steel, reinforced, double-lock lid**

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

In February, the proposed biennial budget was provided to the Board, including the Capital Investment Plan and revenue requirements for fiscal years 2022/23 and 2023/24; proposed water rates and charges for calendar years 2023 and 2024 to meet revenue requirements for fiscal years 2022/23 and 2023/24; ten-year forecast; and Cost of Service Report. Budget Workshops #1 and #2, which discussed the Proposed Biennial Budget in more detail and addressed numerous board member questions and requests, were held at the Finance & Insurance Committee on Feb 7 and Feb 22.

Also, in February at the Finance & Insurance Committee the board set a combined public hearing regarding: (1) the proposed water rates and charges for calendar years 2023 and 2024 necessary to meet the revenue requirements for fiscal years 2022/23 and 2023/24, and (2) review of the applicability of the MWD Act Section 124.5 ad valorem property tax limitation for fiscal years 2022/23 through 2025/26.

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

The Risk Management Unit completed 59 incident reports communicating instances of Metropolitan property damage, liability, workplace injuries, regulatory visits, and spills.

Risk Management completed 75 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.**

- Conducted business continuity tabletop exercises with the Water Quality and Water Treatment sections in Water System Operations. A cyberattack scenario was used to validate how to continue operations without system access.
- Conducted MetAlert Emergency Notification tests with all employees and board members. The purpose of the test was to ensure effective communications during an emergency.
- Continued participating in Metropolitan's Employee Innovation Council (EIC) meetings.
- Participated in meetings for the Hazard Mitigation core planning team to develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with FEMA's grant funding requirements.

## 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.**

- Water Transactions for February 2022 totaled 104.3 thousand acre-feet (TAF), which were 3.1 TAF higher than the budget of 101.2 TAF and translate to \$96.2 million in revenues for February 2022, which were \$3.2 million higher than the \$93.0 million budget.
- Year-to-date water transactions through February 2022 were 1,112.5 TAF, which were 48.8 TAF higher than the budget of 1,063.7 TAF. Year-to-date water revenues through February 2022 were \$1,002.8 million, which were \$30.5 million higher than the budget of \$972.3 million.
- In February 2022, Accounts Payable processed approximately 2,800 vendor invoices for payment and took advantage of about \$1,300 in discounts.

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

As of February 28, 2022, Metropolitan's investment portfolio balance was \$1.42 billion; for the month of February 2022, Metropolitan's portfolio managers executed 14 trades.

During the month of February 2022, Treasury staff processed 926 disbursements by check, 19 disbursements by Automated Clearing House (ACH), and 100 disbursements by wire transfer. Treasury staff also processed 79 receipts by check, 24 receipts by ACH, and 48 receipts by incoming wires and bank transfers.

## Administrative Services

### GM Strategic Priority #3: Innovation

**Objective #1 Use technology and best practices to implement innovative solutions in business processes to improve the customer and end user's experience.**

The ECM Team reached an important milestone in the Program by completing prerequisite work (ECM Phase I) necessary to deploy an Enterprise Content Management (ECM) System to manage our electronic files in the cloud (ECM Phase II).

We are currently developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for this deployment and are seeking additional input from Metropolitan organizational units. A questionnaire is being circulated to collect (updated) baseline information ahead of group interviews that will be scheduled for April.

### Accomplishments

1. The Professional Services Contracting Team (PSCT) completed several high-profile highly visible acquisitions for the month as cited below:

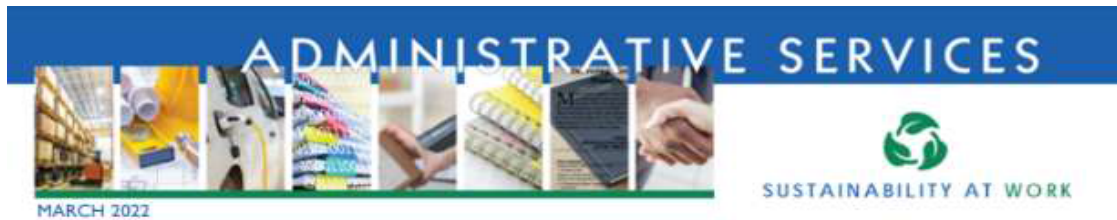
In Support of Metropolitan's Bay Delta Initiatives Program, the PSCT staff completed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 1291 to provide on-call professional and technical expertise in Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta (Bay-Delta) issues. Metropolitan is now well positioned to obtain various levels of support and expertise in furtherance of the Bay Delta Program.

PSCT staff completed Request for Proposals (RFP) 1254—Control System Upgrade. The purpose of this highly visible and integral acquisition is to upgrade Metropolitan's current supervisory control and data acquisition system (SCADA) to obtain higher levels of functionality and security. The essential services include designing, programming, configuring, manufacturing or procuring, and commissioning the upgraded SCADA system.

PSCT staff completed RFQ 1298 for On-Call Services for the Perris Valley Pipeline Interstate 215 Crossing Construction Management Services. This acquisition supports construction of approximately 3,000 feet of pipeline within a new tunnel beneath the Interstate 215 (I-215) freeway for the Perris Valley Pipeline, including the construction of multiple access shafts, pipe installation, dewatering, and potential contaminated water treatment.

2. The second quarterly Administrative Services Section employee newsletter was distributed to its employees. The quarterly e-newsletter is an opportunity to share and connect the Section with inspiring stories, information, milestones, and media content happening within the Section. The issue featured:

- Four Easy "Green" New Year's Resolutions
- Teams Spotlight
- Employee Spotlight
- Employee Services Milestones: Anniversaries, Promotions, and Retirements
- Write On! Writing tips from the Technical Writing Team
- The Positive Feedback Box!



*A New Year has arrived, and along with it, lots of resolutions. This year why not resolve to make a few simple lifestyle changes that could significantly impact the earth? To help you get started, explore this issue for eco-inspiration plenty in 2022!*

#### 4 EASY "GREEN" NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The New Year brings the opportunity to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. One way to ensure a greener future is to commit to making small life changes that reduce our impact on the environment. If you're looking for easy ways to make your life greener in 2022, let's revisit the past and explore some new green "know-hows."

- ◆ **A Greener Home Office**
  - Be the Eco-CEO of your home office space; assess your work area and make sure that you are exercising the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- ◆ **Ditch the Dump, Donate**
  - Donate items that you no longer use. Rather than throwing them away to a landfill, let your unwanted items be someone else's found treasure.
- ◆ **#PickUp5**
  - GAME ON! Commit to picking up five pieces of litter each time you go for a walk. If you stroll at least once every day, that adds up to 1,825 pieces of debris picked up over the year! Connect to others on this green mission by using #PickUp5 on social media and share photos of the impacts you've made!
- ◆ **Bring the Outdoors In**
  - Go for a neighborhood walk with a reusable bag and collect pieces of nature to create an eco centerpiece for your home! It is a great conversation piece to engage on the topic of sustainability with your family!

#### Here are more simple ways to make a difference:

- Carry reusable bags; don't get plastic bags everywhere you shop (you save money too!)
- Get into "green gifting" – gift certificates, recyclable batteries and eco-friendly products are a great way to search for "green" gifts. Rethink gift wrapping: utilize brown postal paper or paper bags as your wrapping paper, it looks earthy and original! Use pinecones or dried flowers for bows or gift toppers.
- Minimize your energy. This is a great time to upgrade to LED lights.





## 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 held five Career Fairs (University of West Los Angeles, University of Arizona Global, University of La Verne, University of Redlands, and DeVry University) to connect employees with continuing degree curricula and promote Metropolitan's tuition reimbursement program. There were approximately 50 Metropolitan employees in attendance.

In March, 371 Metropolitan employees attended other online classes, including Mechanics of Writing; Excel Formulas & Functions; Dealing with Difficult People; Resume Writing; and Using E-mail Effectively.

LinkedIn Learning, Metropolitan's online e-learning content platform, was used for classes, including topics on Managing Upwards; Creating Positive & Healthy Work Environments; Construction Risk Management; Difficult Conversations; Developing a Career Plan; and Time Management Fundamentals.

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

Recruitment successfully filled 10 positions for the month of March. We received 19 new staffing requisitions resulting in 202 positions currently in recruitment. Recruitment continues to conduct virtual interviews using Zoom.

The recruitment of the Chief Sustainability, Resiliency and Innovation Officer and the EEO Officer concluded with candidates selected and scheduled to start at the end of March and mid-April respectively. Interviews for the Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer occurred with a hiring decision scheduled in April.

Continuing the Expert Training Series at the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council, Tiana Sanchez, a training and development expert, corporate trainer and consultant on developing talent and influencing organizational culture, presented "Inclusive Leadership" strategies to the Council.

### GM Strategic Priority #2: Sustainability

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

The new MET Rewards system was piloted with HR staff to ensure that the system is functioning appropriately before rolling it out to the entire organization.

The Human Resources Group Manager, along with Facilities and Health and Safety staff, held a webinar on Implementing a Hybrid Work Environment that had over 900 participants. The webinar focused on the transition process, protocols required by the California Department of Public Health, and frequently asked questions. It was recorded and is available on the IntraMet for employees to review.

**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 team engagement, innovative thinking, communication skills, and strategic delegation.

## **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.**

HRIS 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.**

During March, Employee Relations staff continued negotiations with AFSCME Local 1902 to secure a three-year MOU extension, consistent with parameters approved by the OP&T Committee in November. Negotiations have also begun with the Supervisors Association. A comprehensive update on the status of negotiations was provided to the OP&T Committee in March.

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.

## **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.**

During March, four 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.

Staff continues to work closely with our new Workers' Compensation third-party administrator, TRISTAR Risk Management, to transition claims management from the previous third-party administrator.

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

- Coordinated three medical Medvan visits (DMV, respirator exams, and hearing tests), one at Lake Mathews and two at LaVerne
- Arranged seven medical evaluations (Pre-employment, DMV, and medical surveillance)
- Coordinated three random drug tests
- Addressed six accommodation issues

# Finance and Administration

(continued)

HR Metrics	June 2021	March 2022	Prior Month February 2022
<b>Headcount</b>			
Regular Employees	1,806	1,744	1,746
Temporary Employees	30	36	36
Interns	3	2	2
Recurrents	20	19	19
Annuitants	16	15	15

	March 2022	February 2022
<b>Number of Recruitments in Progress (Includes Temps and Intern positions)</b>	202	193
<b>Number of New Staffing Requisitions</b>	19	9
	March 2022	February 2022
<b>Number of Job Audit Requests in Progress</b>	9	9
<b>Number of Completed/Closed Job Audits</b>	1	2
<b>Number of New Job Audit Requests</b>	1	0

Transactions Current Month and Fiscal YTD (includes current month)			
<u>External Hires</u>	<u>FY 20/21 Totals</u>	<u>March 2022</u>	<u>FISCAL YTD</u>
Regular Employees	74	6	53
Temporary Employees	30	1	24
Interns	3	0	4
<b>Internal Promotions</b>	60	8	55
<b>Management Requested Promotions</b>	149	17	112
<b>Retirements/Separations (regular employees)</b>	78	8	114
<b>Employee-Requested Transfers</b>	20	3	9

## Retirees

Last	First Name	Classification	Eff Date	Reason	Group
Aurangzeb	Naushad	Team Manager V	2/5/2022	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
Hollis	Brian	O&M Tech IV	1/25/2022	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
Meisler	Martin	Sr Environmental Specialist	2/2/2022	Retirement - Service	BAY DELTA INITIATIVES
Nunn	Richard	O&M Tech IV	2/4/2022	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP
Barnes	Sherri	Survey and Mapping Tech IV	2/12/2022	Retirement - Service	ENGINEERING SERVICES GROUP
Myers	John	Facilities Maint Mechanic	2/18/2022	Retirement - Service	WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS GROUP

# External Affairs



## External Affairs

GM Hagekhalil joined representatives from MWDOC, retail water agencies and the Wyland Foundation to kick off the “Streams of Hope” community outreach campaign in Orange County to support water stewardship. Metropolitan is co-sponsoring the month-long event which includes a public art installation, educational curriculum to promote environmental literacy, and social media outreach. (March 5)



*GM Hagekhalil joins with local water leaders in Orange County to kick off a month-long water stewardship public awareness campaign.*



*GM Hagekhalil, Mayor Garcetti, Chairwoman Gray and LADWP GM Adams*

Chairwoman Gray and GM Hagekhalil attended the L.A. Chamber Access DC conference and met with Senator Padilla, Representatives Napolitano (D-El Monte), Bass (D-Los Angeles) and Waters (D-Los Angeles), and staff from Senator Feinstein’s office to discuss priority issues including the need for continued federal funding for water infrastructure and tax parity for water conservation measures. GM Hagekhalil participated on a panel, “The State of Infrastructure—Water” with LADWP GM Adams and Rep. Napolitano Chief of Staff Sheehy. (March 14–15)

Chairwoman Gray and GM Hagekhalil joined with California Natural Resources Secretary Crowfoot and LA DWP’s Managing Water Utility Engineer Kwan for a well-attended media event calling on Southern Californians to increase conservation efforts and use more native plants as a water saving strategy during this historic drought. The event, which was held at the Theodore Payne headquarters, was covered by CBS2, NBC4, Spectrum News, Univision, KNX, KFI and the San Fernando Sun. (March 21)



*Metropolitan hosted California Secretary for Natural Resources Crowfoot for a water conservation media event at the Theodore Payne Garden Center*

## Legislative Services

### Federal

The FY 2022 Omnibus Appropriations bill, signed into law by President Biden, appropriates \$1.92 billion in FY22 funding for the Bureau of Reclamation including \$53 million for water recycling, \$117 million for water storage projects, and \$25 million for the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan work. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will receive \$9.56 billion in FY 22 including \$3.62 billion for the clean water and drinking water SRF and \$69.5 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program.

### State

Metropolitan staff continues its outreach work with legislators and the Newsom administration and efforts to build support from the water, business, and labor community, for additional funding in the state budget to address Southern California’s \$14.5 billion water infrastructure needs, including a one-time request for \$552 billion for the Regional Recycled Water Program and a set of emergency drought mitigation projects.

Key legislative proposals being tracked by staff are Metropolitan's sponsored bill AB 1845 (Calderon, D-Baldwin Hills) to use alternative delivery methods to accelerate design and construction of the Regional Recycled Water Program and drought mitigation projects; AB 2449 (B. Rubio, D-Baldwin Park), sponsored by Three Valley MWD to modernize the Brown Act to allow agencies to use teleconferencing during non-emergencies; and SB 832 (Dodd, D-Napa) regarding alternative water measurement studies for agricultural regions.

## **Local**

Chairwoman Gray spoke to the Los Angeles County Business Federation's Advocacy Committee to seek the organization's support for Metropolitan-sponsored legislation, AB 1845. The Committee voted to recommend that the organization's board of directors support the bill. (March 3)

In addition to monitoring regularly scheduled government affairs and regional meetings, Metropolitan staff participated in the various webinars, virtual meetings and events on water-specific topics representing the district and provided information on water supply conditions and securing support for Metropolitan's priority legislation.

## **Media and Communications**

### **Media Activities and Interviews**

- Coordinated interview between National Association of Realtors magazine writer Brian Clark and Water Resource Management's Coffey on Metropolitan's climate change adaptation efforts, including Regional Recycled Water Program and conservation investments.
- Arranged interview with Rebuild So Cal Partnership and GM Hagekhalil for podcast on Metropolitan's future infrastructure investments.
- Set up interview with New York Magazine reporter Kyle Paoletta, GM Hagekhalil and Colorado River Resources Manager Hasencamp on Colorado River issues.
- Coordinated live interview with KCAL-TV Channel 9 anchors Pat Harvey, Jeff Vaughn and Water User Efficiency Manager McDonnell about water conservation programs and tips.
- Arranged interview with California Water publication, a series of special inserts in local daily newspapers, and GM Hagekhalil on drought conditions and Metropolitan's actions.
- Set up interview with KNX-AM 1070 radio producer Brandon Liebhaber and COO/AGM Upadhyay on state's snow survey results.
- Coordinated interview with Los Angeles Times reporter Hayley Smith and COO/AGM Upadhyay regarding state water board's latest conservation numbers indicating increased water use.
- Arranged interviews for GM Hagekhalil with KNBC-4 and KTLA on drought conditions and conservation.
- Handled fact-checking questions from Voice of San Diego reporter MacKenzie Elmer on Metropolitan budget and rate increases.

### **Press releases**

- Board approval of \$10.5 million investment in advertising and public outreach for conservation
- Metropolitan winning silver for best tasting water in the U.S.
- Statement from GM Hagekhalil on latest snow survey results, dwindling snowpack
- Statement from GM Hagekhalil in response to Department of Water Resources announcement lowering State Water Project allocation from 15 percent to 5 percent
- Press event with Chairwoman Gray, GM Hagekhalil and Resources Secretary Crowfoot on need for residents and business in region to ramp up their water-saving efforts because of drought



## Creative Design

Responding to extreme drought conditions, developed and presented new round of conceptual treatments for 2022 Spring/Summer drought advertising campaign to member agency PIOs and Water Use Efficiency managers. Campaign will be produced entirely in-house, using a multi-media, multi-language approach.

## Website

- Received 101,275 visits to the mwdh2o.com website, with the careers and Diamond Valley Lake the most popular destinations.
- Generated 49,470 visits to bewaterwise.com, doubling the number of visits in February.

## Social Media

- Celebrated Women's History Month with a social media campaign featuring Chairwoman Gray and posts highlighting Metropolitan female employees across the district through personal video messages conveying why they are proud to work in the water industry.
- Posted on Twitter about board approval of funding for an advertising campaign and recognition for best tasting tap water resulted in some of the highest organic engagement on Twitter this month.
- Completed the second phase of the conservation advertising campaign on social media, digital marketing, billboards, and transit shelters, generating more than 103,000 clicks to bewaterwise.com and more than 18 million impressions.



## Public Outreach and Member Services

Outreach activities for the Regional Recycled Water Program:

- Virtual tours of the Advanced Purification Center in Spanish (March 22) and English (March 23).
- Staffed an exhibit at the South Bay City Council of Governments General Assembly in Carson (March 24).
- Met with the Council for Watershed Health and other public agencies to discuss recycled water communications (March 31).
- Provided a project briefing for the following organizations:
  - Pasadena Sierra Club (March 2)
  - Port of Long Beach (March 3)
  - Torrance Chamber of Commerce (March 10)
  - Rebuild SoCal Partnership Board of Directors (March 15)
  - Carson City Council (March 15)
  - Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Industry Advisory Council (March 15)
  - LA County Supervisor Mitchell's Office (March 16)
  - Baldwin Park Kaiser Permanente managers (March 16)
  - San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers (March 17)
  - LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn's Office (March 17)
  - The Nature Conservancy (March 17)
  - Vulcan Materials (March 21)
  - TreePeople (March 21)
  - Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis' Office (March 22)
  - LA Waterkeeper (March 25)
  - East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (March 28)
  - Nature for All (March 31)

## Other Outreach Activities

- Conducted a public opinion survey of 1,000 Southern Californians on drought and conservation attitudes (March 6-13).
- Provided a tour of Lake Havasu and overview of Metropolitan's Colorado River system for the Water Education Foundation (March 17).
- Conducted an employee brown bag on "How to Talk to Family and Friends about the Drought" (March 28).

## Education and Community Relations

Metropolitan staff virtually interacted with more than 770 teachers, students, and parents through online virtual tours, scouting programs, and customized Zoom class presentations. Virtually out in the community, staff participated in a meeting of the Ventura County Work Based Learning Consortium. The VCWBLC is composed of public agencies, private businesses, and education groups in and around Ventura County.

Kicked off online Solar Cup 2022 with 18 high school teams representing 10 member agencies.

Staff presented on DEI, Drought, and Community Engagement to the DWR's Water Education Committee, which includes water educators from throughout the state, and to the California Environmental Education Foundation.



## Community Partnering and Sponsorship Program

Metropolitan joined dozens of water agencies nationwide to celebrate EPA WaterSense's Fix a Leak Week, a public outreach campaign to encourage the public to save water by fixing common household leaks. Staff participated in EPA's Fix a Leak Week "Twitter Party" and also developed two Instagram reels highlighting the district's Flow Monitor Rebate Pilot Program.

Sponsored the following events to promote water education, conservation and sustainability initiatives:

- WaterReuse Association; 2022 WaterReuse Symposium (March 6–9)
- Climate Resolve; Coolest in LA (March 17)

## Business Outreach and Innovation

Staff participated in the following events:

- United States Green Building Council workshop on Net Zero Carbon Neutrality (March 3)
- National Association of Minority Contractors Corporate advisory board meeting (March 8)
- Panelist for the Women's Business Enterprise Council (WBEC) Pacific, WE-Xcel Business Mock Matchmaking webinar (March 17)
- Asian American Architects and Engineers workshop on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (March 17)
- California American Indian Chamber of Commerce "Tribal Business Empowerment Journey Program" (March 24)
- Los Angeles Chamber workshop on Faces of Resilience—Promoting environmental, socio-economic, and racial equity roles. (March 25)



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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